

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, February 17, 2021

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

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

Absent- *None.*

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-**

Comm Theobald requested to add a discussion on opening the meetings back up to the public. Comm Hurlburt seconded the addition.

**Added J8-Discussion on re-opening meetings to the public.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the agenda, as amended.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.**

**Employee Recognition-** *None.*

**Presentation and Reports-** *None.*

**Public Comment-** *None.*

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the February 3, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

**Agenda Items**

1. Resolution 21-08 To Approve an Amendment to the Restated Amendment

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Musta to approve Resolution 21-08 to Approve an Amendment to the Restated Amended Agreement to Establish a Joint Cadillac-Wexford County Airport Authority increasing the per diem rate from \$25.00 to \$35.00 per hour.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-1 with Comm Bush voting against the motion.**

2. COA Building Permit Fees

**MOTION by Comm Hurlburt, seconded by Comm Bush to waive building permit fees for the Wexford County Council on Aging 2021 building project.**

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

3. Public Defender Lease Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the lease agreement for 419 N. Lake Street for the new Public Defender's Office location and authorize the Chairman to sign the lease agreement**

**Roll Call: Motion approved unanimously.**

4. Purchase Order Request-Electronic Storage, Sheriff's Office

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Sheriff's Office purchase order request for electronic storage in an amount not to exceed \$5,100.**

**Roll Call: Motion approved unanimously.**

5. AT&T Completelink Agreement and Centrex Service Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nichols to approve the AT&T Completelink and Centrex Agreements and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreements.**

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

6. Administrator Evaluation

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to enter into a closed session to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer employee staff member or individual agent if the name person requests the closed hearing. The person requesting the closed hearing may rescind the request at anytime, in which case the matter at issue shall be considered there after only in open session via MCL 15.268 (8)(a).**

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously. Closed session began at 4:07 p.m.**

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to resume open session of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and to accept the Minutes of the Closed Session as orally read by the Clerk.**

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

**MOTION by Comm Townsend, seconded by Comm Nichols to renew the Administrators contract for a period of 30 months, with a 2% increase for 2021 and a 2% increase for 2022.**

One Commissioner explained the reasoning for the 30 month term was to extend the review period further into the year. This is to allow any possible new members time to get to know more of the process and the administrator.

Another Commissioner was not comfortable going forward with anything more than 24 months.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 7-2 with Commissioners Hurlburt and Theobald voting against the motion.**

7. Budget Amendment(s)- *None*.

8. Discussion on Opening the Meetings to the Public

One Commissioner questioned if there were any plans to opening the meetings to the public. It was explained that we are currently following the MDHHS Order that is in effect until March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Administrator's Report-**

Administrator Koch informed the Board that the budget for the State for 2022 did appear to have a slight decrease in revenue sharing, but she received more information and it appears to effect the township levels.

She also provided the Board with an update regarding the windows. City Glass has offered to install the windows that have arrived, however, it was decided it would be better to only disrupt the court schedules once and not install in two different sessions.

Ms. Koch also advised that Board that because of a decrease in claims with MMRMA, the County saw over \$100,000 decrease in its premium.

**Correspondence-**

1. Prosecutor's Report

**Public Comments-***None*.

**Liaison Reports-**

Comm Nichols attended the Northwest Community Action Agency meeting. They are currently promoting a program for taxes, [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com). There is also a program for weatherization of homes for heating. Another Commissioner asked if there was still a waiting list for that program, and Commissioner Nichols was not aware of any.

Comm Hurlburt attended the Road Commission meeting where the Board voted to hire Carl Hansen as the new manager. Al Cooper will be retiring, and his last day is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Comm Townsend made a joke about being better than the last Commissioner on the Airport Authority. They are currently having great meetings. He also attended the Library Meeting where they welcomed Carol Blake. He did have questions regarding the Tustin Library and was going to be looking into that agreement more.

Comm Bengelink attended the LDFA meeting where the topic was the city well field clean up.

Comm Taylor attended the Conservation District meeting. They have their tree sale coming up, and he handed out fliers for the Winter Workshop.

### **Board Comments**

Comm Nichols thanked Commissioner Bengelink for organizing the flags for the fire department. She also thanked Janet for her work with the County.

Comm Potter stated he was glad that he trusts everyone. He also offered his congratulations and condolences to Janet for her renewed contract.

Comm Musta encouraged everyone to go out and donate blood if you can.

Comm Townsend commented about a former basketball team he was a part of, where they came together. He gets the same feeling with this Board. He stated he was also thrilled about the future.

Comm Bengelink made a joke about having to introduce Comm Potter to some of the Airport Authority Board members. He congratulated Janet on her renewed contract, and he also read a quote from Casey Stinnett.

Comm Bush congratulated Janet also. He also let the Board know the City Fire Department was very surprised when he presented them with their flag.

Comm Theobald echoed the excitement from the City, and she commented that she had received calls from Selma Township asking about theirs. Comm Bengelink explained Selma's had been delivered to the Supervisor.

### **Chairman's Comments**


Comm Taylor congratulated Janet and thanked everyone for coming.


### **Adjourn**

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nichols to adjourn at 4:52 p.m.**

**All in favor.**

Wexford County Board of Commissioners  
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Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
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Alaina Nyman, County Clerk