

## WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, June 15, 2016

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

Move 1. – Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation; 2. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project to After 11. – Budget Amendments; Added 12. Additional Liability Coverage for Jail Construction.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the agenda, as amended.**

**All in favor.**

### **Employee Recognition**

Administrator Jordan introduced a couple new employees: Tony Rubio, Veteran's Service Officer and Karen Selim, Zoning Administrator/PT.

### **Presentations and Reports**

#### 1. 2015 MSU Extension Annual Report

Shari Spoelman, District Coordinator for MSUE, appeared before the Board to give the 2015 Annual report. She believes that 2015 was a very significant year by getting a millage passed in May, 2015. The millage is scheduled to begin January 2017. She also introduced a new full time 4-H Administrator, Carol Blake. Their youth services has grown over the past year. Recently, MSUE offered a babysitter class which was well attended. They have also had success with education involving early child development, keeping people health, cooking and canning, and agricultural programs. She believes that MSUE has had an impact on the community.

Comm Mitchell arrived at 5:36 p.m.

### **Public Comments**

Bernie and Vlassta Bovee , Slagle Township, came before the Board to express their concern about the County getting out of the Zoning business. They believe zoning creates value to the community which helps to generate a higher tax base.

Judy Nichols, Haring Township, thanked the Board for releasing funds to spay and neuter animals from the shelter. The funds are being used for what they were assessed for. Also, a Veterans helping Veterans park is going in on South 41 Road.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the June 01, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Resolution 16-23, Supporting HB 5578
3. Farmland Preservation Agreement

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

A question came up about the budget amendment on page 4 of the minutes and report back to the Board.

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

**3. Wexford County 2015 Financial Audit**

Steven Peacock, Rehmann Robson Auditors, provided the Board a report on the 2015 audit. First, he explained that GASB 68 was the new pension liability reporting that must be done this year. Through MERS Actuarial, the county's liability for 2015 is (\$9,864,855). Wexford County may receive correspondence from the State asking how we plan on handling this deficit. Mr. Peacock stated that out of the six counties he is involved with five of them have a retirement liability.

When asked if the County could get out of MERS, Mr. Peacock stated that the liability must be paid in full before going to another option. Rehmann has someone on staff that can discuss this further with the County, if interested. He also suggested that the County look at increasing their payment to MERS.

The County's net position at the end of the year is \$16,088,779.

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm MacCready to approve Wexford County's December 31, 2015, Financial Statements and Independent Audit, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

A five minute recess was taken (6:30 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.)

4. Taxable Valuations L-4046

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the 2016 Taxable Valuations, Report L-4046, and authorize the Board Chairman and the Equalization Director to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

5. 2016 Tax Rate Request L-4029 Report  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the 2016 Tax Rate Request, Report L-4029, and authorize the Board Chairman and County Clerk to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion passed seven to one with Comm Howie voting against the motion.**

6. Resolution 16-22, 2016 Summer Millage Rate for FY  
**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 16-22, 2016 Summer Millage Rate for FY 2016 Budget, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

7. 2016 Marine Safety Grant Agreement  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the 2016 Marine Safety Program Grant Agreement and authorize the Board Chairman to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

8. Intergovernmental Agreement with Clare County for Veterans Services  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Clare County for Veterans Services in the amount of \$400.00 per week with a 30-day written notice to terminate.**

Renee Haley, Clare County Veteran's Services Representative, appeared before the Board to express the good that can come from regional services. She is currently the Veterans' Service Officer of Clare County and has offered to split her time between Wexford and Clare County for a fee of \$400 per week. She has all the training needed to run the Veterans' Office and is willing to pass that along to get Wexford's office up and running. This will allow veterans one stop to get their questions/problems taken care of. She will see to it that our new Veterans' Services Office, Tony Rubio, receives the training he needs as well as provide assistance in the office. This will be the first joint effort in the State.

It was pointed out that millage dollars will be used to pay for this expense and the agreement will be for one year. She would like to see the two counties working together past the one year mark. Ms. Haley has many ideas for our area and will be flexible with her hours to cover a shortage in the office when needed.

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

9. FY 2017 Budget Calendar

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the FY 2017 Budget Calendar, as presented.**

**All in favor.**

10. Discussion on Level Increases for the Friend of the Court

Sally Randall, Wexford County Friend of the Court, appeared before the Board to request level increases for her staff. She believes they have been overlooked. The Board was provided with documents to back-up her request. Ms. Randall's department has been provided with incentive money from the State of Michigan under the Title IV-D. Michelle Kovach (an employee at the Friend of the Court) came forward to explain the training she has received over the past several months. She began as an employee there back in August 2015.

Ms. Randall explained that some time back a comparison was done with 5/6 counties in the area and our FOC was the lowest paid. Her staff is cross trained and can help out when another staff member is gone. They work hard to serve the public.

Board members discussed with Ms. Randall the staffing levels she is requesting.

When questioned whether or not this included the pension liability, Ms. Randall explained that the current figures do not include that but it could be included. Other commissioners felt that other departments should be looked at as well. And, if this is approved, there will be more departments coming before the Board asking for increases.

When asked if this request was an all or nothing, Ms. Randall stated that this is what she felt her department employees were worth.

**MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the level increases at a glance for the 6/15/2016 document with MERS cost to be included, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion failed with a four to four with Commissioners Hilty, Theobald, Taylor and Housler voting against the motion.**

11. Budget Amendment

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the budget amendments dated 06/15/2016, as presented.**

6/15/2016

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners  
 Amendments to the 2016 Budget**

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense	
20160603	101.101.699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 28,000		(a)
	101.290.910.00	Insurance/pkg liability		\$ 28,000	
	Under estimated 2016 budget for county insurance liability during the budget process.				
20160604	101-101-699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 3,000		(b)
	101-229-800.00	Contracted Services		\$ 3,000	
	Responsible for the cost of the MSP Forensic Audit per MCLA 49.160				
20160605	101-101-699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 2,500		(c)
	101-230-800.00	Contracted Services		\$ 2,500	
	MGT of America underfunded during 2016 budget preparation.				
20160606	295-682-539.00	Veterans Service	\$ 20,000		(d)
	295-682-702.00	Salaries wages		\$ 12,190	
	295-682-713.00	Per Diem		\$ 1,200	
	295-682-719.00	Social Security		\$ 1,300	
	295-682-722.00	Workman's Comp		\$ 110	
	295-682-727.00	Office Supplies		\$ 3,000	
	295-682-860.00	Travel & Conf.		\$ 2,000	
	295-682-930.03	Vets (Maint. Expenses)		\$ 200	
	Funding for the Veterans Services Department from the grant.				
20160607	101-101-699.00	Appropriated Fund Bal	\$ 210,420		(e)
	101-141-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 5,660	
	101-148-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 8,300	
	101-166-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 4,200	
	101-172-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 5,200	
	101-215-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 43,400	
	101-225-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 2,660	
	101-229-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 1,300	
	101-253-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 1,800	
	101-265-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 2,800	
	101-301-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 85,900	
	101-325-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 8,800	
	101-351-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 39,600	
	101-426-721.00	Health Ins.		\$ 800	
	Health insurance was under budgeted during the 2016 process.				

20160608	101-101-699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,750	(f)
	101-965-999.15	Transfer Out/Other		\$1,750
	295-682-695.05	Transfer In/Other	\$1,750	
	295-682-702.00	Salaries & Wages		\$1,750
	Additional Salary expenses are being incurred with the newly formed Veterans Services Department			

**Roll call: Motion passed six to two with Commissioners MacCready and Howie voting against the motion.**

1. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation (Moved from item 1 to after item 11)  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing current litigation pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, Act 267, P.A. 1976, as amended being MCL 15.268 Sec. 8 (e)**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Hilty to resume open session of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and to accept the Minutes of the Closed Session as orally read by the Clerk.**

**All in favor.**

Comm Fuscone left at 8:05 p.m.

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to accept the advice of counsel, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

2. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project (Moved from item 2 to after item 11)  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to resolve into a committee of the whole for the purposes of discussing the jail project.**

**All in favor.**

Ms. Vogler has received a number of calls regarding the detention equipment. She has been in contact with Steve Moe, Architect, to help facilitate the process. They have decided to move the bid date back a couple days to June 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners room. Those involved with the process are aware of the date change. After the bids are opened, the committee will go through a vetting process on the General Contractors. She suggested having a special meeting on June 29 to select the General Contractor.

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to rise and report the findings for the Committee of the Whole.**

**All in favor.**

12. Additional Liability Coverage for Jail Construction

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Option 1, providing for an additional \$1 million in coverage beyond Hooker DeJong \$2 million per claim for a total of \$3 million in coverage for the construction of the new jail.**

Lisa Vogler, Owner Representative of the Jail Project, came forward to explain that she was not involved in the agreement process on the insurance requirements. It has now been determined that minimum guidelines that has been determined by MMRMA is \$3 million. The County as at \$2 million coverage at this time. Ms. Vogler believe this insurance increase will be money well spent.

**Roll call: Motion failed four to four with Commissioners MacCready, Howie, Mitchell and Fuscone voting against the motion.**

**Administrator's Report** – Board members were provided with a written report from Adm. Jordan.

**Correspondence** - None

**Public Comments** - None

**Liaison Reports** - None

**Board Comment** - None

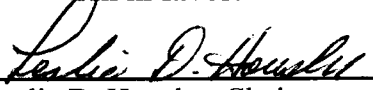
**Chairman's Comments**

Comm Housler felt the Board may have to revisit the liability question.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.**

**All in favor.**

  
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Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

  
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Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk

Note: The budget amendment on the minutes for June 1, 2016 was in error. The correction will be made to the minutes of June 1, 2016 and addressed at the July 6, 2016 meeting.