

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, August 18, 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-none

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None.*

Presentation and Reports-

Tiffany Jones and Larry Czelusta appeared from the Conservation District. Tiffany said the annual tree sale was a success and there seems to be a revival in tree planting. They held workshops at the Missaukee Conservation District and also on their farm. New this year was a native plant sale at the farmer's market. Partnered with Misty Ridge Greenhouse using all local plants.

Larry Czelusta, Assistant Forester covering Wexford, Missaukee and Kalkaska counties. He assists are landowners at no charge-with planting, timber harvest, forest health, insect and disease assessment. Also helps administer the states Qualified Forests Program which helps landowners reduce property taxes. Has been working on converting abandoned tree farms into something productive. He also assisted the federal Government identify exotic insects found in pallets at a local factory. Also assisted with gypsy moth devastation.

One commissioner asked about 10 Road and 31 and what the future holds for that area. Larry mentioned one landowner in that area will be replanting.

Commissioner Bengelink thanked Larry for his help with the gypsy moth devastation.

Public Comment- *None.*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the August 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. HR Office Set-Up

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Hurlburt to approve the second-floor copy room become the location of the new HR Office and no more than \$4,000 for the office set-up.

One Comm questioned where the funding was coming from for the position. Another Comm stated the General Fund. The original Comm then questioned where funds would come from for training if needed. Clerk Nyman stated that it would be funded by the General Fund but per the Finance Committee the HR position would have its own budget-also out of the General Fund.

A third Comm then asked Jami Bigger, HR Coordinator, if she has a degree in Human Resources -Jami stated that she has a degree in Business but has had classes related to Human Resources.

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

2. Drone Insurance

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the purchase of drone insurance at a cost not to exceed \$2810.00.

One Commissioner questioned permission would be needed from the airport board for the drone to be able to fly near the airport-another Comm stated that Travis Baker is licensed by the FAA.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. Clam River Dam Repair

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve paying half the cost to repair the dam in an amount not to exceed \$3,030.

Roll Call: Motion approved 9-0.

4. Resolution 21-24 Secondary Road Patrol Grant Application

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 21-24 Supporting Wexford County Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention Program Grant Application.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

5. Budget Amendment

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the budget amendment dated 8/18/2021.

8/18/2021

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

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
	101.101.699.0			
20210803	0	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,803	a.
	101.426.931.0			
	0	Equipment Maintenance & Repair One-time payment to cover the insurance on the Drone		\$2,803
	101.890.999.1			
20210804	0	Reserve/Other		(\$3,050) b.
	101.275.931.0			
	0	Equipment Maintenance & Repair Clam River Dam repair		\$3,050

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report-none

Correspondence- American Red Cross Volunteers Needed

Public Comments- none

Liaison Reports-

Comm Townsend-had wonderful library board meeting in Mesick-he provided the food and invited all to attend next August.

Comm Bengelink-attended a Lake Mitchell Improvement Board meeting-EMS issue that they are working on is being resolved favorably-more to come on that.

Comm Bush-CAMA meeting next week-they will see what places they can visit.

Board Comments-

Comm Potter-commented that in a time when we are having a hard time finding and keeping good employees he was happy to hear that Jami accepted the HR position and thinks she will do a great job.

Comm Hurlburt seconded Comm Potters statement and said he is excited to see Jami in the new position and thinks she will do a heck of a job.

Comm Townsend-mentioned that the Cadillac Airport is having a Wings and Wheels event on 8/28/2021 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Family friendly event.

Comm Bengelink gave a quote from Milton Freedman

Comm Nichols congratulated Jami on the new position-she thinks everyone knows she was concerned about how the position came about and hopes that in the future all of the commissioners can be included in the discussion so that they aren't blindsided in meetings. Also mentioned attending the Veterans WWII event at the airport and meeting the airport director.

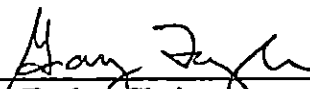
Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor thanked everyone for coming and congratulated Jami on her new position.

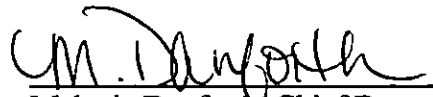
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Melanie Danforth, Chief Deputy Clerk