



Wexford County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary Taylor, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Room of the Historic Courthouse in Cadillac, MI, 49601.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the March 31, 2021 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Gathering and Face Mask Order Amendment, the public may participate in person if social distancing guidelines are followed. The meeting can also be attended by any one of the following three ways:

- **By Telephone:** Dial toll free 1-646-876-9923, enter Webinar ID 749 610 4141#
- **By Computer:** Go to the Zoom Web Site (zoom.us). Click on “Join a Meeting.” Join using Meeting ID 749 610 4141.
- **By Smartphone:** Install the Zoom application prior to the call. Launch the Zoom app at the time of the call and join using Meeting ID 749 610 4141.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- D. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- F. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION 1
 - 1. Flora Grundy, Circuit Court, 15 Years
 - 2. Sharon Ellens, Register of Deeds, 15 Years
 - 3. Wendy Vredenburg, 911 Dispatch, 15 Years
 - 4. Annette Janson, Friend of the Court, 20 Years
 - 5. Mike Solomon, Drain Commissioner, 20 Years
 - 6. Paul Paten, Corrections, 25 Years
 - 7. Mike McDaniel, Sheriff, Corrections, 30 Years
 - 8. Sandy Huttenga, Friend of the Court, 30 Years
 - 9. Randall Adlam, Probate Court, 35 Years
- G. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS
 - MSUE Annual Report (*Shari Spoelman, District 6 Director*).....2

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with physical limitations that may tend to restrict access to or participation in this meeting should contact the County Administrator’s office (231-779-9453) at least twelve (12) hours prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board welcomes all public input.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

The purpose of the consent agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one Commission motion without discussion. Any member of the Commission may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed therefrom and placed elsewhere for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected.

If any item is not removed from the consent agenda, the action noted on the agenda is approved by motion of the Commission to adopt the consent agenda.

1. Approval of the April 7, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes and April 13, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes 13

J. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Slagle Township Assessors Service Contract (*Finance 3/16/21*) 19
2. MIDC FY 22 Cost Analysis..... 22
3. Resolution in Support of 4-year Commissioner Terms..... 23
4. Budget Amendment(s)

K. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

L. CORRESPONDENCE

M. PUBLIC COMMENTS

N. LIAISON REPORTS

O. BOARD COMMENTS

P. CHAIR COMMENTS

Q. ADJOURN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: HR/Public Safety Committee
FOR MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
SUBJECT: Employee Recognition Certificates

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

Wexford County would like to recognize employees for their service, per County policy B.13-0, at 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years. The following employees should be recognized at a Board of Commissioners meeting for their service as follows:

EMPLOYEE NAME	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
Flora Grundy	Circuit Court	15 Years
Sharon Ellens	Register of Deeds	15 Years
Wendy Vredenburg	Central Dispatch	15 Years
Annette Janson	Friend of the Court	20 Years
Mike Solomon	Drain Commissioner	20 Years
Paul Paten	Corrections	25 Years
Mike McDaniel	Sheriff's Office – Jail	30 Years
Sandra Huttenga	Friend of the Court	30 Years
Randy Adlam	Probate Court	35 Years

RECOMMENDATION:
Presentation of the Certificates of Appreciation at the BOC meeting.



2020 Annual Report to Wexford County



A Message from the District Director Spring 2021

2020 will be a year to remember for many reasons. The creativeness, dedication, teamwork, and resilience

that our MSUE professionals exhibited during this global pandemic will be something I will always remember. This has been a difficult time for communities, families and staff, and I am proud of the work we have done to continue to provide high-quality educational programs throughout Michigan.

During the pandemic and subsequent stay-home orders, MSUE staff were given an opportunity to do something they have wanted to do for a long time - convert their in-person programming to a digital format. Digital formats don't work for everybody or every program, but to expand our reach and help more people incorporate the evidence-based learning from a major university into their homes, families, businesses and communities, has always been a goal worth pursuing. Many were moving in that direction already; the pandemic required others to move there faster.

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) brings the science, programs and resources of Michigan's land grant university to organizations, communities and individuals throughout the state. Our outreach and engagement is built on a local basis, thanks to our county partnerships and more than 600 faculty and staff in offices across all 83 counties.

Historically, most of our relationships have been maintained through in-person meetings and programs. Over the last few years we have built up the breadth and quality of our website at extension.msu.edu which now averages 1.25 million visitors per month.

Working from home with the tools and support needed to help them succeed in a remote environment, MSUE educators have continued to assist farmers, elected officials and decision makers, parents, families and

In 2020, we expanded our capacity to provide high-quality virtual education. In this report, you will find stories of strength and effort, stories of resilience and creativity. There is no doubt this pandemic has pushed us all to the edge from time to time, but we have worked together to get beyond it and to continue to do the good work we do and deliver the best for our residents. We are looking forward to a time when we can all meet in person safely again.

youth by meeting with them on virtual platforms through online meetings and webinars. With the work they have accomplished over the last months, staff have reported some of the benefits and disadvantages to "virtual" learning:

- Programs that are recorded allow people to view the meetings in a time convenient for them.
- We are reaching audiences that would not be able to attend our programs in the past because of time, travel and disability.
- We are reaching local, regional, state, national and global audiences.
- We are able to share our expertise, ideas and best practices more efficiently across the state.
- There are more opportunities available to everyone – once a program is made virtual anyone can sign up, regardless of where they live.
- A digital divide still exists, not all programs work in an on-line format, and nothing will replace our local, face to face, relationship- based work.

In the end, I believe this experience in on-line program development and investment in capacity will augment our face to face work (**once that resumes**) and provide greater access to our work than ever before. Thank you for your continued support!

Shari Spoelman, District Director

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Response of MSU Extension to the impact of Novel Corona Virus

In late March, MSUE pivoted all of our programming to online formats to comply with the original Stay Safe, Stay Home order (EO2020-42). Within six days of that order, we launched the [Remote Learning and Resources](#) website and our teams immediately began modifying programming to a digital format that would provide equal educational value right in people’s homes. This online space provided a platform to launch this effort and since then has become a robust virtual one-stop-shop for everything MSU Extension has to offer online. Within a few days into quarantine, staff had new programming spooled up and ready to present digitally. A few noteworthy examples include:

Adulting 101: Staff members quickly pivoted from a face-to-face program offered in a few locations to a series of one-hour presentations called **Adulting 101**. Topics include things such as what to look for when renting, tips and tricks for easy cooking, how to keep your finances in order and the right way to do household tasks such as ironing and setting a table. Once promoted via social media, it went “viral,” attracting more than **3,000** registered participants statewide and was recommended by school districts. This program has now become a regular recurring series and engaged a team of program staff to share in its delivery.

Gardening Cabin Fever Conversations – Gardening became a highly popular series of webinars via Zoom and Facebook Live designed to get people’s minds off of being cooped up inside and get them thinking about their garden spaces. Sessions focused on lighthearted but educational conversations about topics like seed saving, houseplants, pollinator health, community gardening and container gardening. The webinar’s success of more than **500 attendees per session** prompted organizers to continue programming during winter 2021.

[Educational Resources for Parents, teachers and families](#) were compiled to assist with remote and home-based learning. 4-H Curriculum, videos, tip sheets and virtual learning tools were developed and continue to be added to and improved as we begin the Fall school year.

[Rapid Response For Agriculture](#) was a site developed in 2019 to provide a single point for farmers to access resources developed in response to several weather related emergencies. In 2020, our agriculture team immediately rose to the challenge to assist the industry with resources and management tools to aid them through the pandemic emergency.

One first response was a series of articles and best practice options for the [floriculture industry](#) who were limited in the ability to sell to their wholesale markets. Other resources were aimed at keeping farm employees safe and how to best manage operations while still meeting consumer demands for a fresh, safe food supply during emergency conditions created by Covid-19.

Canning food became more popular during the pandemic. While working from home has its challenges, food safety staff witnessed some really great results with programming online. By having online classes, instead of face:face, the reach for food preservation classes increased by over 4,000%.

Adulting 101: Preparing for Life and College

DATE & TIME:
 April 9 2 pm Budget and Credit
 April 16 2 pm Rent Smart
 April 23 2 pm Cooking 101
 April 30 2 pm Household Tasks

LOCATION:
 Virtual through web

COST:
 Free

Prepare yourself for the future!

SPONSORS:
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension
 MID MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
 Older youth (11th and 12th Graders)

DESCRIPTION:
 Learn some quick tips that will help you navigate life and college. Budget and Credit-Explore the basics. Rent Smart-Learn what to know when you rent. Cooking 101- Learn some tips and tricks for cooks for yourself. Household Task- Learn ironing, making bed, and other helpful hints.

HOW TO REGISTER
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/257448955>

CONTACT:
 Michelle Neff by hydemic@msu.edu or 989-429-2359

MSUE is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer committed to providing excellence through a diverse workforce and to ensure culture that empowers all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all and designed to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations.

Join Us Online

Food Preservation Series
 Every Thursday 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. EDT

- March 18 - Introduction to Home Canning
- March 25 - Preserving Maple Syrup
- April 1 - Selecting Plants for your Garden
- April 8 - With Spring's Arrival, Asparagus Won't Be Far Away

To Learn More Visit:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/food_preservation/events
 To join by phone, call in advance to register at 877-643-9882.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



MSU Extension in Wexford County

2020 By the numbers:

Jan—Dec 2020	
# of programs offered statewide attended by County residents	197
# of County residents who attended programs	591
# of MSUE staff reporting serving residents of County	67
# of Direct Consultations Reported (Field Crops, Com Vitality, Prod Center, Soil tests, gardening, food safety, etc.)	176

Special Fund Budget Expenditure	
Voter approved millage	
FY 2019-2020	\$157,625 (budgeted)
Includes Lake Street Building rent	\$28,358

4-H 2019-2020	
4-H Adult Volunteers	18
4-H Youth Club Enrollment	77
Total Youth Served (duplicates removed)	164

MSU Extension District 6 Advisory Council

County	Name	
Clare	Sandy Bristol	Commissioner
Clare	Ken Brown	
Gladwin	Rick Grove	Commissioner
Gladwin	Dick Metz	
Isabella	Jerry Jaloszynski	Commissioner
Isabella	Bob Wachowski	
Mecosta	Marilynn Bradstrom	Commissioner
Mecosta	Vacancy	

County	Name	
Missaukee	Frank VanderWal	Commissioner
Missaukee	Vacancy	
Osceola	Jill Halladay	Commissioner
	Tim Michell	Alternate
Osceola	Russ Nehmer	
Osceola	David Eggle	
Wexford	Judy Nichols	Commissioner
Wexford	Mike Soloman	
Wexford	Chris Gentry	Chair



4-H Program Highlights



BRANDIE SIGLER

4-H Program
Coordinator

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"I recognize that many in our counties do not have access to reliable high-speed internet, so I focused my efforts on creating programs that don't require internet. I developed kit programs so youth can participate at their own pace."

Brandie Sigler is the 4-H coordinator in both Missaukee and Wexford Counties. She loves the adaptability of her job. When working hard to get youth involved in our programs, Brandie is able to make quick shifts and be flexible. When COVID restrictions were first put in place, she was able to transition an existing face to face "Babysitting" club at Lake City Schools to a virtual format immediately so she could continue the program without interruption.

What worked especially well because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to reduce face:face interactions?

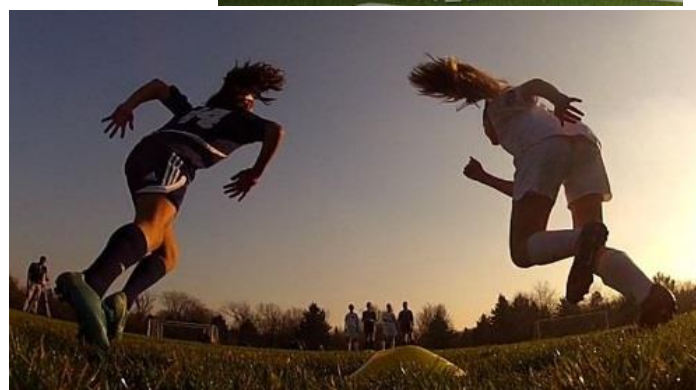
Manton High School has students that live in both Wexford and Missaukee Counties. Last fall, Brandie partnered with them to bring a new program to students at that school. Brandie brought Spartan Peak Health and Performance to 4 classrooms of freshman health students. Three of the classes were traditional classroom settings, which she led virtually. The 4th class was an independent study. Students had the option to go to a classroom after school, participate virtually, or watch a recording at their convenience. This helped the teacher because she was struggling to find content to deliver to the independent study students. The series was so successful that the PE teacher has requested that Brandie bring "Steps to a Healthy Teen" in her class.

What would you like our commissioners and other stakeholders to know about your work during 2020?

Brandie adapted quickly to the new normal of social distancing and virtual learning. Recognizing that many families in our counties do not have access to reliable high-speed internet, Brandie focused her efforts on creating programs that don't require internet. She developed kit programs that were mailed to youth who could participate at their own pace and use optional internet-based opportunities to share their work with their peers.

Youth now have more access to 4-H programming across the state than they ever have before. The majority of programs in every county are open to youth across the state. This allows for students to find programming that matches their specific interest.

When not working, Brandie enjoys her hobby farm of ducks, chickens, goats, and a new pet pig.



Peak Health and Performance, formerly known as Spartan Performance, provides middle-school and high-school athletes with sound nutrition education. Nutrition education can help young athletes improve their health, their overall eating patterns, and their athletic performance.



4-H Program, cont.



KARIE SAXTON

4-H Program

Coordinator

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“Innovative programming, outside the box thinking, and opportunities for collaboration with staff across the state created opportunities for programs that normally would not have been hosted in our county.”

4-H Program Coordinator Karie Saxton joined our team in March of 2020. She also provides 4-H coordination in Kalkaska County and enjoys teaching youth life skills through projects that they have an interest in.

After the Covid-19 pandemic hit and everyone needed to reduce face:face interactions, major limitations were placed on county fairs, and most were canceled throughout the state. Karie worked with the Cadillac Area Livestock Committee to host a virtual showcase for the livestock that would have been shown and sold at the Northern District Fair in 2020. Youth were able to compete in market and showmanship classes, followed by an online auction.

When reflecting on the past year, Karie commented, *“The novel coronavirus pandemic created challenges and opportunities for community members everywhere. Innovative programming, outside the box thinking, and opportunities for collaboration with staff across the state created opportunities for programs that normally would not have been hosted in our county. A couple examples include: Among Us (video game) clubs, cooking around the world, and Ocean Explorers.”*

When not working, Karie enjoys sewing, painting, gardening, running, and raising sheep and chickens.



Nutrition



DENISE GILDE

Community Nutrition
Instructor

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As a nutrition instructor, Denise Gilde works with schools and agencies like Love, INC to provide nutrition education across the lifespan. During Covid and the work from home order for all non-essential workers, Denise worked hard to overcome the hurdles we were all presented with and learned many new skills to share with the people she serves. *“When able to get back to face-to-face meetings with community members and partners, I believe we will see even greater program participation. Utilizing what we have learned from this pandemic will be a gift for the future,”* noted Denise.

Grocery Store Shenanigans

Participants are using the information we teach them to choose healthier options at the grocery stores, and in their meal planning.

While shopping at a grocery store, I overheard a familiar voice emphatically telling her children that they could not have a particular cereal they were asking for. As I turned to look, I recognized a mom and her three children who had taken one of my *“Cooking Matters for Families”* class. Mom said *“Remember, we’re looking for cereal that has a Whole Grain as the first ingredient, and the lowest amount of sugar.”* About that time, mom spotted me and said, *“Hey look, it’s our nutrition teacher! If you don’t believe me, ask her.”*



Outdoor Education



LAURA QUIST

Shooting Sports and
Environmental & Outdoor
Education

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I care about my job and my community deeply. I look for new opportunities that arise out of barriers (like the pandemic).

The changes we experienced have resulted in unexpected benefits and collaborations that will strengthen our programming for youth and volunteers moving forward.

Laura Quist is a state-wide Shooting Sports and Environmental and Outdoor Education instructor. She loves the constant change and challenge her position brings while being able to pursue many of her own passions and bring them to life for others.

After the Covid-19 pandemic hit and MSU Extension reduced face:face interactions, Laura saw some positive outcomes.

Taking youth on “virtual trips and experiences” is one of them.

Examples would include taking youth along with marine educator (and new 4-H volunteer, based in Boston) Madison Dix, as we discovered marine life and explored conservation issues affecting those animals and wildlife places – that would have never been part of a typical club experience before.

Similarly, we met world-renowned eagle researcher, who has worked with industry leaders to reduce electrocutions on powerlines; she got her start in volunteering as a youth, so similar to our 4-H club members. Having the opportunity to converse with caring and successful adults like these is a unique and powerful experience that we might not have taken time to do prior to the pandemic.

What would you like our commissioners and other stakeholders to know about your work during 2020? That

I care about my job and my community deeply. When faced with challenges, I look for new opportunities that may arise out of barriers (like the pandemic). These changes have resulted in unexpected benefits and collaborations that will strengthen our programming and opportunities for youth and volunteers moving forward.

Locally, Laura works closely with the Veterans Serving Veterans group. She serves on the board and works hard to connect them with the many resources of MSU Extension. She has done work to help them increase their native habitat for monarchs.

When not working, what do you like to do that makes you happy?

Spend time with my family, enjoying our farm animals, pets, exploring the state and natural areas.





Youth Career Development



SARA KEINATH

*Youth Career
Exploration/Work
Force Preparation*

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Sara Keinath is a Youth Development Educator, with specialties in Career Exploration and Work Force Preparation. She loves helping people, especially helping youth to use their voice and increase their confidence.

Tell me about something that worked especially well for you during the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to reduce face:face interactions.

“I am very grateful that we were able to pivot to virtual trainings. Career Education and Money Management classes that are normally held in person were done virtually in 2020, and this allowed us to have more staff involved than we normally would (because of geographical restrictions). Additionally, I was proud of how our State Youth Leadership Council members were able to help clubs and committees in their own counties adapt to virtual settings because we had already been doing the bulk of the work of that council on zoom.”

Mock It Then Rock It! One of the successes Sara has brought to the Wexford -Missaukee area is the Mock Interview Day. Fortunately, this was held in Cadillac at Baker College in February, before the pandemic hit. Mock It Then Rock It: Mock Interview Day was held for all 11th and 12th graders in the greater Cadillac area. On the day of the event, students experienced a practice interview, had their resume reviewed, and attended breakout sessions on relevant topics. In addition to several staff from MSUE, the community wide event had a planning committee with membership from Baker College, Michigan Works, Cadillac Area YMCA, Munson Hospital Cadillac, and representatives from local schools. Being a single mom with two small kids at home, Sara learned first-hand the difficulties of handling everything at home during the stay home stay safe order. She is grateful for all the support she received.

Mock Interviews for students: What can be better than good comments from the youth participants?

- *Very well done, this was very helpful!*
- *I had so much fun, I want to thank everyone who did this*
- *I liked it. It helped me with tips and tricks to do better in an interview and do better on resume.*
- *I was very nervous at the beginning but as time went by I was more comfortable with how my body language was.*
- *This was fun and helped me feel more comfortable talking in an interview. Also learning to handshake correctly.*
- *I learned so much! Wonderful people. Thank you so much.*

Office Management



JESSICA ACKERSON

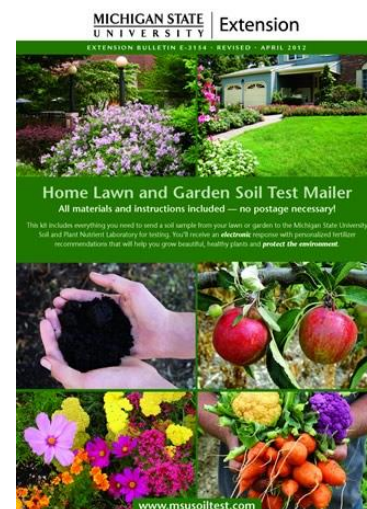
Office Manager

ackers23@msu.edu

If you’ve ever called the Wexford office or stopped in, chances are you’ve met Jessica Ackerson, the Office Manager and Master Gardener Ambassador. She has a passion and instinct for the natural world and for helping people. Whatever your question is, Jess will find an answer for you.

“Being a person who loves

knowledge and science, MSU Extension is a great fit for me. Every day is different and I always learn something new. With every question or concern brought to me, I feel proud in knowing that I can bring the most current knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals and businesses in my community, therefore helping us all grow in knowledge.”





Community Development



JOHN AMRHEIN

Public Policy

Education

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“I value in-person meetings, but moving forward with the creation of the Cadillac Area Nonprofit Network in a virtual environment has proven the effectiveness of Zoom to ‘help people improve their lives.’”

John Amrhein is a Governance, Leadership, and Finance Educator who enjoys helping people by providing them with tools to assist them in improving their lives. Referring to the mission statement *“Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities,”* John finds it extremely rewarding to see people take advantage of our work to make their lives better. What was a Covid Success story?

Cadillac Area Nonprofit Network. John has an interest in working with nonprofit organizations to help them grow and thrive in their local communities. In fall of 2019, during a “needs assessment” meeting/conversation with nonprofits in the Cadillac area, there were several who indicated they wanted to start a group of nonprofit leaders to discuss their experiences with other nonprofit organizations. The idea was to share questions, successes, problems, challenges and opportunities to learn from each other, and to build a level of teamwork/comradery amongst the participants. “One thing that has worked far better than I imagined during the pandemic-driven Zoom addiction has been the Cadillac Area Nonprofit Network,” noted John. By the time organizational details fell into place for the launch of the official Cadillac Area Nonprofit Network, the pandemic had started and work-from-home had hit. Initially, his first reaction was to put the idea on the shelf until face to face meetings resumed. But the changes being required of everyone due to the pandemic actually opened up an opportunity. Nonprofits were struggling to learn how to operate their organizations during the first few months of the pandemic and greatly benefited from meeting with each other over Zoom. The group includes about 2 dozen people, with anywhere from 4-15 typically participating in the calls. The group continues to meet monthly in 2021. Every call has some sharing of ideas that is clearly of value to those on the call.



Other successes from the work of the Government and Public Policy team in 2020 include:

- New Commissioner School celebrated 52 years in 2020 by going totally virtual. The program, for newly elected county commissioners, used a combination of live webinars and self-paced online readings and videos. Participants expressed appreciation for the ability to study around their busy schedules. Educational outcomes surpassed 2018 results.
- The Northern Michigan Counties Association continues its long history of being a place where county commissioners from across the northern lower peninsula gather 8 times each year for lively discussion; sharing successes and concerns, learning from each other, and from guest speakers on topics selected by the commissioners. MSU Extension provides the educational staff support. Due to the pandemic, 2020 saw a transition from in-person to Zoom. Participation dropped off a bit at first, but rebounded later in the year, and early 2021 looks even stronger, with participation up 50% compared to the 2020 average.
 - Wexford County’s board chair, Gary Taylor, is an active participant.



Agriculture

Paul Gross is an Agriculture Extension Educator specializing in Field Crops and Soil Health. When not working, he is happiest spending time with his family and friends.



PAUL GROSS

Field Crops
Educator

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"I am utilizing technology to improve efficiency in my work and to reach more people."

Paul enjoys working with farmers and agribusinesses, bringing the research and information from MSU's Extension Specialists and applying it to their farms to improve productivity, profitability and environmental practices. Paul engages in on-farm research in the county to test products, practices, and systems that address issues on their farms.

During the pandemic, Paul worked with his colleagues to develop a stronger online presence for programming. They developed online courses, podcasts, informational videos, and short how-to videos that farmers can view on demand. These have been posted on our social media sites. Covid-19 has forced all of us to be more creative in how we communicate and interact with farmers.



Impact of COVID:

According to Paul, "Like everyone else, Covid-19 changed our world and how I carried out my programming. I am fortunate that I was able to conduct all of my planned on-farm research in the summer of 2020. I was able to travel to fields to monitor pest traps, provide soil samples and scout pests. We utilized pictures and videos for weed, insect, and disease problems when travel was not possible. I am utilizing technology to improve efficiency in my work and to reach more people."



FaceBook Live weekly "Lunch Break" is an ongoing event that brings up to date information from the MSU Extension field crops team and other members of MSU's ag educators and specialists to growers.



Farm Stress



ERIC KARBOWSKI

Community Behavioral
Health Educator

karbows8@msu.edu
(989) 444-2211

“Every connection and outreach made to someone that is struggling can have a lifelong impact.”

Eric Karbowski is our Farm Stress educator who enjoys spending time with his family and friends, football, hunting, kayaking, and cutting wood. He is passionate about working with farmers, creating tools, and developing resources to support those in need. Eric joined MSU Extension to help provide behavioral health supports and services to farmers and farm families in our community. The existing farm stress programs created a nationally recognized foundation that set the stage for the advanced opportunities and supports now available to those we serve. The focus on adhering to the programming models, yet flexibility to be creative and innovative, have proven to be important in allowing resources such as the teletherapy program and “wrap around” model to be implemented. For Eric, his position with MSU Extension is helping him fulfill both personal and professional goals.

Mental Health Minute: When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, Eric and his team of colleagues in agriculture were able to make an impact despite the inability to provide in person programming. One of those examples is a program called “Lunch Break.” Once a week, ag educators and Eric provide a Facebook live feed for updates and advice for growers and producers. Each week, Eric provides a Mental Health Minute, and embeds good, sound mental health education for the participants. Sometimes, you don’t know that you can use this information until you receive it.

Teletherapy: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, MSU Extension through a partnership with Pine Rest Behavioral Health, created the teletherapy program for farmers to access supports through online-counseling with master’s level clinicians that have a connection to agriculture. This was timely because the roadmap to support and recovery was already in place, making connecting farmers with the services efficient. It later received funding to help offset cost further reducing access barriers.

According to Eric, “The heralding truth behind behavioral health is that often the effectiveness of the supports we are providing will not likely be publicized. Every connection and outreach made to someone that is struggling can have a lifelong impact. Although we have a large amount of reportable farm stress impact data and outreach engagements, as friends, neighbors, and supporters of MSU Extension, you are supporting the continued development of resources and tools further reducing the impact of stress, mental illness, and the potential loss of life by suicide through our farm stress efforts.”



Responding to Farmers in Need



Integrated Pest Management



ERIN LIZOTTE

Pest Educator

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“No matter the challenge, MSUE remains committed to serving our stakeholders around the state.”



Pesticide Safety & Education

Erin (Taylor) Lizotte grew up in Cadillac and enjoys living and working in the area she calls home. As an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Educator, Erin likes working with farmers. “I love being out on the farm, solving mysteries, learning from growers, and helping solve problems,” she said. “I am passionate about supporting farmers in their efforts to be good stewards of the land and in retaining their farms for future generations.” Erin’s work focuses on increasing the use of integrated pest management on farms across Michigan. Integrated pest management helps growers make environmentally and economically sustainable pest management choices, protecting both the environment and farm profitability. Her specialty crops include hops and chestnuts and she works across the state providing support in these areas.

Something that was successful or noteworthy that came out of 2020, in spite of Covid:

“The past year was challenging for everyone, but also helped us stretch our thinking about how we serve clients. For the first time, we began offering pesticide applicator education online and the grower response was powerful with over 2,000 growers viewing the online review materials in preparation for the license testing in 2020. This led to the development and launch of an online course for pesticide applicators in October of 2020. We expect hundreds of growers to complete the course annually.”

Christmas Tree Production



HEIDI LINDBERG

West Michigan
Greenhouse and
Nursery Education &
Research

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616-994-4701

MSU Extension hosted a Christmas Tree Pest Management webinar series in 2020, attended by area growers. The four-part webinar series was organized and hosted by MSU Extension (Bert Cregg, Heidi Lindberg). The webinars were advertised nationally and featured presentations by MSU and MSUE personnel. Their presentations included pest scouting methodology, insect and disease ID and management, and trouble-shooting non-pest damage. We offered pesticide recertification credits for Michigan growers.

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WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, April 7, 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.

**Commissioners Hurlburt, Musta, Theobald, and Potter appeared virtually, and were unable to vote on agenda items.

Absent- *None*.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-*None*.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

Employee Recognition-

1. Mistine Stark-30 year Service Award
Mistine was not able to attend the meeting, but she will receive her award.

Presentation and Reports-

Michele Hoytenga, was excited to be appearing in person to give the Board an update on some legislative issues. One of her biggest priorities is the broadband expansion. This pandemic has shown us just how badly we need broadband in our areas.

Another item currently being discussed, is an energy bill. She is pushing for options with these bills, and it should be exciting to see what comes out.

This year, Ms. Hoytenga also is a part of the Oversight Committee, that is currently targeting the COVID situation. Should future shutdowns come, they are working at what they can do better in response.

Ms. Hoytenga also explained a Criminal Justice Reform bill that was recently passed that not everyone was happy about. Several agencies came forward with complaints, so a meeting was organized to discuss these issues. Because of that meeting, there will be changes coming forward. She was very happy with the communication that happened to get this resolved.

Ms. Hoytenga also briefly touched on a few other bills she is currently supporting. One being a health care package that would add some transparency with health care. An

example she used was insulin prices. She also noted a FOIA bill that would open FOIA up to the Governor and Legislature, as well as a Daylight Savings Bill.

One Commissioner had a question about a power company requesting our funding to put in broadband. Ms. Hoitenga was going to check into that.

Another Commissioner thanked her for her insulin cap support.

Kerry Baughman, Executive Director of NMCAA, touched briefly on their agency. They serve 10 counties and seek to address poverty concerns on a community level. Some of their programs include Meals on Wheels, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Early Childhood Services, COVID emergency rental assistance, and utility assistance. She also thanked Commissioner Nichols for her service on their Board. She then turned it over to Lisa Ritter.

Ms. Ritter took over to explain their Weatherization Program. She explained that these are upgrades made to existing homes now; they are not for new builds. They upgrade things like smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, furnaces, etc. There is currently a waitlist for Wexford County, but interested individuals can visit their website or call their office. To date, they have repaired 9 homes in Wexford County.

Public Comment- *None.*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the March 17, 2021

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

Roll Call: Motion passed 5-0.

Agenda Items

1. Resolution 21-11 Extending Appreciation-Bob Scarbrough

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to approve Resolution 21-11 Extending Appreciation for Robert Scarbrough's Dedicated Service.

Roll Call: Motion passed 5-0.

2. Resolution 21-12 Honoring E.S. Fawcett

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush In Honor and Appreciation of the Dedicated Service of Ephraim Stanley Fawcett.

Roll Call: Motion passed 5-0.

3. Reinstating Administrative Analyst Position-Equalization

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Equalization Department's request to add a full time Administrative Analyst to the 2021 Roster, with the necessary budget amendments submitted at a later date.

Joe Porterfield explained to the Board that this position was initially removed when the pandemic started. Field visits have since opened back up. He had thought he would be able to get through this year without filling this position, but with the loss of a 15 year employee he feels it is necessary to fill this position.

Roll Call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Register of Deeds Purchase Order Request

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Register of Deeds purchase order request in the amount of \$6,620 for capital equipment.

One Commissioner questioned why this was being brought before the Board if this was already in budget. Administrator Koch explained that this was per the Purchasing Order policy. She does not have the authority to approve anything over \$5,000, and she didn't think the auditors would accept things like this if we didn't follow policy. Kristi Nottingham was asked to check with the auditors.

Roll Call: Motion approved unanimously.

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

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Koch was excited to be back at a Board meeting. She explained that the Federal ARP Funding that we are anticipating, still has not released guidelines on how to spend that money. We do have until 2024 to use that money, though, so there is lots of time to wait for the guidelines.

She also explained that the audit is currently happening. She noted that Kristi, Alaina, Joe, Norma, and herself have been doing a lot of running, but we are in good shape to wrap everything up.

She also briefly touched on the window installation, that started in the attic, and the aerial photography that has been delayed because of weather. She wanted to inform the Board of four other counties who have passed similar resolutions that the Board passed in December supporting local businesses, as well.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments-

Joe Porterfield thanked the Board for their continued support. March was a very tough month for his office, and the Board has always given him what he needs.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Townsend attended a Networks Northwest meeting where they did discuss Great Lakes Power.

Board Comments

Comm Musta commented that being able to attend virtually, but not vote, is very frustrating. It is somewhat out of the Board's hands, but he wanted to see that discussed in the future.

Comm Townsend noted that there is currently a lot of strain at the courthouse, and he is praying for all.

Comm Bengelink agreed with Commissioner Townsend and read a quote from Thomas Jefferson.

Comm Theobald echoed Commissioner Musta's comments. She was there to represent her district. She also announced she will not be seeking re-election.

Comm Nichols stated she was sorry to hear Commissioner Theobald would not seek re-election. She stated she missed those who could not attend. She also offered prayers to Joe Porterfield and his staff.

Comm Hurlburt reflected back on the quote read by Commissioner Bengelink. He asked why are they here if they cannot vote. He noted that the courthouse was just shutdown, and that his first obligation is his family. He was not happy with not being able to vote.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Taylor gave credit to Kristi Nottingham and her office. Without them, we would not be receiving new windows. He asked Commissioner Nichols to become the liaison of the Area Agency on Aging, which she accepted. He announced that he would be the liaison of the Fair Board. He also announced that beginning the following day, the Finance Committee would be made up of Commissioner Musta, as chair still, Commissioner Potter, Commissioner Bengelink, and himself.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:40 p.m.

All in favor.

Gary Taylor, Chairperson

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting * Tuesday, April 13, 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, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, and Judy Nichols.

**Commissioners Theobald appeared virtually pursuant to the State of Emergency declaration in the City of Cadillac.

Absent- Commissioners Michael Bush and Brian Potter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the agenda.

All in favor.

Public Comment- *None.*

Agenda Items

1. L-4024 Reports

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Nichols to approve the 2021 Equalization Reports and Form L-4024 and authorize the Chairman, Clerk and Equalization Director to sign Form L-4024 and Form 4037.

Joe Porterfield, Equalization Director, stated this is an annual report he always brings to the Board. Unfortunately, this year he did not have time to do his usual report with graphs and charts, but he would get those to the Board at a later date.

He highlighted that none of the townships in our County have to have an equalization factors. All of them came in to the Board of Review at 49 and 50% of true cash value.

The 4024 tells what the assessed values are for each unit in the county, as well as the equalized value. They will always be the same unless there is an equalization factor or a State factor, which at this time we do not have.

He also briefly touched on the 4037 that contains all zeroes because there are no factors for our county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comments-

Administrator Janet Koch wanted to point out what Joe and his staff have done for the County in the last 6 weeks. They have been short staffed all year, voluntarily, and with

the loss of Don, they were even more short staffed. Joe, himself, was even sick and handling Board of Review from his home. She wanted to make sure he knew how much we all appreciate him.

Board Comments

Comm Townsend wished Lorne Haase a happy birthday.

Comm Bengelink thanked Joe Porterfield for his work.

Comm Theobald received her shot on Friday, so she hopes to be back soon.

Comm Nichols thanked Joe Porterfield for his outstanding work.

Comm Hurlburt stated he appreciated all Joe Porterfield has done and his staff.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Taylor thanked Joe Porterfield for the great job.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Hurlburt seconded by Comm Musta to adjourn at 4:07 p.m.

All in favor.

Gary Taylor, Chairperson

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Finance Committee
FOR MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
SUBJECT: Slagle Township Assessor's Service Contract

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

The annual Assessor's Service Contract for Slagle Township, Wexford County is attached for consideration. The Equalization Department has provided this service since 2015. The fee is \$10.00 per parcel/per year which has not increased over the past couple of years.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee suggests the full board approve the contract.

Slagle Township, Wexford County

Assessors Service Contract

April 1st 2021:

The following services will be provided for the Township of Slagle, Wexford County by the Wexford County Equalization Department.

- (1) Examine all parcels of real and personal property as required and determine the physical or economic depreciation.
- (2) Maintain assessment roll and add new construction or delete structures as of tax day.
- (3) Prepare and file state reports.
- (4) Prepare and certify the assessment roll.
- (5) Defend all assessments and give courtroom support at MI Tax Tribunal proceedings.
- (6) Process Homestead affidavits.
- (7) Attend Board of Review meetings as required.
- (8) Develop the ECF (economic condition factor) based on sales studies.
- (9) Prorate assessments on splits or combinations for the Township Treasurer.
- (10) Process land divisions (if Township Supervisor is unavailable to do so).
- (11) Print property record cards.
- (12) Maintain Assessing Software on Wexford County computer network.
- (13) Slagle Township is responsible for providing the assessing software. Postage and office supplies as needed for assessor duties.

The fee for this service shall be \$ 10.00 per parcel per year. Beginning April 1st 2021 and continuing thru March 31st 2022.

Clifford Porterfield MMAO (4) R-8388
Wexford County Equalization Director

Gary Taylor Chairman
Wexford County Board of Commissioners

Thomas Mannor, Slagle Township Supervisor

Tammy Porterfield, Slagle Township Clerk

Connie Roush, Slagle Township Treasurer

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Administration
FOR MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
SUBJECT: MIDC Fiscal Year 2022 Cost Analysis

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

The final numbers for the MIDC Fiscal Year 2022 Cost Analysis are currently being determined and will be provided to the Board prior to the meeting. According to state statute, the County's local share for the indigent defense program is tied to the cost of living index. Our local share increase will be 1.2% for the MIDC's FY22, which runs with the state's fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of the MIDC Fiscal Year 2022 Cost Analysis.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Administration
FOR MEETING DATE: April 21, 2021
SUBJECT: Resolution 21-13 Supporting Passage of Legislation to Adopt 4-Year Terms for County Commissioners

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

A Cheboygan County resolution regarding four-year terms for County Commissioners is once again circulating and is attached.

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners is requesting to support the Cheboygan County resolution. A draft resolution is attached for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

If the board is in favor of passing this resolution, a motion of support.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County Building
P.O. Box 70, Room 131
Cheboygan, Michigan 49721

Tel ~ (231) 627-8858
Fax ~ (231) 627-8881
E-mail ~ ccao@cheboygancounty.net

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION #2021-09 SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

WHEREAS Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century – road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

WHEREAS Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two-year terms for county commissioners; and

WHEREAS all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

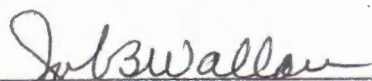
WHEREAS the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

WHEREAS legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of Senate Bills 242 and 245; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties support the legislation as introduced;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CHEBOYGAN COUNTY supports Senate Bills 242 and 245 to enact four-year terms for County Commissioners.

Adopted this 13th day of April, 2021



John B. Wallace, Chairperson
Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners

District 1
Mary Ellen Tryban

District 2
Richard B. Sangster
Vice-Chairman

District 3
Michael Newman

District 4
Ron Williams

District 5
Roberta Matelski

District 6
John B. Wallace
Chair

District 7
Steve Warfield

I, Karen L. Brewster the undersigned, the Clerk of the County of Cheboygan, Cheboygan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Cheboygan County Board of commissioners at its regular or reconvened meeting held on April 13, 2021, relative to adoption of the resolution therein set forth; that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Court and County, this 13th day of April, 2021.

Karen L. Brewster

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register



Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the twenty-first day of April, at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-13

SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

WHEREAS Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century - road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

WHEREAS Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two-year terms for county commissioners; and

WHEREAS all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

WHEREAS the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

WHEREAS legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of Senate Bills 242 and 245; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties support the legislation as introduced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that WEXFORD COUNTY supports Senate Bills 242 and 245 to enact four-year terms for County Commissioners.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Gary Taylor, Chairman, Wexford County Board of Commissioners

Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF WEXFORD)

I hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution 21-13 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Wexford County at a regular meeting held on April 21, 2021 and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk

WEXFORD COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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JOHANNA C. CAREY
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rolson@wexfordcounty.org
HEATHER DIETZ, Clerk
hdietz@wexfordcounty.org

April 11, 2021

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
437 E. Division St.
Cadillac, MI 49601

Re: March, 2021 Report

Dear Commissioners,

As you will recall from last month's report, our new imaging software and remote work access was made operational in February. It turns out this was just in time, as our office, like others, fell victim to COVID. The new programs allowed us to work from our remote locations with very little interference. On Friday March 5th, we closed the office at noon, and by 2:00 pm I was working remote from home attending court hearings.

Unfortunately, at the end of March one of our parttime clerks resigned so she could attend to the healthcare needs of family members. We are currently looking to fill her position. Our vacant assistant prosecutor positions still remain unfilled.

During March, Johanna and myself reviewed a total of 130 police reports. Those 130 reports resulted in 21 felony files consisting of 51 charges, and 51 misdemeanor files, consisting of 90 charges. We also made 238 court appearances for the month.

Our Victim Advocate, Shawna Shelton, made contact with victims 142 times throughout the month. She also attended meetings and court hearings twice throughout the month with victims.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Corey J. Wiggins
Wexford County Prosecuting Attorney