

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, November 19, 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 – 10. B – Discussion on CWTA Interlocal Agreement

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition - None

Presentations and Reports

1. Introduction of CWTA Interim Director

Larry Copley, CWTA Board member, appeared before the Board to introduce the new interim/temporary Director. Carrie Thompson appeared before the Board and provided them with her background and involvement with transit services over the past 16 years.

Public Comments

Harry Yonkman, Boon, touched on the 2015 Budget and a letter to the editor regarding mandated services.

Ron Vaughan, Supervisor of Cherry Grove Township, stated that his township was 100% opposed to the elimination of Countywide Zoning. He asked that this Board reconsider their decision. This decision would impact the entire County.

Lori Clinger, MSUE, touched on the many lives this organization deals with in Wexford County. She is a Dairy Inspector in the area and is dependent on MSUE.

Michael MacCready, Manton, touched on the MSUE building in Traverse City. He then spoke on building the jail without a Construction Manager.

Steven VanderWeid, Dutchman Tree Farm, thanked the Board for working within their budget. He informed the Board that 50% of pine trees in the State of Michigan comes from Wexford and Missaukee. Wexford County is lucky to have Jill O'Donnell, of MSUE who is one of the foremost Christmas Trees experts and works through the entire

State of Michigan. He then explained the value our youth receive from MSUE through 4-H.

Bethany Boldue, Sherman Township, discussed her concern about building the jail next to the Seventh Day Adventist School. She then read a letter written by her mother on the same topic. Ms. Boldue asked the Board to reconsider.

Tracy Trautner, Program Coordinator for MSUE, spoke on the positive impact that 4-H has in the community. Also, 4-H participation has increased over the past couple of years in Cadillac and outlying areas in Wexford County.

Nancy Shaafsma, Cadillac, read a letter from Jackie Samuels who is an Equestrian instructor. The letter outlined her horsemanship background and her continuing education. She has worked with some disabled youth which has been helpful for them. Ms. Shaafsma has a son with some disability and the Equestrian training has been extremely helpful.

Bob Schaafsma, Cadillac, came forward with their 28 year old son to explain some of the difficulties his son has had. By getting involved with the Equestrian training program they have seen great progress.

Tonya Haveman has had two daughters involved with 4-H with a positive outcome.

Linda Ritter, Boon, has been a 4-H leader for two years. They teach animal safety and how to take care of animals and be responsible. She believes the County has benefited by 4-H clubs in the area.

Jerry Linquest works for MSUE as a field crop coordinator which services nine counties in the State, including Osceola, Missaukee and Wexford. He explained how agriculture has increased over the past 5 years. He felt that agriculture was strong in the area and growing.

Leslie Barnes, Mesick has been a Christmas tree farmer for many years. He believes that he profited by the help he received from MSUE. He also encouraged the Board to approve the Council on Aging's budget that is coming before the commission tonight.

JoAnne Bentham, McBain, is the nutrition instructor for the County. MSUE and Wexford County has been in partnership for 100 years. She felt that the benefits far out way the expense that the County is bearing.

Pat Cudney, Assistant Director for MSUE, felt the county has seen tremendous return on their investment. For many years MSUE has been part of the solution and have not

added to the difficulties. The current budget request is \$56,000. He believes that from the data he has researched the County receives \$5 for every \$1 they invest.

Sara Keinath, from MSUE, felt the County has heard a lot of evidence as to why MSUE should not be taken out of the budget. She read a letter from a former 4-H student where she explained the benefits she received from the program.

Jill O'Donnell, MSUE Tree Expert, believes that MSUE provides programs that benefit the entire County. As the Board looks at cutting their budget, remember they are not a duplication of services. They partner with many programs in the community.

Aaron Lizott, Cadillac native and 4-H participant some time ago. She explained the benefits she received from the programs she was involved with and how the 4-H experience has helped her through some difficult times.

Shari Spoelman, MSUE, felt the Board has heard the importance the \$56,000 investment brings to the community. She does not believe the elimination of MSUE will help with the County's budget problems. She suggested the county look at putting them back in the budget and take some funds from Fund Balance. Generally, at the end of each year there is budget money left over.

Ryan Blake, Piranah Hose, voiced his concern from a business standpoint. When looking at hiring professionals to the area, the community must have something to attract them. Some of the programs provided by MSUE 4-H do that.

Ann Holes, Cherry Grove, believes it takes a village to raise a child. She has three children with good jobs and it was not just schooling, but the programs provided by MSUE.

Kristi Schwartz, touched on the new jail project being in the backyard of the Seventh Day Adventist School. She asked the Board to reconsider the new jail building site.

Dr. Cara Brenza, Doctor of Psychology, believes there is nothing more important than our children. She, too, asked the Board to reconsider their decision.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the November 05, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the appointment to the Wexford Missaukee Community corrections Advisory Committee
3. Approval of Revised By-Laws for the WMCCAB
4. Approval of the Elimination of the IT subcommittee

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve the consent agenda as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Resolution 14-38 Regional Revolving Loan Fund Application
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve Resolution 14-38, Regional Revolving Loan Fund Application for Harrietta Hills Trout Farm LLC, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

2. Blue Care Network Contract
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the Blue Care Network Contract beginning January 1, 2015 and authorize the Chairman to sign and execute the contract, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

3. 2015 Council on Aging Recommended Budget
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Colvin to approve the Wexford County Council on Aging recommended 2015 budget, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. CDBG Housing Grant Agreement
MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the CDBG agreement between Wexford County and MI State Housing Development Authority in the amount of \$100,000, for the period of September 01, 2014 through August 31, 2016, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Tether Monitoring Agreement
MOTION by Comm Mitchell, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the agreement between the State of Michigan, Department of Corrections and Wexford County for the Office of Community Corrections for tether monitoring for the period of October 01, 2014 through September 30, 2015,

and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. 2014-15 ORV Grant Agreement
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve the 2014-15 ORV Grant agreement between Michigan DNR and Wexford County in the amount of \$17,546 for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

7. 2014-15 Snowmobile Grant Agreement
MOTION by Comm Mitchell, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the 2014-15 Snowmobile Grant agreement between Michigan DNR and Wexford County in the amount of \$8,600 for the period of October 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement on behalf of the County, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

8. 2015 Recommended Budget

Adm. Hinton explained that after the elimination of MSUE and departments working to cut 2% from their budget, the 2015 Budget shortfall is \$181,000. The county will realize some cost savings by changing the health insurance to an HMO and the cost savings is reflected in this figure. Adm. Hinton touched on some of the other areas where cost savings were realized by departments eliminating some of their 2015 requests. He stated that the departments don't always spend all the dollars in their current budget and the county may have additional dollars to add to their Fund Balance after the audit. The Commissioners touched on reduction of head count or furlough days. Adm. Hinton explained that it is difficult for departments to provide services with fewer employees. Commissioners then discussed the increases from part time employees to full time over the past year. This has helped to add to the budget problem.

After further discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Mitchell to send the 2015 budget back to the Finance Committee for Monday's meeting.

All in favor.

9. Resolution 14-40, Elimination of County Zoning
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve Resolution 14-40, Resolution Directing the Wexford County Planning Commission to hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed Ordinance repealing the Wexford County Zoning Ordinance effective on January 1, 2016 by February 25, 2015, as presented.

Some Board members were not in favor of the elimination of the Zoning Department. Streamlining the plan is a good idea, but to eliminate it is not a good move. Board members were reminded that it may cost townships as much as \$15,000, as suggested by Cherry Grove Township. Another commissioner thought that townships could join together to realize a cost savings. Maybe townships would be interested in paying a stipend to the county to keep the Zoning at the county level. Another commissioner felt it was good to have County Zoning to keep it uniform throughout the county. It was also suggested that the County should get in contact with all the Supervisors in the County to see what their feeling may be about putting money towards County Zoning. The Zoning Board shall have a Public Hearing on or before February 25, 2015 and submit its recommendation to the County Board on or before May 04, 2015.

Roll call: Motion passed five to four with Commissioners Goodwill, Colvin, Howie and Devereaux voting against the motion.

10. Budget Amendments

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 Amendment to the 2014 Budget

Adj #	Acct	Description	Revenue	Expense
20141104	101.253.571.00	State Grant	\$43,414	(a)
	101.966.999.07	Northern MI Substance Abuse		\$43,414

Redirecting funding to Northern Michigan Regional Entity

20141105	101.101.699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$39,000	(b)
	101.290.910.00	Insurance		\$39,000

To make required contributions to the insurance retention fund

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve the budget amendments dated 11/19/2014, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

11. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project - None

Administrator's Report

Adm. Hinton informed the Board that a letter had been received from Rural Development moving forward with the next step for funding for the jail. A meeting has been scheduled for December 10, 2014 with the Architect, Financial Consultants and Rural Development to start on the application. Funds may not be available until June 2015.

The Soldiers and Sailors Representative has met with the Probate Judge to set up parameters how the millage money may be spent.

The Finance Committee meeting has been moved to Monday, November 24, 2014.

On November 26th, the Administrator, Jail Administrator and County Maintenance Direction will be going to Newaygo County to see their jail. By December 1, 2014, Administrator must have the county incentive information prepared to receive our full share of revenue sharing for the next year.

He touched on changing the Public Hearing date for the 2015 Budget. The Public Hearing should be moved back to December 17, 2014 for passage of the budget at that time.

Also on December 5th there will be a hearing on the open lawsuit in Benzie County.

Correspondence - None

Public Comments

Michael MacCready, Manton, questioned if MSUE could be relocated to another location rather than having their office on Lake Street. He touched on the CWTA Interlocal Agreement and other options for MSUE.

Bruce Howell, President, Village of Mesick, appeared before the Board to discuss the payoff of the bonds and taking over the sewer system.

James Richards, Cadillac, has been a resident and taxpayer for many years. He is worried about the jail being built so close to the Seventh Day Adventist School. He would like the Board to reconsider the building site.

Kristi Schwartz, Tustin, would like to see the measurements and layout of the jail project. She believes the County property is touching the school property. She feels future expansion of the jail facility will probably happen and come closer to the school.

Liaison Reports - None

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Board Comment

Comm Howie expressed concern about not receiving any services from the MSUE if they are not funded. He feels tax dollars help to support MSUE. He then touched on the concerns raised about the jail building so close to the school. He outlined some statistics on how children can face other challenges outside the building of the jail.

Comm Fuscone stated that the Finance Committee will look at the budget very closely to see what can be done to balance it.

Chairman's Comments - None

Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Mitchell to adjourn
at 6:55 p.m.
All in favor.**

Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk