

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, July 02, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Housler.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Robert Colvin, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Mark Howie, Gideon Mitchell, Alan Devereaux, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – None

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added – Resolution 14-19, Extending Appreciation to Mark Nyman; Consideration of Architectural Services Agreement

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition

1. 30 Year Service Award, Ginette Haines, Treasurer's office
2. Resolution 14-19, Extending Appreciation to Mark Nyman – *Added*

Ginette Haines was not present to accept her award. The Chairman read it to the public. Mark Nyman was present for the presentation and came forward. The Chairman read the Resolution to the public.

MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve Resolution 14-19, Extending Appreciation to Mark Nyman's Dedicated Services.

All in Favor.

Presentations and Reports - None

Public Comments

Michael MacCready, Manton, announced that many people are concerned about losing the service of the CWTA.

Roger Jenson appeared before the Board as a representative of Club Cadillac. He touched on the impact CWTA has on Club Cadillac. CWTA is imperative to their clients' transportation needs.

Andy Aldrich, Director of Club Cadillac, would find it necessary to purchase a vehicle with a lift for approximately \$45,000 if CWTA is no longer in operation.

Theresa Bear uses the CWTA approximately 30 times a week.

Crystal Johnson, Cadillac, reminded the Board that the millage request for the Animal Shelter was up for discussion tonight. The Animal Shelter issue did not start with an employee complaint, but with the purchase of a watch. The Board must look out for what is best for the taxpayers. She suggested splitting out the millage amount (.7% shelter operation and .17% animal welfare) requested and dedicating it to certain matters.

Susan Slack, Cadillac, agreed with the concept reported by Crystal Johnson and believes it leaves the door open for a 501(3)(c) plan.

Diane Patterson, Cadillac Senior Citizens, has respect for CWTA and all the services it provides.

Judy Nichols, Haring Township, has been a volunteer at the Animal Shelter for the past 18 months and has seen some tremendous changes. She is excited to see the changes and improvements made. She provided Board members with some of the figures on adoptions, claimed animals and low euthanasia.

Susan Markham recently moved to Cadillac and uses the CWTA for her special needs sister. Doing away with the service will have a tremendous impact on the vulnerable.

Iva Marshall, Cadillac, feels CWTA has done great things for her as a member of Club Cadillac and to assist her shopping needs.

Paula Wierenga uses the Transit to get to the Sheppard's Table and doctor's appointments in Traverse City.

Jacklyn Durst has used the CWTA since 1980. The service provides transportation for kids to school, residents of Harbor View for doctor's appointments, hair appointments, and trips to and from Manton.

Barbara Emory uses the service to get around in Manton or anywhere. She believes it would be wrong to not allow the public to vote on this.

Marilyn Wood of Manton, moved here three years ago. She was in an accident and was grateful for the use of the CWTA. The drivers are very helpful and courteous.

Michelle Demetry used CWTA when she needed some transportation. COA was also helpful with matters concerning her mother. CWTA is very helpful with people that have disabilities and have difficulty with walking.

Karen Carry, CWTA provides her with transportation to the Senior Center.

Rebecca Straw, was forced to use the bus after a serious accident. She also uses it to get to jobs and meet people.

Margaret Bridges of Kirtland Terrace, uses the bus to take her to doctor's appointments and shopping. It is a valuable tool for those who are handicapped.

Ethan Zokowski uses the bus for much of his transportation needs. Last winter the bus service was cancelled due to snow and he was forced to hitchhike into town to a doctor's appointment. He believes it would be a failure of this Board to not allow the CWTA millage to be voted on by the public.

Andrew Fleischfressier, Pleasant Lake, owns an Adult Foster Care Home and they use CWTA very often. He believes it is greatly needed in the community.

Peggy Hills moved to the area seven months ago. CWTA is her only way to get around and believes it provides a tremendous service in the community.

Mary Smathers is a member of the Club Cadillac Advisory Committee and felt the CWTA was critical to Club Cadillac. She encouraged the Board to place the millage question on the ballot.

Rhonda Letts uses the CWTA service to get to cancer treatments in Traverse. It is the only transportation service the community has to use.

Melissa Burhart from Hope Network can see the effect that CWTA has on their business. It also helps provide transportation for single moms for kids' medical needs. She felt it should be placed on the ballot.

Madonna Davis has lived in Cadillac for 29 years and feels CWTA is a good services for her and the entire community. She would like to see the public have the ability to vote on keeping the service.

Trisha Yanklin's mother is a resident of Pleasant Lake Lodge and uses the CWTA service which has been a great benefit for Trisha.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the June 18, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Resolution 14-18, Supporting Local Community Stabilization and Personal Property Tax Reform Without Raising Taxes

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

6. Consider CWTA Millage

MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Fuscone to send the CWTA ballot question to Finance Committee for a 2 year term then back to the Board for review.

Board members requested Stephen King, Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the CWTA, to come forward to discuss its findings.

Mr. King stated that the Advisory Committee, Mr. Edwards and members of the CWTA have worked together and reached the following conclusions: their services are critical to the area; there has been some miscommunication; there has been open communication between the committee and Mr. Edwards and the CWTA. They all agree that the services are critical to the community. They would like to see the services extended another 2 years. Mr. King thanked those on the committee and others for their efforts and their wide range of input.

In summary, the Committee believed the service was needed for the entire community. The tax dollars used must be transparent and open. They believe there is a need for a 2 year millage not 4 years, as had been requested in the past. Committee would like to study the current services CWTA provides in an effort to be more efficient. Also, CWTA should provide the County with a revenue and expenditure report quarterly. The committee suggested CWTA wait 2 years before the bus wash is constructed. There was also some discussion of changing the CWTA Board from a 5 member board to a 7 member. A Commissioner suggested that the County's liaison should be allowed to be a voting member.

Vance Edwards, Director of CWTA, came before the Board. He appreciated being able to provide some insight on how and why they provide some of their services. He provided the Board with some statistics on rider numbers and what type of passengers use their services the most. He discussed fixed routes versus door to door pick up. Generally, fixed routes work better in the larger cities. They have also tried Saturday service and found it was not widely used with only a handful of residents taking advantage of the Saturday service.

Valerie Schultz, MDOT, is the regional director for 14 counties. She explained that the funds CWTA receives for the sale of their old building has to be used for specific things and not for operational. The funds have been obligated already by way of a grant request.

The sale amount of the building was approximately \$260,000 and the balance of the \$350,000 will be coming from the State.

Scott Hunter, Baird, Cotter and Bishop, believes the Transit Authority is a unique entity. If the millage is lost, many grant dollars will be lost with it. His company has no involvement with the management of the CWTA. They are their hired auditors, only.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Comm Devereaux left at 6:35 p.m.

1. Agreement for Substance Use Disorder Services Coordination Between Northern Michigan Regional Entity and Wexford County
MOTION by Comm Mitchell, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the agreement for Substance Use Disorder Services Coordination Between Northern Michigan Regional Entity and Wexford County and authorize the Board Chairman to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Housler appointed Comm Taylor to serve on the committee.

2. Resolution 14-16, Approving the FY 2015 Annual Implementation Plan of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan
MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve Resolution 14-16, Approving the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Implementation Plan of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

3. Resolution 14-17, To Call Series 1996 Haring Twp. Redemption Agreement: Exhibit A – Bond Redemption Agreement; Exhibit B – Second Amendment to the Master Water Agreement
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve Resolution 14-17, To Call Series 1996 Haring Township Redemption Agreement including Exhibits A & B and authorize the Board Chairman and County Clerk to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Consider Extension of Rehmann Audit Services Contract

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve a five year agreement for annual audit and single audit services with Rehmann as proposed in their offer dated June 17, 2014, as presented.

It was made clear that the County would not be subject to an early cancellation fee.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Change in Authorized Jail Staff Positions

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve the change in authorized positions of the jail staff replacing three part-time staff with one full-time staff effective upon hire of the full-time staff position.

This request had gone through the Finance Committee. They believe the cost of one full time staff member would be about \$40,000 per year. If the motion is approved tonight it will go back to Finance for a budget amendment.

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

6. Consider CWTA Millage – *moved to item one*

7. Consider Animal Control Millage

MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Fuscone to send this agenda item to the Finance Committee to work on ballot language.

All in favor.

8. Fibertec Agreement

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve the Fibertec Agreement for Analytical Laboratory and Testing Services for a period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the County, as presented.

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

9. Budget Amendment(s)

7/2/2014

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Amendments to the 2014 Budget**

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
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20140701	101.215.702.03	Payroll	\$(4,000)	(a)
	101.215.800.00	Contract Services	\$ 4,000	
	Funding for Manpower Services for the Clerk's Office.			

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the budget amendment dated July 2, 2014, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

10. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project

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

All in favor.

Frank Bednarick of Hooker DeJong provided Board members a copy of where the soil borings will be done. Mr. Bednarick outlined how the borings would be done and how many. Initially, four borings would be made and if it indicates sound support more borings will be done. The four test borings will cost about \$4,500 and if all six are done the total cost would be \$6,650. The depth will be 40 feet with one being 60 feet. The Board will receive Hooker DeJong’s findings either way. One Commissioner questioned why this step was not a part of the bid package and felt very strongly that it should have been.

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

All in favor.

11. Architectural Services Agreement – *Added*

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the architectural services agreement between Wexford County and Hooker DeJong, Inc. for the Wexford County Jail Expansion Project and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County, as presented.

Adm. Hinton pointed out that the revisions that were requested earlier have been made, including: increase in insurance coverage and the County be named as part of the insurance package.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to accept the contract for soil borings at a price not to exceed \$6,650.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Adm. Hinton reported on the following:

- Budget worksheets have been sent out to all departments for the 2015 budget;
- A press release will be prepared to report that Standard and Poors just increased our credit rating from an A+ to AA- which is excellent for a county of our size.
- Work will be done over the weekend on upgrading/migrate our e-mails to a new server. It will be handled remotely;
- A security system had been looked at for the Lake Street property; this information will be brought back to the Board for review;
- An RFP will be going out on the parking lot at Lake Street; another RFP will be going out on janitorial services;
- Veterans Administration has moved out of the Courthouse; American Legion must have a signed agreement first before they can move in;

When questioned about updating the Policy, Adm. Hinton felt he had not gotten as far along on the updates as he would have liked. However; when something comes up that deals with Policy changes they make note of it for future updates.

Correspondence – None

Public Comments

Michael MacCready believes the community is frightened about losing the CWTA due in part to an article in the CadillacNews.

Crystal Johnson, Cadillac, thanked the Board for all their efforts, time and patience involving the Animal Shelter matter.

Liaison Reports

Comm Colvin reported on the Healthy Michigan Program which is dealing with Medicare, Medicaid expansion Wexford County was well over the national average of 75%. Now many citizens from our community are getting insurance.

Comm Housler reported that North Flight passed their budget and they were pleased that they lost only \$824,000 last year which is less than the year before. Their budget is subsidized by Munson Hospital.

Comm Howie stated that CWTA had no discussion on building the wash bay. There was no discussion that the grant was already in the works.

Comm Fuscone reported that the DHS Medical Director will be retiring next year. They will be on the lookout for someone to fill in.

Board Comment

Comm Howie would like to continue to look at the CWTA and use the Citizens Advisory Committee for input and new ideas.

Comm Mitchell noted the Treasurer's Office will be holding their public tax sale at the Cherry Grove Event Center on September 3, which is a different location than in the past.

Comm Fuscone believes that people of the community are passionate about the CWTA, but we must be assured that it is working properly and spending tax dollars properly.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler commented that he voted no on the last vote for the CWTA. He does not believe anyone on this Board is opposed public transportation. The reason for the 4 to 4 vote was due to the cost of providing the service and not the service itself.

Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Mitchell to adjourn
at 7:30 p.m.
All in favor.**

Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk