

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Regular Meeting \*Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Taylor.

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Joe Hurlburt, Michael Musta, Ben Townsend, Mike Bengelink, Mike Bush, Gary Taylor, Judy Nichols, and Brian Potter. Julie Theobald appeared via telephone.

Absent- *None*.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-** *None*.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION** by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

**Employee Recognition-** *None*.

**Presentation and Reports-**

Vicki Sawicki, Coordinator for North Country Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, presented the Board with her annual report. She highlighted that their organization collaborated with the Road Commission on the roadside control of Japanese knotweed. They then planted 250 native shrubs as a restoration planting for the control site.

She also highlighted that they did a garlic mustard seed pull with 41 Mesick Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> graders, who seemed to enjoy it.

In 2019, her office was equipped with a crew of 8 people. They were able to do a lot of "on the ground work." In 2020, their funding was froze in April, due to the coronavirus. She was just able to return to work in August, after a temporary layoff.

Ms. Sawicki wanted to make everyone aware that right now there is funding available for land owners, and the State of Michigan will cover 50% of their services that a resident may need. The remaining 50% would then be the responsibility of the land owner.

One Commissioner commented that they are seeing a lot of residents come forward about the Japanese knotweed at the Lake Mitchell Improvement Board. He questioned if she had worked with Mike Solomon, Drain Commssioner, regarding this.

Ms. Sawicki explained that a few years ago the property was surveyed, but that she would be contacting Mr. Solomon to work on that further.

**Public Comment-**

Lorie Sorensen, Register of Deeds, addressed the Board regarding the CESF Grants. A large amount of the money is for removing the benches in the Circuit Courtroom and the Commissioner Room. She thought the rooms were beautiful and explained that they were planned for a very long time. If it weren't for Wendy Moore the Commissioner Room wouldn't be what it is. She asked that the Board press pause for just a moment on the idea.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the August 5, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. Wexford County's 2019 Financial Audit

Stephen Peacock, CPA with Rehmann, thanked the Board for having him during these difficult times. A lot of different things happened with this years audit because of COVID-19. Their staff worked remotely and he thanked the Treasurer, Clerk, and Administrator for tending to their questions very attentively.

Mr. Peacock highlighted several pages of the audit, but focused mainly that the County received a unmodified, clean opinion, as well as a gold standard.

He also highlighted that the County's largest liability is the pension. One Commissioner questioned where other Counties were at with their funding of the pension, and they averaged slightly higher than Wexford.

Mr. Peacock did note that there were a few internal control findings that were pointed out. One being a series of checks that were out of sequence. When reviewed they realized the checks were posted in the incorrect period and just issued out of sequence.

The second finding was a secondary review of the credit card bills. The final was a formal reconciliation for the credit card accounts. All of which were not issues, just notes.

Overall the audit was very clean and Wexford County is deemed a low-risk auditee.

**MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Potter to accept Wexford County's December 31, 2019, Financial Statements and Independent Audit.**

**Roll call: Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Ratification of the CESF Program Grants, Courts, Prosecutor, Sheriff  
**MOTION by Comm Nichols seconded by Comm Potter to confirm the submission of the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grants for the Sheriff's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Courts.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.**

3. Fee for Replacement Death Certificates  
**MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Musta to approve the Clerk's Office implement a \$5.00 fee for the replacement of corrected death certificates.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Bid Award-Bulk Paper Purchase  
**MOTION by Comm Potter, seconded by Comm Nichols to award the bid to Lindenmeyr Munroe in the amount of \$7,806.50 for the purchase of bulk paper.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.**

5. Budget Amendment

8/19/2020

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners  
 Amendments to the 2020 Budget**

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
20200801	295.000.800.00	Contracted Services		\$11,042
	295.682.930.06	New Freedom		(\$7,407)
	295.682.727.00	Office Supplies		(\$738)
	295.682.800.00	Contracted Services		(\$2,897)
20200802		Appropriated Fund		
	245.000.699.00	Balance	86,303	
	245.905.970.28	Vehicles - Sheriff		86,303
		Correct accounting error in 2019 for 2020 budget		
20200803		Appropriated Fund		
	249.000.699.00	Balance	(\$15,831)	
	260.000.695.00	Transfer In	(\$40,664)	

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	Appropriated Fund		
101.101.699.00	Balance	\$	20,696
249.000.720.00	Retirement		(\$15,831)
260.363.720.00	Retirement		(\$40,664)
101.965.999.19	Transfer Out-Comm. Corr.		(\$40,664)
		\$	
101.290.720.00	Retirement		61,360
	MERS Retirement Carve Outs		

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the budget amendment dated 8/19/2020.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.**

**Administrator's Report-**

Administrator Koch thanked the Board for the CESF grant. She further explained that the MIDC grant was approved as presented. The Sheriff's Office has been notified that the Corrections Officer position would be covered.

One Commissioner asked if had a comment on the benches that were discussed during public comment. It was further asked if the County was in the process of bidding that project out.

Administrator Koch explained that Circuit Court will be beginning trials on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Cadillac Janitorial will begin removing those benches soon, but funding is unknown until we receive it. She suggested making a motion to send it out for RFPs contingent on the funding available.

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to send out an RFP based on the project, as Administrator Koch knows it, based on the funds that are available.**

One Commissioner pointed out that if they are being stored at the jail and can return, what is to question.

Another Commissioner wanted to see some plexiglass being installed at the Commissioner's desks with this grant funding because the general public is sitting at the Commissioner's desks during jury selection.

Several Commissioner's voiced concern with the general public sitting at their desks.

Clerk Nyman explained that the room is too small for those desks to not be utilized during jury selection. The public sits in those seats when the pews fill up. During that time, she is in the room with the public.

She further explained that jury selection will look completely different than it did before. The process needs to be changed in order for the State Court Administrator's Office to approve the County holding jury trials. She also explained that there are several cases waiting to go to trial, and the caseload is at a standstill.

**Roll call: Motion passed 8-1 with Comm Hurlburt voting against the motion.**

**Correspondence-** *None.*

**Public Comments-***None.*

**Liaison Reports-**

Comm Potter attended the Clam Lake DDA. They are still going but are one project behind.

Comm Townsend attended the library meeting where they discussed the budget quite a bit. Their MERS dropped 10%, so he was happy to see the County only drop 2%. He also attended that Airport Authority, and it was the best meeting he's ever attended.

**Board Comments**

Comm Nichols thanked all that were involved in the audit. She also wished Comm Bengelink a happy birthday.

Comm Potter was glad to see the Airport turn around. He thanked the Clerk, Treasurer, and Administrator for their work on the audit.

Comm Hurlburt gave kudos to those involved in the audit.

Comm Musta expressed gratitude for the work on the audit and the Invasive Species presentation.

Comm Bengelink reiterated the kudos for the audit. He also read a quote from Teddy Roosevelt.

Comm Bush also shared his gratitude for the audit.

Comm Theobald reminded everyone of the "Unfair Fair" at the Civic Center. She is also very excited about the progress made on the Octagon Building. She thanked Janet for helping her get some seeds she received from China to Vicki Sawicki.

**Chairman's Comments**

Comm Taylor also said great job on the audit and thanked everyone for coming.


**Adjourn**

**MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Nichols to adjourn at 4:56 p.m.**

**All in favor.**

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Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
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Alaina Nyman, County Clerk