

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, August 4, 2021

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

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

Absent- Mike Musta.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-**

**Added J13-Resolution 21-23 Opposing MVAA Region 2 Statewide Provision Grant Award.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**All in Favor.**

**Employee Recognition- None.**

**Presentation and Reports-**

Matt McCauley, Executive Chief Officer for Networks Northwest provided the Board with their 2020 Annual Report. He gave a brief overview of Networks Northwest and the area that they cover. One of the areas he highlighted for 2020, was their assistance with small business relief grants. They helped with \$7.5 million grants, just under \$1 million of that went to Wexford County businesses.

Mr. McCauley mentioned that Networks Northwest was most known for Michigan Works. In 2020, foot traffic was down significantly, however they were able to help with over 32,000 unemployment claims.

He emphasized that one of the programs he is most proud of was the apprenticeship program. Currently there are 364 in the region and they are continuing to grow.

Mr. McCauley explained that they also underwent 2 single audits for 2020. There were no deficiencies found. They anticipate higher revenues for 2021, and an audit will be done of those as well.

**Public Comment- None.**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. Revision to Policy E-3.0 County Credit Card Program  
**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the revisions to Policy E-3.0, County Credit Card Account Management Program.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

2. FOIA Policy Revision  
**MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the revisions to Policy C-7.0 Freedom of Information Act.**

One Commissioner questioned if this change was coming out of the general FOIA guidelines or if this was a change for the County. Administrator Koch explained that this was just to clean up policy so that the policy aligned with the statute.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 6-2 with Commissioners Theobald and Nichols voting against the motion.**

3. Deputy Treasurer 1 Part-Time to Full-Time  
**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the Deputy Treasurer 1 position at full-time status, post the position internally and update the roster.**

**Roll Call: Motion approved 8-0.**

4. Prosecutor's Office Clerk Part-Time to Full-Time  
**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Office Clerk position in the Prosecutor's Office to full-time status, post the position internally and update the roster.**

One Commissioner questioned if this was a current position and if this was for an attorney or office staff. It was explained that this was an office staff position that currently exists.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 7-1 with Commissioner Hurlburt voting against the motion.**

5. Register of Deeds II Position

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the Register of Deeds II Position be increased to an L5 wage, post the position internally, and update the roster.**

One Commissioner questioned if the attachment came through Administration and if there were any stipulations or policy regarding the Register of Deeds hours of operation. Another Commissioner explained that the area needs a place to do passports during the lunch hour. There is also a policy that states that the hours of operations are 8:30 to 5pm.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

6. Human Resource Department

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the position description for a Human Resource Director with the wage to begin at the M2 level.**

One Commissioner had several questions regarding this position. The first was where did the need arise and who initiated this. It was explained that this came from a member of HR.

It was then further questioned why no discussion was held at the HR meeting regarding this. It was explained that they feel we need an HR department, as we have had in the past. It is not an unusual position. Employees would like to have private conversations, and those currently can't happen.

It was questioned where the position description came from and where the money would come from. It was explained that it came from the Clerk, who had obtained it from the previous position that the County used to have. The money will come from the same place the other changes are going to come from.

Another Commissioner went on to explain that the Administration Office currently has an HR position and that this position would be posted in compliance with county policy.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 7-1 with Commissioner Nichols voting against the motion.**

7. DHHS Grant Agreement Amendment

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nichols to approve Amendment 1 to the Department of Health & Human Services Grant # CSPA17-83002-A22 extending the expiration date to September 30, 2023 and increase the agreement amount by \$201,457.30 and authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

8. Dispatch Chairs Request

**MOTION by Comm Potter, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the purchase of three new dispatch chairs in an amount not to exceed \$7,200.00.**

One Commissioner questioned the cost of these chairs. Administrator Koch explained that these were far from the most expensive. The current chairs we have are roughly 20 years old.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 6-2 with Commissioners Hurlburt and Theobald voting against the motion.**

9. US District Court Substance Abuse Testing Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Purchase Order 0646-22-TS20 for Substance Abuse Testing Services for the Community Corrections Department and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.**

10. Financial Assurance Mechanism

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve a new letter of credit in the amount of \$911,112.28 and authorize the Treasurer and Clerk to sign the necessary paperwork.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

11. Appointment to the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health

**MOTION by Comm Hurlburt, seconded by Comm Nichols to re-appoint Commissioner Ben Townsend to the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Board with an expiration date of March 31, 2024.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

12. Budget Amendment

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the budget amendment dated 8/4/2021.**

8/4/2021

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners  
Amendments to the 2021 Budget**

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
20210801	101.101.699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$500,000	a.

	<b>101.290.720.01</b>	Retirement	\$500,000	
	<b>One-time payment to MERS unassociated surplus division.</b>			
20210802	<b>101.286.726.01</b>	CESF-Courts-Supply/Materials	(\$1,904)	b.
	<b>101.286.800.01</b>	CESF-Courts Contractual	\$937	
	<b>101.286.980.01</b>	CESF-Courts Equipment	\$967	
	<b>Correction to budget amendment dated 4-21-21 Adj# 20210402</b>			

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.**

13. Resolution 21-23 Opposing MVAA Region 2 Statewide Provision Grant Award  
**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve Resolution 21-23 Opposing Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Region 2 Statewide Veteran Service Provision Grant Award to Grand Traverse County Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of a Regional Model of Mobile Veteran Services in Wexford County.**

One Commissioner asked why Wexford County would oppose another group assisting veterans. Kent Myers, Veteran's Director, read the resolution at the request of the Commissioner. He explained that the State will only allow provisions to one county. If we lose the American Legion, Wexford County would not be able to assist veterans from other areas. There are currently five counties being served by the American Legion and those positions would be gone.

Mr. Myers further explained that Grand Traverse County contracts services out, and they just recently lost the services of Benzie County. They are trying to expand, but the communication regarding this has been really bad, creating a big division.

Another Commissioner asked if other counties are passing resolutions like this also. Mr. Myers explained that yes, they are currently in the drafting stages, but plan to.

Another Commissioner asked if Mr. Myers supported this resolution. He said he did.

One Commissioner questioned why this Resolution was brought directly to the Board. It was explained that the Veteran's Committee supported this and requested the Board approve it.

Mr. Myers further explained that he had asked to see the application that was sent to the State and he was told no by Grand Traverse County. One Commissioner then questioned why Wexford County did not apply for this grant and why we were being reactive instead of proactive. After a debate, Comm Bengelink requested to call to question with a second from Comm Theobald.

**Roll Call for the call to question; Passed 8-0.**

**Roll Call; Motion to approve the resolution passed 7-1 with Comm Hurlburt voting against the motion and noting that he would not support anything that opposes helping veterans.**

**Administrator's Report-**

Administrator Koch explained that the engineers have been at the jail doing more testing. The issues have not become clear cut yet. She reminded the Board the roof is guaranteed until October, and the engineers are fully aware of our timeline.

She informed the Board that the Lake Street parking lot did not show any elevation change, which was good news. The next step is to wait for bids.

She also explained that one of the requirements of the Recreational Passport Grant application is an open house. More information will be coming on that.

**Correspondence-** *None.*

**Public Comments-**

Steve Bujalski, Wexford Count Airport, is hosting a special event that upcoming Saturday at 9am to honor World War II Veterans. He invited all area veterans to attend.

Joe Porterfield announced that next week he will be at a conference speaking. He announced that he was appointed as the President of the Michigan Association of Equalization Directors. He also wanted the Board to know that it was his intention to renegotiate his wages and would be bringing that to the HR Committee when appropriate.

**Liaison Reports-**

Comm Townsend attended a Networks Northwest meeting where they discussed ARPA funding. They also had a discussion on short term rentals. The State is trying to set and trying to gain control.

Comm Benglink commented that he receives complaints from his constituents regarding short term rentals.

Comm Nichols attended a District 10 Health Department meeting where the focus was covid and the new strain.

**Board Comments-**

Comm Townsend commented about how great the meeting was and how happy he was with the discussions held. He thanked Steve for updating on the airport and events.

Comm Bengelink commented about the adjustments made with wages. He explained that we cannot continue on that path. The legacy cost of these increases is over \$100,000 per

year. Budget time is the time to address those issues. He also read a quote from Clarence Darrell.

Comm Bush stated he hoped Travis Baker has plans for this upcoming strain of the new delta variant. He hoped we were ready on day one.

Comm Nichols commented regarding the few committee changes. She has concerns with some of the committees having the same members on them. She would like to see each commissioner equitably represent their areas. She also explained that he no vote was to the process, not the person.

Comm Potter thanked Joe Porterfield for all that he does.

Comm Hurlburt commended Comm Bengelink on his call to order. He also commented that he was happy to see Comm Bush make the comment about being proactive. He also commented that Wexford County should have applied for the grant despite what the chair stated. He will not support anything that opposes helping veterans.

**Chairman's Comments-**

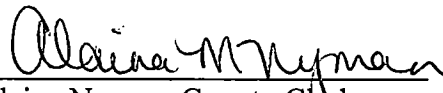
Comm Taylor thanked everyone for coming.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nichols to adjourn at 5:02 p.m.**

**All in favor.**

  
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Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
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Alaina Nyman, County Clerk