

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, May 18, 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, Gideon Mitchell, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent - None

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

1.a. Detroit Free Press cost to advertise; 8. a. Millages; 8.b. Financial Controls

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition - None

Presentations and Reports

1. Reutilization Report

Jayne Stanton, Wexford County Treasurer, appeared before the Board to update them on the Reutilization Fund. She reported that they have about \$804,933 which has been received from foreclosures at the auction. After added expenditures, such as potential claims of \$300,000 and contingency OF \$500,000, there remains a balance of approximately \$4,933. Treasurer Stanton when on to explain the reason \$500,000 would be needed for contingencies. Over the past five to six years approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 has been transferred into the General Fund from the Reutilization Account.

Public Comments - None

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the May 4, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes

A Board member questioned a portion of the statement the county received from counsel regarding the VoIP System award.

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

All in favor – 8; opposed – 1;

Agenda Items

1. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm MacCready to resolve into a committee of the whole for purposes of discussing the jail project.

All in favor.

Lisa Vogler, Owner Representative, was present to update the Board on the jail project. The bid package will be in place tomorrow morning at three newspapers as well as online, Correctional News and other appropriate areas. On 5/26 there will be a pre bid meeting with the General Contractor present as well as subs. They will do a site visit at that time as well. By 6/28 once the bids come in and have been reviewed, she recommended selecting three to five of the top bidders to come to the Board for review.

Board members questioned Ms. Vogler as to when the ground breaking may be and if there would be any chance that a 9-1-1 Office could be added onto the new structure.

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

All in favor.

a. Detroit Free Press Advertising Cost – Added

It was felt that the price to place an ad in the Detroit Free Press was too high. In order to advertise the jail project on their website, the county must also pay to have it in the newspaper at a cost of \$11,253. After some discussion, Board members felt there needed to be some discussion with the representative of USDA.

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Theobald to authorize the Owner's Representative to determine if it is absolutely necessary to advertise in the Detroit Free Press. And only if absolutely necessary shall an amount of \$11,253 be authorized.

Roll call: Motion passed eight to one with Comm MacCready voting against the motion.

2. Policy A-1.0 Board and Committee Procedures, General

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the draft language to add B.1.g. and add section E to Policy 1-1.0, Board and Committee Procedures, General, as presented.

Some Board members questioned the need to change this policy. Another commissioner stated that the entire policy book needs to be looked at and updated. The policy before the Board had been reviewed by legal counsel. Some Board members felt that by changing this policy the transparency of the County is reduced. Board members then

discussed allowing the Chair or his/her designee to fill in on committee meetings where there was not going to be a quorum present. Adm. Jordan explained that it helps to move matters along by allowing the Chair to fill in when necessary. It was mentioned that two or three committees meetings have not been held due to a quorum not being present.

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

3. Resolution 16-19 Support PA 511 Wexford-Missaukee Community Corrections Grant Application
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 16-19, Supporting PA511 Wexford-Missaukee Community Corrections Grant Application, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Medical Examiner's Agreement
MOTION by Comm Mitchell, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Performance of Medical Examiner Duties in Wexford County for a period of four years, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Agreement for Housing Prisoners in Osceola County
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the Osceola County Inmate Housing Agreement for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. Octagon Building Discussion
The Octagonal building that is located at the Fairgrounds has been condemned due to structural concerns. A Committee has been put together to decide what the next step may be. It was mentioned that anything done to the building must have the approval of the Fair Board as well as the County. It was also pointed out that the building was not historical but the committee is still working on that. Chuck Boltman, Vice President of the Barn Restoration Society is working with the Committee and may be willing to write up an RFP.

Ted Myer, President of the Fair Board would like to keep the building and look to grants and volunteer labor to repair the building. There needs to be a business plan in place before any grant dollars may be considered. Some commissioners would like to ask taxpayers for a millage in November. Others felt that taxpayers should not be ask to pay for the restoration and the Committee should look for some private donations.

The consensus of the Board was for the committee to continue to work on getting some answers and bring it back to this Board.

7. Budget Amendments
 5/18/2016

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

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
20160502	101.101.699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 10,000	(a)
	101.526.800.00	Contracted Services		\$ 10,000
	To increase Pescador's agreement for additional activities in the RAP area per DEQ.			

MOTION by Comm Mitchell, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve a budget amendment dated 05/18/2016, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

8. A. Millage - *Added*

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Mitchell that in the event any millage fails to pass in the August election that millage in the same or amended form shall not be placed on the November ballot.

The surcharge placed on phone in the County would not be considered a millage. It was felt by some Board members that the millages are not necessary. Another commissioner felt if the millages were placed on the ballot by the Board then the Board felt they were necessary. After further discussion the vote was taken.

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

B. Financial Control – *Added*

A commissioner reported that overnight trips are not a fringe benefit and may be taxed according to the IRS.

Administrator's Report

Board members received a written report from Adm. Jordan. He added that he is working on assembling a 9-1-1 Committee to review the two options. He touched on running service leads to the jail site and the City reimbursing the county for that expense. He suggested that a Special Meeting be held on July 6 to review the jail bids. There will be a meeting on Friday to complete the details on the new phone system. The vendor believes that in three to five days he will have the courthouse phone system completed. They will then move to Lake Street.

The Board touched on the need to do some work on the Civic Center's north wall.

Correspondence

1. MDOT Annual Rural & Tribal Elected Official Meeting
2. Veterans Freedom Park – Grand Opening
3. Wexford County Veterans' Stand Down

Public Comments –

Judy Nichols, Haring Township, asked Board members to speak into their microphones so the public could hear them better.

Adam Kerr, Maintenance, felt the cost to advertise in the Free Press was too much. He then touched on the Octagonal building at the fairgrounds. He felt that the committee needs a way to find out if the public is interested in investing in the structure. He would like to see a group move the building maybe to a different site.

Liaison Reports

Comm Theobald attended a Community Corrections meeting and it seems other Counties are coming to Wexford County for their test because our rate is cheaper. They will be looking at charging a higher rate for out of county testing.

Comm Taylor reported that the Council on Aging is in the process of moving into their newly renovated building.

Comm Fuscone reported that the Housing Council is having problems with the grant they receive from the State. The regulations may change to take 10% of the grant to use for rental property. Also, he will not be in attendance at the District Health meeting.

Board Comment

Comm MacCready reminded the Board that the Veterans Stand Down gathering would be June 7 which is a Tuesday. This gathering is to let veterans become aware of what is out there for them. Animal Control is doing a good job. He was glad the policy did not change.

Comm Howie continues to see the citizens of the County burdened by taxes. Becoming a home owner is getting harder and harder.

Comm Theobald attended the Blessing of First Responders.

Comm Fuscone felt there was a lot of good interaction at the meeting tonight. He would like to see an RFP go out on the Octagon building so the committee can provide better answers.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler liked the discussion tonight with all being civil to one another. He will send the request for an RFP on the Octagon Building to the Building and Recreation Committee for discussion.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Mitchell to adjourn

at 7:25 p.m.

All in favor.



Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk