

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, August 06, 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, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – Commissioner Alan Devereaux.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added – Presentation by Stan Fawcett regarding new Jail Site under the Committee of the Whole.

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition

1. 10 Year Services Award, Robert Swanson, Deputy Sheriff
Deputy Robert Swanson was honored for his 10 years of service with the County. Chair Housler read his award to the public. Deputy Swanson was unable to attend due to work.

Presentations and Reports

1. NW Area on Aging Agency Annual Report
Robert Schuleter, Executive Director of the NW Area on Aging appeared before the Board to present their annual report. He began by giving some background on how his agency interacts with other agencies throughout the 10 county area. He then touched on the services NWAAA provide for our older adults. There are 16 other Area Agencies on Aging throughout the State of Michigan. They do much the same work, with each having other initiatives they provide. Mr. Schuleter thanked this Board for the appointment of Comm Taylor and the at-large appointment of Lester Barnes. They both have been an added benefit to the agency.

Their goal is to try to keep the elderly in their homes rather than a nursing home. They have gotten involved with training for the caregivers.

Mr. Schuleter touched on some of the funding problems they had incurred over the past year, but they have been worked out and now they are doing okay. Currently, out of the 16 agencies throughout the State, half of them are on thin ice financially. He commented on how much they appreciate the funds they receive from Wexford County, \$4,452 per year. It provides a big help to their financial needs.

2. Regional Sobriety Court

Tom Haskel, former Crawford County Juvenile employee, appeared before the Board to explain the benefits of a Regional Sobriety Court. This service is currently being supported by grant funds in the amount of \$250,000 this year. Next year they hope to receive approximately \$320,000 by picking up two more counties. Currently, Sobriety Court is now operational in Crawford, Kankaskia, Missaukee and Roscommon Counties. They are looking at adding Wexford and Ogemaw Counties.

Board members were provided with a hand out detailing what they could offer the citizens of Wexford County if a Regional Sobriety Court was used. Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation, treatment providers as well as law enforcement must all be a part of the program. In order to be considered for the program, defendants have been arrested for OUI 2nd or OUI 3rd; prosecutor screens for admission; defendants cannot be a violent offender; clinical evaluation of the defendant to find if they are alcohol dependent; local Judge approves the sentence into sobriety court; an order is issued transferring the defendant into the Regional DWI Sobriety Court. He then touched on the steps the defendant must complete before he can be released from the program.

Mr. Haskel believes this a valuable service that the County can provide with the cooperation of other service groups. He also stated that at some time the grant dollars may not be available and the County could continue the program with their own funding or secure additional grants or drop the program. It was also stated that the defendants must make a financial contribution to be a part of the program and pay all their fines and cost assessed by the court in full.

The Regional Sobriety Court does not need county approval, as currently they are self-funded. However, others, such as the Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation, and law enforcement must be willing to commit some time to the program in order for it to work.

Public Comments

Crystal Johnson, Cadillac, touched on a problem that came up at the Animal Shelter with four kittens that need to be adopted. The Board was reminded that the Shelter is still a kill shelter. However, the Sheriff's Department does keep animals longer than the policy states. She then discussed the importance of getting the funding and revenue straightened out. She believes there should be \$2300 available for spay/neuter events.

Michael MacCready, Manton, talked about the CWTA director's resignation after 23/24 years. He questioned how much Proposition 1 will cost the County.

Bill Barnett, 915 Stimson, thanked the Board of Commissioners for all they do. He supports the Sobriety Court. He would like to see the jail moved to the new site for the

safety of the community and closer to the Courthouse. He expressed concern about the officers and inmates at the current facility.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the July 16, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Policy D-5.0 County Building smoking Policy change
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Resolution 14-23, Animal Control Millage
MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve Resolution 14-23, Authorizing Election for a Wexford County Animal Control Fund Millage proposal and Certifying Ballot Language for the November 2014 General Election assessing 0.20 mills for two years, 2014 and 2015, as presented.

A Board member brought up the need to split out the millage amount having two-thirds of the revenue for the operation of the Shelter and the balance for operation of the Animal Control program. It was pointed out that the Sheriff would not be able to operate the Shelter with the limited funds, if they were split out as outlined in the ballot language. It was suggested that there is more revenue for Animal Control and less funds for staffing the facility. Another Board member suggested that the Sheriff should receive the full .20 mills do as he sees fit. Sheriff Finstrom reminded the Board that they approve staffing for the Animal Control.

Roll call: Motion failed four to four with Comm Housler, Taylor, Fuscone and Goodwill voting against the motion.

MOTION by Comm Goodwill, seconded by Comm Taylor to accept the language of the County Animal Control millage by removing the following from ballot language....with two-thirds of the revenue to be allocated for the operation of an Animal Shelter and the balance for the operation of the Animal Control Program.

Roll call: Motion passed six to two with Comm Housler and Howie voting against the motion.

2. Resolution 14-25, Snowmobile Grant Application
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve Resolution 14-25, Supporting Wexford County Snowmobile Law

Enforcement Grant Application in the amount of \$20,382 for the period of October 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the application on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion passed six to two with Comm Housler and Howie voting against the motion.

3. Resolution 14-26, ORV Grant Application
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve Resolution 14-26, Supporting Wexford County Off-Road Vehicle Law Enforcement Grant Application in the amount of \$17,456 for the period of October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the application on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion passed six to two with Comm Howie and Housler voting against the motion.

4. Resolution 14-28, Authorizing the County Treasurer as a member of the Regional Loan Approval Committee
MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 14-28, Authorizing the County Treasurer as a Member of the Regional Loan Approval Committee of the Traverse City Area Chamber Foundation, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Budget Amendment(s)
 8/6/2014

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

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense	
20140801	101.101.699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 150,000		(a)
	101.965.999.18	Transfer to 911 Fund		\$ 150,000	
	261.000.695.00	Transfer In General	\$ 150,000		
	261.000.980.00	Equipment 911 Wireless		\$ 150,000	
	Funding 2014 Equipment Purchases				
20140802	260.363.660.00	PBT Revenue	\$ 20,000		(b)
	260.363.760.00	PBT Expenses		\$ 20,000	
	An increase of personalized breath testers is needed				

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie to approve the budget amendments dated August 06, 2014, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. 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.

Stan Fawcett addressed the Board and offered to give the County, free of charge, a 10 acre parcel of land with access off Crosby Road to build a new jail or anything else they wish to do with it. His only request is to have a qualified appraiser appraise the land showing a value equal to the evaluation placed on it by the County Equalization Department. Mr. Fawcett was against building the new jail on the current jail site for various reasons.

A “Kickoff Meeting” was presented by Hooker DeJong to explain the steps and timelines they would be following. The meeting began with Frank Bednarick introducing all the professionals that would be working on the project. Mr. Bednarick informed the Board of the findings of the soil borings done at the current jail site. He explained the findings were nothing remarkable that would impact the project being built on the current site.

The professional team all agreed if the new site was going to be used for the jail it would impact the schedule; however, they were willing to evaluate the second site with the Sheriff.

Board members discussed the possible increase in the expense of building the jail on a new site. It was felt by some members that the project price would be going from \$12,000,000 to \$16,000,000. It was suggested that the offices could stay at the current site with the jail facility moving to the new site. Another Board member thought the offices could be built at the new site at a later date. And, still another suggestion was to build fewer jail cells, 80/60/50, and increase the amount of cells at a later date. Also, Board members were assured that site borings would be done at the new site as well.

The schematic design and concept would be presented at the 2nd meeting in September. They agreed that the two site options would be similar but different. Once the design concept has been approved the developer would work on the floor plan in more detail. This would including mechanical/ electrical/ceilings, etc.. Then construction documents would be put out for bids including floor plan/ plumbing/ equipment/ etc. with the Board

providing approval one week before the bids go out. The bid process will be four weeks and then bid negotiations would take place. Ground breaking is anticipated to occur late spring.

Mr. Bednarick touched on the USDA financing of the project. There will be ongoing meetings with the Sheriff, Administration and the team to develop the schematic design.

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

All in favor.

MOTION by Comm Housler, seconded by Comm Taylor to accept the Fawcett offer contingent on funding and site suitability.

All in favor.

Administrator's Report

Adm. Hinton along with Mr. Bednarick, Blake Smith and Treasurer Stanton started the application process for funding of the new jail with the USDA. The hearing on the Dennis vs. Wexford County matter has been rescheduled for August 29th in Benzie. Recreation and Building will be meeting tomorrow and the Executive and Finance Committees will be meeting next week.

Correspondence - None

Public Comments

Michael MacCready, Manton, questioned the Animal Shelter being back in the Sheriff's hands with less millage money. He touched on the cost of the jail project.

Liaison Reports

Comm Howie announced that Vance Edwards, Director of the CWTA, will be retiring on August 28th. The Board is meeting to work things out. He also discussed the resignation of Charlotte Nesbit.

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Taylor to accept the resignation of Charlotte Nisbet from the CWTA Board.

Board members discussed the need to act on this tonight or should it be sent to the committee level. After further discussion, the motion was acted on.

All in favor.

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Comm Hilty commented that he would be performing oversight at the DPW after the director's resignation.

Board Comment

Comm Fuscone felt the offer made by Mr. Fawcett would allow a new direction for the County.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler thanked Board members and the public for their input tonight.

Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie to adjourn at
6:55 p.m.**

All in favor.

Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk