

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, November 1, 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**

*Added* - 3.a. Radio Communication; 14. Resolution 17-30, Cedar Creek Township Delinquent Water Charges;

**MOTION by Comm MacCready, seconded by Comm Taylor to discuss the (15) Cedar Creek Injection Wells, as presented.**

**All in favor.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**All in favor.**

**Employee Recognition** – None

**Presentations and Reports** – None

**Public Comments**

John Fuscone, Cedar Creek Township resident, would like to discuss the injection wells during the meeting.

Sarah Benson would like the Board to support the EM program as a full time position. Letters of support were provided for the Board to review.

Mike DeCastro, MSP Homeland Security/Emergency Management for the 7<sup>th</sup> District, appeared at tonight's meeting to answer any questions regarding the EM position which will be part of the agenda later.

Rita McNamara, Cedar Creek Township resident, would like to speak on the injection wells at Cedar Creek during the Board's discussion.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the October 18, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.**

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to open the Public Hearing on Wexford County's 2018 Budget.**

**All in favor.**

Harry Yonkman, Boon Township, questioned who signs off on the budget. The Clerk explained how the budget process works. Mr. Yonkman understood how the budget was put together. He does not see anything wrong with the budget, just the process.

No other public comments were made. Chair Housler closed the public hearing at 5:42 p.m.

2. Approval of the 2018 Budget

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Hilty to approve the 2018 Budget, as presented.**

A commissioner questioned the Administrator's budget as well as the Veterans and COA budget. Another commissioner explained that the 2018 budget was the first time in many years the Board has not had to use Fund Balance to balance the budget.

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

3. Resolution 17-29, General Appropriations Act

**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 17-29, Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Resolution and General Appropriations Act, as presented.**

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

- A. Radio Communication – *Added*

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Tele-Rad quote in the amount of \$6,040 paid from the**

**jail contingency fund for upgrades to the radios in the new jail facility, as presented.**

Jail Administrator, Lt. Greg Webster, explained that once the windows and doors were in the new jail facility the VHF radios had some dead spots in the facility. Lt. Webster has been in touch with both Tele Rad and Grand Traverse Mobil to work on getting the problem repaired. Tele Rad can fix the problem at a cost of \$6,040.

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

4. PA 116, Application 17-01 for Farmland Agreement  
**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the PA 116 Farmland Agreement application 17-01 by Michael Geerlings, for the property located in Wexford Township, Second 12, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

5. PA 116, Application 17-02 for Farmland Agreement  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the PA 116 Farmland Agreement application 17-02 by Michael Geerlings, for the property location in Wexford Township, Section 13, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

6. Resolution 17-28 2017 Winter Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2018 Budget  
**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 17-28 2017 Winter Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, as presented.**

Joe Porterfield, Equalization Director, presented the Board with the requested tax millage rates for their approval. He reminded the Board that the Public Safety and Veterans Service millage should be looked at next year for renewal.

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

7. PFN Internet Service Provider for Dispatch  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Peninsula Fiber Network as the internet provider for Central Dispatch and approve the 60 month agreement with a 60 day written notice to cancel, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

8. Selling the Recycle Center Property Discussion

The consensus on the Board members was to move forward in selling the Recycling Center Property.

9. 2018 Health Insurance

**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve both the current base plan option and the Health Savings Account (HSA) option of health insurance both provided by Weadock and Associates allowing the employees to choose which option to elect for the 2018 plan year and for the County to contribute to the HSA deductible \$1,250 to a single policy and \$2,500 to a double/family policy.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

10. Resolution 17-25 Opting Out from the Provisions of 2011 PA 152 for 2018

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 17-25 Wexford County Board of Commissioners Resolution Exempting County Government and “Opting Out” from the Provisions of 2011 PA 152 for Coverage Year Commencing January 1, 2018, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

11. Discussion on Part-time Emergency Management

Board members discussed whether or not to continue the Emergency Management position as full time or reduce it to part time. The current Emergency Manager was hired as part time – 20 hours per week. A couple of years back, the position turned into full time – 37.5 hours per week. Sarah Benson, Emergency Management, believes we are in a different environment today due in part to 9/11. She would like to plan some benchmarks and goals. Ms. Benson was asked about grant writing. She explained that her position is supported by a grant through Homeland Security by about 38%. If her position was changed to part time it would be difficult for her to decide what to give up.

Mike DeCastro explained that as an EM Director they must know all sides in order to perform their job. The Emergency Management director is the “go to” person for preparedness, education, pushing education out to the news media, assisting the County with any epidemic in the area. They must plan for the worst but hope for the best. Mr. DeCastro supports the FT program and feels the County does benefit by it. The cost savings the County may see would reduce the effectiveness of the position.

Mr. DeCastro will sit down with the Wexford County Co. Administrators and discuss the Emergency Management position.

12. Budget Amendments – None

13. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project

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

**All in favor.**

a. Grading and Drainage at the New Sheriff's Department

Rob Gustafson, Hooker DeJong, first thanked the Board for a good project that came in under budget and before the deadline. Mr. Gustafson explained the drainage issues and the need for corrective action. It was pointed out that some of the drainage issues did not exist before the removal of soil and vegetation. With the large amount of rainfall there was no way to predict the drainage problem that existed would not occur again. Hooker DeJong believes every site is unique and from standard of care perspective that was used they did a good job. When the drainage issued occurred they felt it would not be in the best interest of the County to have that occur again, which may happen even after the soil and vegetation is back in. Board members were also reminded that the job was completed before the completion date and Wexford County realized a cost savings by not paying out-of-county inmate boarding.

Lisa Vogler, Owner Representative, supported the change order for the corrective action on the drainage field.

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

**All in favor.**

b. Partial Pay Request

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the partial payment request in the amount of \$662,066.47 submitted for October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017, for the jail construction and related expenses.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

14. Resolution 17-30 Cedar Creek Township Delinquent Water Charges - *Added*

**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor approve Resolution 17-30 Cedar Creek Township Delinquent Water Charges on Tax Roll, as presented.**

During the executive meeting, Sierra Brown, Infrastructure Representative, brought up that some new residents in the area were not paying their water bills. After checking with

legal, Mr. McNulty suggested putting a resolution together to enable the County to put the delinquent water bill amounts on the resident's tax bill. The Resolution before the Board tonight will allow delinquent water bills to be placed on their 2018 tax bills.

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

15. Cedar Creek Injection Wells – Landfill – *Added*

Board members discussed the possibility that injection wells may be going in at the landfill. It was believed that more information is needed. It was pointed out by a Board member that injection wells must follow many strict rules and requirements. This commissioner would not be afraid to inject liquid into a disposal well if it had the approval of the EPA. Another commissioner was not concerned about the well, but what is in the leachate and the chemicals attached to the limestone.

Rita McNamara, Cedar Creek Township, expressed her concern about allowing injection wells at the landfill. She encouraged the public and the Board to make comments on the website no later than November 22. American Waste wants to save money by using the injection system.

John Bennett, Cedar Creek Township, encouraged people to write letters objecting to the approval of the injection wells.

Board members would like to approve a resolution in opposition of the injection wells. It will be prepared and before the Board at their next meeting.

Mary Hallet, Cedar Creek Township Treasurer, strongly objected to the injecting wells. She believes it will cause more problems in the future.

Harry Yonkman, Boon Township, expressed concern about the injection wells.

Larry Paquette, Mechanical Engineer and resident of Cedar Creek Township, is not in support of the injection wells and the public will not know the outcome for years. American Waste is not a good neighbor. They have not listened to their neighbors. He believes the EPA may have a sympathetic ear if the residents of Wexford County express their objection to the injection wells going in.

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Taylor to develop a resolution in opposition to the injection wells at the landfill.**

If the resolution is approved by the Board, copies will be provided to the EPA and the DEQ.

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

Board members were also encouraged to respond to the website.

### **Administrator's Report**

Jayne Stanton, Treasurer / Co. Administrator provided the Board with the 911 fees for the quarter. The Treasurer's Office received \$76,000 for the last quarter. They received another payment of \$48,000. She does not believe they will hit the \$400,000 that was budgeted for this year. The County has received approximately \$158,000 this year.

She touched on the statement made by Lt. DeCastro about the reports that must be filed by Ms. Benson. We all have to file reports as part of our job. Whether the positions are part time or full time, all departments have requirements that must still be carried out.

### **Correspondence**

1. Lake County Planning Commission
2. Wexford County's Cash Investment Quarterly report

### **Public Comments**

Harry Yonkman, Boon Township, questioned what the Clerk's thoughts were on the EM position.

Rita McNamara thanked the Board for listing to the public.

### **Liaison Reports**

Comm MacCready attended a Northern Lakes Community Mental Health leadership meeting today. They are trying to move ahead with several different plans in the mental health community, including police officer traumatic stress and the veteran's mental health as well.

Comm Bengelink attended a Lake Mitchell Improvement Board and reported that Lake Mitchell is in very good shape.

Comm Nichols attended the Northern Michigan Community Action Agency and they have lots of money. She also attended a Human Services leadership meeting and heard a presentation on the CAPS millage that will be voted on soon and a presentation on District Health Department #10 where Comm Nichols was a guest. She has also been invited to speak at three different classes at Manton to speak on commissioner duties. They also had a mock commissioner board put in place.

### **Board Comment**

Comm MacCready thanked the residents from Cedar Creek for attending tonight's meeting. He also thanked Ms. Benson for coming and speaking with the Board.

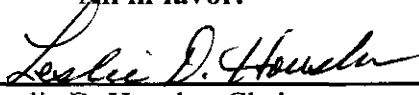
**Chairman's Comments**

Comm Housler thanked all for coming tonight. He appreciated Hooker DeJong for coming to the meeting tonight to explain the drainage change order.

**Adjourn**

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

All in favor.

  
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Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

  
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Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk