

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Leslie Housler.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Michael MacCready, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Michael Bengelink, Michael Bush, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, Judy Nichols, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – None.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda- None

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Employee Recognition - None

Presentations and Reports –

Vicki Sawicki – Coordinator of Conservation on Invasive Species, is currently housed at the Wexford County Soil Conservation office, however they have out grown their office space. All Conservation Districts have a tool box that can be rented out to the public. Included in the tool box are things that will help out the community with some invasive species. It can become very costly if the public must purchase all the materials needed to handle the invasive species.

Ms. Sawicki explained some of the demonstration they have been involved with in the areas including Lake County Mason County and Ludington State Park. She also printed out some of the infestations that are prevalent in the area.

The Invasive Species district will be applying for a Forest Service grant and hope to hire another employee if they qualify.

Public Comments

Kathy Adams, Cherry Grove Township Supervisor, would like to keep 911 local for the community.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the June 28, 2017, Special Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the July 5, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Food Services Contract for Wexford County Correctional Facility
MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the food services contract between Wexford County and Canteen Services of Northern MI for the period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020 and authorize the Chairman of the Board, the Clerk and the Sheriff to sign the agreement, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

2. Policy E-10.0 Federal Awards Administration
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Policy E-10.0 Federal Awards Administration, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously

3. Chase Commercial Card Solution
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve transitioning from the current purchasing card program and begin utilizing J.P. Morgan Chase Commercial Card Solution Program, as presented.

John Dalton, J.P. Morgan Chase, is suggesting a change in credit cards for the County. With the suggested change, the County would not be liable for any unauthorized use or fraud. The County would limit the number of cards and the dollar limit. We would have 45 days before payment is due. These cards will be issued at no cost to the County. If the County decides to change, all departments would be using the same card, including the Sheriff's Department. Also, once a year the County would receive a stipend back from Morgan Chase as a revenue source, depending on how much was charged on the card throughout the year.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Dispatch Options – Grand Traverse County/Meceola
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm MacCready to approve the Grand Traverse proposal for consolidation of the Wexford County dispatch operations, as presented.

Board members touched on the Special Human Resources meeting that was held inviting all interested parties to make their presentation. There was a committee set up, made up of members from the community and they looked at what they could offer and there recommendation was to develop an authority. Some commissioners felt it was too soon to

make a decision on such an important subject and more information needed to be gathered. At the Special Human Resources meeting the Authority option failed, however the motion for going towards consolidation with Meceola or Grand Traverse was supported. It was mentioned that if the County formed an Authority maybe other Counties in the area may consolidate with us, Lake County and Missaukee County.

Grand Traverse Dispatch Director, Jason Torrey, was present and made it clear they would only operate from 800 MHz and have no narrow band. He believes 800 MHz is the system we will all be forced into overtime. If Wexford County does consolidate with Grand Traverse all of our radios and pagers would have to be 800 MHz. Some jurisdictions have already purchased 800 MHz, but the questions came up as to whether or not the County was required to furnish other jurisdictions with radios. And, the cost impact to the County. It may be a shared purchase between the County and other jurisdictions. Sheriff Taylor would prefer local dispatch if possible. They have an updated console now in the basement of the Sheriff's Department. He expressed concern about the 800 MHz.

After speaking with Meceola and Grand Traverse they felt our biggest concern was where would 911 Dispatch get the money to update their equipment, which may cost more than the \$2.25 surcharge will support. Mr. Torrey pointed out that the surcharge money can be used for many things as well as dispatch. The County needs to set a goal as to whether or not to maintain the current building, improving services. The Dispatch Fund must be built to enhance services for the community.

The estimated revenue would be approximately \$915,000 according to Mr. Torrey if the county opted to keep dispatch locally; however, that would not leave any for overhead or communications upgrade. If the County feels it is in the best interest of the community to keep it local, keep it local with the understanding that additional fees may be needed. If they opt to go to Grand Traverse the cost would be \$619,000 budget on paper. With the additional revenue of \$250,000 (if the County goes with Grand Traverse) can be used to purchase radios and pagers. If Wexford County opted to go with Grand Traverse they would need to hire 6 full time employees and he has looked at hiring Wexford County Staff as part of his team.

Another commissioner felt the Board was not listening to the voters of the County that they represent. This commissioner believes the message from the voters was to keep dispatch local.

Duane Alworden, Dispatcher Supervisor, encouraged the Board to make a decision. It has been difficult on staff not knowing whether they will have a job or not. If Dispatch was kept local the CAD would have to be replaced in 4 to 5 years; updates would be needed to the towers; radio systems are good but we have a VHF problem that we all

know about; consoles they currently have would have to be upgraded if all jurisdictions went to 800 MHz. The phone system is already purchased which is Next Gen compliant.

A request was made to call the question by Comm Bengelink.

Roll call: Motion failed three to six with Commissioners MacCready, Hilty, Bush, Theobald, Taylor, and Housler voting against the motion.

When questioned if new pagers were needed would Viper support them? Mr. Alworden pointed out that Viper has nothing to do with paging. He explained the difference between paging and radios and the Viper system. He believes dispatch needs two new radio consoles with capability of paging. Some Board members felt they needed more information before a decision can be made. Other commissioners felt the Board has been presented with all the options available. It was pointed out that Fire Fighters and Dispatch have been invited to every meeting. Mr. Alworden feels the Board has all the information needed and dispatch would like to keep it local. He believes the Board should do what the voters have asked them to do.

Roll call: Motion failed three to six with Commissioners Hilty Bengelink, Bush, Theobald, Nichols and Goodwill voting against the motion.

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Goodwill to operate 911 locally within Wexford County under the control of 911 Authority. Stipulations: That the 1 year notice written in the contract between Wexford and the City of Cadillac be waived; That Wexford County set up, but not appoint, the 911 Authority Board and give them 30 days to review and approve the projected cost of the operation, estimated to be \$850,000 to \$900,000. If the authority agrees to the cost of operations, we will make the appointments; 911 will operate out of the current jail until the Authority finds a different location or until the end of 2018, whichever comes first. At the end of 2018, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to negotiate the use of their current site location; the Authority would not be able to levy a surcharge, in order to meet their cost of operations, for at least 5 years; at no time will there be any money spent on 911 costs from the general fund after the 2017 budget year.

The 911 Plan can be written up to allow the Board to take over 911 Dispatch if they feel the equipment/operation is not operating properly. With the motion above, it was felt the next step would be to get the Advisory Committee in place, present them with the facts and the budget. They would take it from there. A lease agreement would need to be in place for 911 Dispatch to use the old Jail / Sheriff's Department as their operation center.

Board members then discussed how the Advisory Committee would be selected, and, again the 911 Plan could be written to take care of that. If the Authority goes defunct, it could be written in the 911 Plan what the Board's next step may be.

It was pointed out that the Board could make 911 Dispatch as a county department, operating off their own funds. This would allow the Board to still have some oversight of the department. Dispatch would also realize some benefits as to insurance, liability, etc.

Commissioner Bengelink rescinded his motion and Comm Goodwill rescinded his support.

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm MacCready to turn dispatch into a County Department and appoint an Advisory Committee which will go through the Human Resources Committee with a recommendation for approval by the Board.

The Advisory Committee would go through the Human Resources Committee with the recommendation for approval of the Board.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. *Discussion on 800 MHz Radios*

This came out of the Executive Committee. Board members felt that they wanted to get the 800 radio system through the County and look at a time frame to have it completed. This should be a question for the Advisory Committee. Board members touched on the County paying for half of the 800 MHz radio system. Currently, we have \$325,000 in the 101.325 account and \$440,000 in the 261 Fund.

Board members then discussed the setup of the Advisory Committee. Again, that is part of the 911 Plan.

6. *Discussion on City of Cadillac and the 911 Agreement*

The County entered into a Dispatch Agreement with the City of Cadillac back in April 1994. As part of the agreement, the City agreed to share the cost.

9. d. Reimbursement to the County for necessary maintenance expenses and the cost of replacement of the radio and communication equipment as determined by the County with the advice of the County Central Dispatch Advisory Board.

A letter will be sent to the City regarding the Agreement.

7. *Budget Amendments*

7/19/2017

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Amendments to the 2017 Budget**

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense	
20170702	101.325.931.00	Equipment Maint. & Repair		\$ (10,000)	(a)
	101.325.702.05	Overtime		\$ 10,000	
		Unforeseen and expected employee absences			
20170703	245.900.699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 27,297		(b)
	245.900.645.00	Revenue	\$ 8,057		
	245.902.977.09	Administration (DP)		\$ 35,354	
		To justify the purchase of the AS400 system for the courts			

8. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project

Administrator's Report

Jayne Stanton, Treasurer/Co-Administrator, had a discussion with the Board as to our cash flow. Back in 2014 our Fund Balance was approximately \$1,500,000 and now it is about \$600,000. Ms. Stanton cautioned the Board that the County may have to borrow for cash flow next year.

Correspondence -None

Public Comments - None

Liaison Reports

Comm Theobald was unable to attend her liaison committee. She suggested that the County look to have a backup commissioner when the appointed liaison is unable to attend.

Board Comment

Comm MacCready was interested in being a liaison replacement. He felt the Board had a good meeting tonight.

Comm Theobald thanked all for the support of the 911 Dispatch as a County Department. It was not an easy decision.

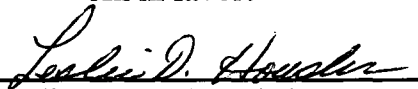
Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler expressed concern for the unknown cost regarding 911 Dispatch and the new jail. He thanked all for their input tonight.

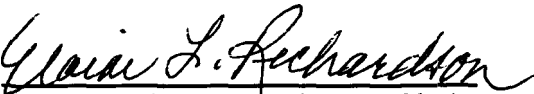
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn
at 7:30 p.m.

All in favor.



Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk