

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, April 4, 2018

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, Gary Taylor, Julie Theobald, Judy Nichols, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – None.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition –

1. 20-year Service Award – Eric Garland, Sheriff's Department
Mr. Garland was not present to accept his award. Chairman Housler read the Service Award to the audience.

Presentations and Reports

1. DHD #10 – Kevin Hughes, Health Officer, provided Board members with their Annual Report. He reviewed the report with the Board. One of the main issues is the water contamination near Camp Grayling. The detectable amounts are very small in most areas. However, this contamination issue may become statewide. The DEQ will now be testing more schools, and municipalities in our area.

Mr. Hughes explained that Michigan is seeing an increase in the Hepatitis A outbreak. Currently, there are five in SE Michigan and it is moving north. Mecosta County has reported a case.

District Health Department #10 is seeing a turnover in staff. Over the past three years, they have had 180 employees leave for various reasons, including retirement. The positions are being filled and some new positions are being added to the Health Department.

Public Comments

Bruce Rendon appeared before the Board as a candidate for the 35th State Senate seat soon to be vacated by Senator Booher due to term limitations. He is looking forward to working with this Board.

Lt. Frank Keck, Post Commander of the Cadillac State Police Post, appeared before the Board in support of the requested Public Safety millage being requested at this meeting. He explained how the State has structured his department to cover five counties in the Northern Michigan area. It is difficult to cover this large of an area without the help and support of our local Wexford County Sheriff's Office. If a State car is called out to another county, they know Wexford County will be covered by the Sheriff's Office which is good for all.

Allen Sherburne, Captain of Mesick Rescue, explained some of the financial problems Mesick Rescue has been experiencing. He understands the County is still funding North Flight at \$25,000 per year. He explained some of the financial difficulties they have had over the past years. He asked if the County would support them with an appropriation of \$10,000.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the March 21, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Resolution 18-07 Road Patrol Services Millage
MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 18-07 County Road Patrol Services Millage Proposal and Certifying Ballot Language, as presented.

It was pointed out that the requested millage rate for public services has not been increased over the past 30 years. The increase of the millage amount from .95 mills to 1.45 mills is needed. Population is increasing along with law enforcement needs. Sheriff Taylor would like to hire three more deputies, additional equipment, training, and bailiffs. Concern was raised by some Board members if the 1.45 mills would be approved by the public. It was pointed out that the Sheriff's Office does need more than the 1.45 mills requested, but if the millage is too large the public may vote it down. The 1.45 mills is something the Sheriff can live with. However, it was pointed out some jurisdictions may not approve the requested amount and what would the next step be for the County. Sheriff Taylor explained that if the millage does not pass he would be forced to lay off 8/10 deputies.

The title of the resolution and the ballot language was discussed. It was felt that it should be changed from Road Patrol Services to Public Safety millage to provide law enforcement services. Language within the ballot was also discussed and suggested changing the

The heading of the Resolution No. 18-07 changed: COUNTY ROAD PATROL SERVICES OF WEXFORD PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE FOR LAW MILLAGE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES PROPOSAL

The body of the ballot language:

For the purpose of funding the ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement Services fund to subsidize the continued operation of the County Sheriff's ~~Department Road Patrol~~ Office,.....

If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated ~~additional~~-\$1,351,605 for County Sheriff's Office law enforcement services.....

Sheriff Taylor would like the County Sheriff's Office to become more active with the schools, with resource officers, and deputies becoming more engaged with community. He also explained how the City and the County interact which is a win/win for both.

Comm Taylor called the question to end discussion. Roll call: Approved unanimously.

Comm Nichols withdrew her motion and Comm Taylor withdrew his second.

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to correct the heading: Wexford County Public Safety Millage for Law Enforcement Services Proposal.

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

2. ORV Grant Agreement

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the ORV Grant Agreement in the amount of \$18,000 for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, as presented .

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

3. Resolution 18-08 Veterans Services Program Millage

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 18-08 a Resolution Authorizing Millage Election for the County Veterans Services Program Millage Proposal and Certifying Ballot Language, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Ottawa County Juvenile Bed Rental Agreement

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center Bed Rental Agreement for the period of three years beginning March 20, 2018, as presented.

Randy Adlam, Juvenile Probation Officer, appeared before the Board to explain the reason for the requested agreement. They are using several juvenile holding areas throughout the State which are full. They are now using Ottawa County, but they have requested an agreement to be in place between the two counties.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Budget Amendment

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve a budget amendment dated 04/04/2018, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project – None

Administrator's Report

Treasurer Stanton informed the Board that the auditors were here working on the 2017 audit and were about done.

Clerk Richardson touched on the following:

- The Wexford County complaint on the opioid matter has been filed;
- A Special Meeting will need to be scheduled due to how the BOC meetings fall this year; April 12th at 4:30 p.m. was suggested;
- The Treasurer and Clerk believe that the USDA Jail loan will be closed out at the next BOC meeting;
- Legal Counsel reviewed the agreement presented to the County by American Tower; changes were suggested, and the agreement should be back to the Executive Committee and moved on to the BOC.

Correspondence

1. City of Escanaba
2. Road Commission FY 2017 Financial Report

Public Comments – None

Liaison Reports

Comm Housler attended a North Flight meeting in Traverse City.

Comm Bengelink attended a Morgue meeting. They are in the process of getting a pathologist on board this summer.

Comm Theobald attended an Emergency Shelter meeting and they recently lost their manager. Hope Network was present and informed the meeting members that they do have beds available for the homeless.

Comm Taylor and Comm Nichols attended a Health Department meeting and the minutes will be available.

Comm Nichols corrected a committee name from last week; Northwest Community Action Agency. She also thanked the Road Commission and Manager Al Cooper for keeping the roads so clean after this last dump of snow.

Board Comment

Comm Theobald attended a MAC meeting along with Comm Taylor. She touched on three things from the session: Mental health challenges; additional resources for local veterans; opioid crisis in Michigan.

Comm Bush supports the millage increase for Public Safety and would like to see more involvement with law enforcement at the schools due to active shooter incidents happening throughout the country.

Comm Nichols appreciated the comments made by Lt. Keck. Also, the Cedar Creek Board including Comm Nichols have been invited on a tour of the landfill in May.

Comm MacCready appreciated the report from Comm Theobald on the MAC Conference. He questioned if veterans would be able to use the beds at the New Hope Shelter. He touched on the selling of the antenna at the Central Dispatch property. He asked if the County was prepared to make changes if the Public Safety Millage does not pass.

Chairman's Comments

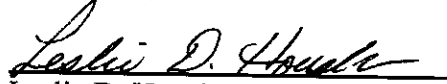
Comm Housler would like to see the formula put in the newspaper for the amount of additional tax dollars the public would be asked to pay if the Public Safety millage does pass.

Adjourn

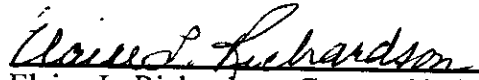
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

All in favor.

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Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk