

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Mark Howie, Gideon Mitchell, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – Commissioner Michael MacCready.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Board Chairperson

The Clerk explained that under 46.3a, a secret ballot motion is allowed for the election of Board Chair.

MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Housler to elect the Board Chairperson by secret ballot.

Roll call: Motion failed three to five with Comm Howie, Mitchell, Theobald, Taylor, and Fuscone voting against the motion.

Comm Taylor nominated Comm Housler;
Comm Mitchell nominated Comm MacCready;

No other nominations were made and the Clerk closed the nominations.

A roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Comm Housler as Chairperson. The vote was five to three with Comm Howie, Mitchell and Fuscone voting against the nomination.

Election of Board Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Housler called for the nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Comm Goodwill nominated Comm Taylor;
Comm Mitchell nominated Comm Fuscone;

No other nominations were made and the nominations were closed.

A roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Comm Taylor as Vice Chair. The vote was five to three with Comm Howie, Mitchell and Fuscone voting against the nomination.

Comm MacCready arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added - J.1. DNR Presentation; L.10. Policy B-12.4 Paid Absence from the Workplace;

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Taylor with the support of Comm Goodwill to approve the agenda, as amended.

All in favor.

Public Comments

John Amrhein, Manistee County, is part the Public Policy Educator Team of MSUE, which deals with government related issues. He works in many Northwest Michigan Counties on issues of interest to the Board of Commissioners. He offered his services to the Board, if needed.

Stan Fawcett, 10200 E. 34 Road, Cadillac, came before the Board to complement them on moving along on the Jail Building Project.

Employee Recognition - None

Presentation and Reports – *Added*

Mark Miller, DNR, appeared to let the County Board know that they would like to get more involved with counties across the State and work together. Mr. Miller presented the Board with some background information by way of a Power-point presentation that may be of interest to our community. He touched on the money that is brought into the State by way of the tourism industry, including trails, snowmobiles, biking, fishing, shooting sports, just to name a few.

Michigan has strong economic Natural Resources. DNR would like to collaborate with communities to help it grow. Mr. Miller outlined some ways in which this could be achieved.

Board members received a handout dealing with Public Land Strategies for their review. The State owns 4.6 million acres of land in Michigan. Most of their land comes to the DNR due to tax reversion. They are interested in showing the public what they are doing with those lands, what their priorities are, and what they are doing for future generations.

Carrie Weaver, Forest Department, was present to discuss where some of the dollars are being spent in the forest road fund through MDOT based on the number of acres of commercial timber.

The DNR administration has pushed for full payment of PILT Funds. They support full payments and have advocated for this at the State level. They are very interested in seeing that the County have the funding they need and desire.

Board members will receive a document dealing with PILT which will help explain the process better.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the December 17, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Taylor with the support of Comm Fuscone to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Board Organization Matters
 - a. Designation of Committee Chairs
Finance and Appropriations Committee – Comm Hilty
Human Resources/Public Safety Committee – Comm Taylor
Recreation and Building Committee – Comm Goodwill
Executive Committee: (Chair of each Committee) Comm Hilty, Comm Taylor, Comm Goodwill, and Comm Housler;
 - b. Assignment of Committee Members
Finance Committee: Chair Comm Hilty, Comm Taylor, Comm Theobald, and Comm Housler;
Human Resources/Public Safety Committee: Chair Comm Taylor, Comm Mitchell, Comm Housler, and Comm Fuscone;
Recreation and Building Committee: Chair Comm Goodwill, Comm MacCready, Comm Howie, and Comm Hilty;

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to accept the decision made by the Board Chairman designating Chairman and committee members to the Finance and Appropriation, the Human Resources and Safety Committee, and the Recreation and Building Committee, as presented.

Roll call: Motion passed five to three with Commissioners Mitchell, Howie, and Fuscone voting against the motion.

- c. 2016 Meeting Schedule
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to accept the 2016 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule, as presented.

All in favor.

2. Board and Liaison Appointments
Appointments to Board and Liaison Committee will be made later; however Comm

Housler will be the liaison to the Road Commission.

3. Resolution 16-01, Wexford County Depository
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 16-01, Wexford County Depository, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Resolution 16-02, Reaffirming Policy No. E-1.0, Investment
MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 16-02, Reaffirming Policy No. E1.0, Investment Policy, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Resolution 16-03, Fair Housing
MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 16-03, Fair Housing, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. Fair Housing Policy Statement
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the Fair Housing Policy Statement which designates the County Administrator as the person to contact regarding housing discrimination, as presented.

All in favor.

7. Public Utility Easement Agreement
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the Public Utility Easement Agreement between Wexford County Airport Authority and Wexford County in the amount of \$4,500 for the acquisition of easement rights described in agreement (10-49-00-002-00), as presented.

All in favor.

8. Collective Bargaining Agreement
 - a. POAM Non 312
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 16-04, a tentative agreement between Wexford County and the POAM Non 312 Collective Bargaining Unit, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

b. TPOAM General

MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Taylor, to approve Resolution 16-05, a tentative agreement between Wexford County and the TPOAM General Collective Bargaining Unit, as Presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

c. TPOAM Courts

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald, to approve Resolution 16-06, a tentative agreement between Wexford County and the TPOAM Court Collective Bargaining Unit, as Presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

d. TPOAM Supervisory

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor, to approve Resolution 16-07, a tentative agreement between Wexford County and the TPOAM Supervisory Collective Bargaining Unit, as Presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

9. Non Union Personnel Discussion

Adm. Jordan approached the Board about pay increases for the non-union personnel. While the union employees on the POAM Non 312 and the TPOAM have negotiated a pay increase, the non-union employees have not. Board members were provided with two suggestions from Adm. Jordan: 1. A flat increase of \$1200 - \$100 per month – for all non-union employees/\$39,600 impact to the budget; 2. A 3% increase rather than the flat increase/\$45,000 impact to the budget.

A commissioner expressed concern about the impact this increase would have on the pension deficit and suggested having the increase be for one year only. It was stated that the increase would not be for Commissioners or the Administrator. The increase would be for Elected Officials and Non-Union employees.

After further discussion it was decided that the Finance Committee would review the request and their recommendation would be sent back to the Board.

10. Policy B-12.4 Paid Absence from the Workplace – *Added*

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the changes to Policy B-12.4, Paid Absence from the Workplace, as presented.

The updated union contracts will allow accrued vacation time to be on each pay check once they

have reached their first anniversary date rather just on the employees' anniversary date. Adm. Jordan explained that two unions did not negotiate this but he has had contact with their union administrator and they have no objection. The accrued vacation will have no negative impact.

Roll call: Motion approved seven to two with Comm Fuscone and Comm Howie voting against the motion.

Administrator's Comments

Adm. Jordan informed the Board that the County received the \$20,000 grant from the Veteran Service Office. The \$5,000 technology grant was not approved, but it is being looked at again. The Board of Public Works has closed; however, some documentation still needs to be completed. The financing on the Jail Project through USDA is almost done and the project will then go out to bid.

Correspondence - None

Public Comments –

Alan Cooper, Road Commission Manager, explained that the DNR has not contacted the Road Commission regarding the bridge discussed earlier tonight. The forest highway dollars received from the DNR is not used to fix damaged roads. It is used to keep the infrastructure in place.

Art Stevens, who recently stepped down from the City Council, appeared before the Board to thank them and the County employees for their integrity on how the County does business. He believes the County has a solid working relationship, straight forward and ethical. The County has Department Heads who have been with the County for many years. The City has had a great relationship with the County's Equalization Director, Joe Porterfield and employee Don Larkin which is a true collaboration of efforts.

Liaison Reports - None

Board Comment

Comm MacCready was sorry for missing the first part of the meeting tonight. He questioned the relationship with the city and obtaining building permits for the jail project.

Comm Howie would like to make certain Comm Hilty's position as Chair of the Lake Mitchell Board is not a conflict of interest with his position on the Board.

Chairman Comments

Comm Housler would like the Board to work together for the betterment of the County.

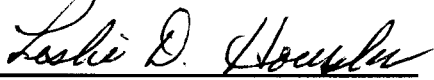
Adjourn

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**MOTION by Comm Taylor with the support of Comm Theobald to adjourn
at 6:42 p.m.**

All in favor.



Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine Richardson, County Clerk