

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, November 18, 2105

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, and John Fuscone; Absent – Commissioner Bill Goodwill.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added Agenda Items: 12. Resolution 15-28 Consideration of Eminent Domain Proceedings; 13. Good Faith Offer; 14. 911 Feasibility Study; *Added to Presentations and Reports* – 6. Budget Presentation

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition - None

Presentations and Reports

1. Clare County Veteran's Services Presentation

Rene Hailey, Veterans' Services Rep., appeared before the Board to outline some of the benefits available. The Veteran's Services agencies are trained to file claims and act as a coordinator for the Veterans. They also have access to many services to help and benefit all veterans. Ms. Hailey touched on having a veterans' services representative here, in the County, on a day-to-day basis. This will be a win/win situation and bring money into the County.

A Representative from Kent County Veteran's Service Representative, appeared to talk about the benefits that have come into Kent County for veterans. She also touched on grants that may be available to help with the startup in the amount of \$20,000. The grant can be used to establish an office and help with training at the National Conference.

Both representatives at the meeting volunteered their services to help with training and to get the office operational.

2. Annual Report - Northern Lakes Community Mental Health

Karl Kovach, CEO of Northern Lakes Community Mental Health, appeared before the Board to present their annual update. Each Board member was provided with a report on their revenues and expenditures throughout the year. He discussed the dollars spent on

mental health services in the five county area. He then pointed out the dollar amount for services provided to Wexford County residents in 2014.

In conclusion, he pointed out that Wexford County has two positions open on their Board.

3. Unfunded Pension Liability Presentation

Paul Mats and Brent Prum, Rehmann auditors Auditing Firm, appeared before the Board to touch on GASB 68 which is about reporting our retirement liability. This will be the first year the government is including it in our audit. They pointed out that this is one of the significant changes to the 2015 audit, but additional funding is not required. The retirement liability will not impact our 2015 audit; however, this year is the first year it is to be included.

4. MERS Presentation

Tony Radjenovich, MERS Representative, also appeared before the Board to report on the county's unfunded retirement liability. He first directed Board members to their website to get many questions answered (www.mersofmich.com). The largest hit the County's retirement had was back in 2008 with a 39% accrued liability and many retirement plans are still recovering. Board members were provided with some handouts. One of the documents touched on what the County's retirement cost would be for 2016. Also, how much was actual cost and how much were costs to go towards the unfunded liability. MERS will continue to charge the County for the unfunded liability each year. There are several ways the county could close the gap on the unfunded liability: MERS could put in place a higher payment plan; additional funding above the normal monthly payment; or continue as is.

5. PFN 911 Presentation

Undersheriff Trent Taylor introduced Tom Sumbler of PFN 911. Mr. Sumbler explained PFN is a Peninsula Fiber Network that deals with next gen 911 legacy systems for the past 40 years and have been very successful in restructuring 911 services. They provide extremely critical communication when needed. He explained their business set up and provided the Board with some of their background. Their goal is to have shared CAD systems and to develop networks to move PSAPS from one jurisdiction to another when necessary. Calls into 911 dispatch areas increase consistently over the years. When more calls come in than dispatch is able to handle the call is automatically handed over to another dispatch station, seamlessly, without disconnection. Also, our 911 centers must be able to accept texting into the 911 system. That is the future.

Mr. Sumbler discussed the cost of their service. He believes it would cost the county nothing. There are two funding services that pay for your 911 today: surcharge for 911 and State wireless funding. He suggested their first step would be to go before the

Michigan Public Service Commission to put your needs before them. This will start the process moving forward. PFN services are now in 47 counties across the State.

6. Budget Presentation - *Added*

The 2016 budget is short approximately \$750,000. Last year the county used \$390,000 from fund balance to balance the budget. Some departments have requested level increases for staff members. Salary increases will not be dealt with during the 2016 budget process. Departments have been asked to review their 2016 budget to see if they can find any additional cost savings or added revenues.

Public Comments

Patty Ohnsman asked for an update as to where the County was on providing water to their property. They purchased the property after receiving a letter from Mr. Divizzo outlining the steps they would need to take to have water supplied to their property.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the November 04, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the Agreement between Wexford County and the USDA – Huron Manistee National Forests

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project Update

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

All in favor.

Lisa Vogler, Wexford County Owner Representative, came forward to update the Board on the progress of the jail project. To start with, an environmental study will be done soon and an RFP will not be needed due to the low cost. A once a week telephone conference will be setup with Hooker DeJong, Ms. Vogler and Administrator Jordan to keep all informed on the progress.

Ms. Vogler then discussed the roads outside the jail project and the concern for area residents to control in and out construction traffic and installation of utilities. They are looking at staging the construction and utility traffic to have as little impact as possible.

The plan review has five steps it must go through before we can begin the bid process and then go to closing.

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to rise and report the findings for the Committee of the Whole.

All in favor.

2. PFN – 911 Authority

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the Peninsula Fiber Network, PFN, Letter of Authorization, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the letter on behalf of the County, as presented.

All in favor.

3. Revised Zoning Ordinance #5

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Hilty to adopt the Revised Zoning Ordinance #5 and direct the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on the revised ordinance, as presented.

This matter has been through the Human Resources Committee and the Board passed a Resolution earlier stating they would be getting out of County Zoning 01/01/2016.

It was pointed out that this matter was discussed in 2013 and 11 township officials came forward and wanted the County to continue with zoning. Another Board member stated that he did not to do away with County Zoning entirely. The Revised Option #5 has been restructured to allow minimal county involvement and all townships to implement their own zoning which would best suit their needs. Mike Green, Planning and Zoning Director, came forward and explained that townships want the County to keep Countywide Zoning and they were willing to help out financially. Mike Mix, Zoning member, pointed out that the Revised Option #5 has a five year sunset and a one year review built into it.

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

4. Resolution 14-40 – No action due to agenda #3.

5. Bid Award – Fire Suppression System – Ice Arena

MOTION by Comm Hilty, seconded by Comm Fuscone to award the bid, to replace the piping for the fire suppression system in the Ice Arena, to AFP in an amount not to exceed \$12,000, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. MMRMA RAP Grant Application

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the MMRMA RAP Grant application for road patrol body cameras in the amount of \$2,507.50, as presented.

All in favor.

7. Budget Amendments(s) – None

8. Closed Session – To Discuss Written Legal Opinion

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to enter into closed session for the purpose of union negotiations and to consider written legal opinions pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, Act 267, P.A. 1976, as amended, being MCL 15.268 Sec.8(c) and Section 8(h).

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie 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.

9. DPW Operations

MOTION by Com Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to notify the DPW employees that their employment with the Wexford County DPW will be terminated effective 12/31/2015 at 11:59 p.m.

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

10. Village of Mesick Water, Waste Water Transfer

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve Resolution 15-27, To Approve Conveyance of the Assessments of the Village of Mesick Sewer System and Matters Related Thereto, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

11. Revised L-4029 Report

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the Revised 2015 Tax Rate Request, Report L-4029, and authorize the Chairman and County Clerk to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.

Joe Porterfield, Equalization Director, explained the reason for this coming back to the Board for approval was due to a typo that could have had a significant impact.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

12. Resolution 15-28, Consideration of Eminent Domain Proceedings – *Added*

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve Resolution 15-28, Resolution To Determine the Necessity For Certain Monitoring Wells And For Access To Those Wells For Sampling AS Required By The Remedial Action Plan Dated August 6, 2007, As Well As To Protect The Health And Safety Of The County's Citizens And Their Groundwater, And Authorize The County Of Wexford To Obtain Certain Property Interests In Connection Therewith, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

13. Good Faith Offer – *Added*

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the Good Faith Unified Offer of Just Compensation to Ms. Lisa Wise in the amount of \$1,630 and authorize the County Administrator to sign the letter on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

14. 911 Feasibility Study - *Added*

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the proposal submitted by Plante Moran for a 911 Feasibility Study in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Joe Porterfield, Equalization Director, explained that this study would be to look at a local or consolidated 911 Center. The study will be to see if it is more cost effective to leave 911 in the county or look at consolidating with another jurisdiction. Local Firefighters will be included in the discussions. It was stressed that the Board of Commissioners and the Firefighters must accept what comes back from the study and move on.

All in favor.

Administrator's Report

Adm. Jordan thanked the Board for waiting for him to start his employment with Wexford County. He is learning a lot and is getting himself familiar with the County's budget process and contract negotiations.

Correspondence - None

Public Comments

Gordie Maxwell objected to the City Firefighter coming to the meeting tonight using the transportation of the City Fire Department – a firetruck.

Liaison Reports

Comm Fuscone mentioned that there would be a Special Meeting of the BPW on November 24, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. to clean up items due to the closing of the facility.

Comm MacCready believes the County is heading for a bumpy road on the Zoning matter and the closing of the Department of Public Works.

Board Comment

Comm Mitchell was supporting of the presentation by the Veteran's Service Department.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler thanked Adm. Jordan for coming to Wexford County. He then mentioned that the county is not required to have a BPW committee once the department has been closed. The County can appoint representatives at a later date.

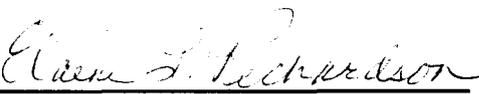
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

All in favor.



Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk