



Wexford County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary Taylor, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Room of the Historic Courthouse in Cadillac, MI, 49601.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting can be attended in person or 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
- G. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS
- 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 November 17, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes 1
- 2. Appointments to Standing and Special Committees.....5

J. AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. POAM-Non 312 Collective Bargaining Agreement.....6
- 2. Resolution 21-31 Extending Appreciation to Kent Myers.....7
- 3. Resolution 21-32 COVID-19 Extended Leave.....9
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- 5. ORV Grant Agreement.....13
- 6. Equalization Director 2022/2023 Wage Increase.....16

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.

7. Budget Amendment(s).....17
K. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT.....18
L. CORRESPONDENCE.....19-20
M. PUBLIC COMMENTS
N. LIAISON REPORTS
O. BOARD COMMENTS
P. CHAIR COMMENTS
Q. ADJOURN

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, November 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 (via zoom), Gary Taylor, Judy Nichols, Brian Potter.

Absent- None

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Delete J.2-POAM Non-312 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition- *None.*

Presentation and Reports-

Jim Blackburn and Drew Polak from Weadock and Associates discussed the changes in our health insurance coverage. They have worked diligently and shopped around to make sure our employees are taken care of and at a reasonable price. The coverage will not change this year and the cost will be roughly 5 percent higher than last year.

Public Comment-*None.*

Consent Agenda

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

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Health Insurance Rates for 2022

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the recommendation maintaining the County's current health insurance plans at a 5.4% cost increase.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. MiSAIL Agreement

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the contract for State of Michigan compensation for 2021 aerial imagery.

Joe Porterfield discussed that the State of Michigan approached him about their intent to do some aerial imagery of the county and wondering if Wexford County wanted to buy in. He let them know that we had recently taken some aerial images and they offered to purchase the images. They are willing to pay \$12,000.00 to use the images. A Comm asked how much it had cost us to take the images and Joe stated about \$45,000.00 but that the Road Commission and Dispatch is paying a portion of the cost.

Another Comm asked if we have certain companies that want to purchase the images and Joe said that we have some established companies that usually want to purchase the images.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0

4. MIDC Agreement

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission contract for October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

5. EMPG Agreement 2022

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the MSP Emergency Management Grant agreement CFDA 97.042 for fiscal year 2021 and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

6. Wex Dehumidifier

MOTION by Comm Potter, seconded by Comm Nichols to begin the Request for Proposal process for a Wex ice arena dehumidifier, with the project funding to come from ARPA funds.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0

7. Budget Amendment

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the budget amendment dated 11/17/2021.

11/17/2021

J.7.

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

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense	
20211101	101.290.677.00	Misc Income	\$3,443		a.
	101.290.727.02	Copy Supplies		\$	
	Charge back to Dept. for paper usage			3,443	

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Koch was not in attendance.

Correspondence- none

Public Comments- none

Liaison Reports-

Comm Potter mentioned he has attended a Downtown Development Authority meeting and hopes to have some good news coming out of that soon.

Comm Townsend mentioned he had attended both a library meeting and also an airport meeting.

Comm Bush said he attended a Cadillac Area Manufacturers Association Meeting in Copemish last week.

Comm Nichols said she attended a meeting at MSU Extension. Shari Spoelman has retired but they have a gentleman as interim Director and are moving forward.

Board Comments-

Comm Townsend wished Comm Theobald well and hopes she gets better.

Comm Bengelink mentioned the County had received 8 applications for the Deputy Scholarship Program and gave a work from home tip.

Comm Bush wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Comm Theobald said she can't wait to be back.

Comm Nichols thanked everyone for attending and asked for a prayer for the Finstrom family.

Comm Potter thanked Jim and Drew from Weadock and Associates for the short presentation and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor thanked everyone for coming.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:13 p.m.

All in favor.

Gary Taylor, Chairperson

Melanie Danforth, Chief Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM

FROM: HR/Public Safety Committee
FOR MEETING DATE: December 1, 2021
SUBJECT: Appointments to Standing and Special Committees, Boards, and Commissions Expiring December 31, 2021

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

Several appointments to Standing and Special Committees, Boards and Commissions will expire on December 31, 2021. Information concerning Standing and Special Committees is posted on the county website, along with term expiration dates. All incumbents were contacted regarding reappointment. One applicant for the 911 Advisory Board and one for the Cadillac Wexford Public Library Board are being proposed. The following are vacancies: 911 Advisory (1), Transit Authority (1), Airport Authority (1), Networks Northwest (1), and Community Corrections Board (2).

Committee, Board,

<u>Commission, or Authority</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
911 Advisory Committee	Adam Ottejepka	December 31, 2024
911 Advisory Committee	Sheriff Trent Taylor	December 31, 2024
911 Advisory Committee	Molly Whetstone (<i>new</i>)	December 31, 2024
AA	Craig Hewitt	December 31, 2023
CWPL	Lindsay Rumohr (<i>new</i>)	December 31, 2026
CWTA	Rosanne Denny	December 31, 2023
CWTA	Eleanor Sosenko	December 31, 2023
VSC	Jack Baughan	December 31, 2025
WCRC	Jim Leggett	December 31, 2027
WMCCAB	Melissa Ransom	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Kristie Hatinger	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	William Barnett	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Will Yancer	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Judge Jason Elmore	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Adam Ottejepka	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Charles Kennard	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Laura O'Dell	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	David Denhouten	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Sheriff Trent Taylor	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Judge Audrey VanAlst	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Cassandra Bugai	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Bob Champion	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Dean Smallegan	December 31, 2023
WMCCAB	Judge William Fagerman....	December 31, 2023

911 = 911 Advisory Committee	AA = Airport Authority
CWPL = Cadillac Wexford Public Library Board	CWTA = Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority
VSC = Veterans Services Committee	WCRC = Wexford County Road Commission
WMCCAB = Wexford/Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board	

RECOMMENDATION:

The HR/PS Committee recommends the full board approve the committee's selections as noted in their meeting minutes of November 23, 2021.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Janet Koch, Administrator
FOR MEETING DATE: December 1, 2021
SUBJECT: POAM Non-312 Collective Bargaining Agreement

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

The Collective Bargaining Agreement for the POAM Non-312 includes Corrections, Animal Control and Administrative Assistants in the Sheriff's Office.

Legal counsel has presented the ratification summary to the union's business agent; a vote is expected before the end of November. If the union approves the ratification summary before the December 1, 2021 board meeting, the summary will be provided to the commissioners for consideration at the meeting, along with a resolution prepared by legal counsel.

RECOMMENDATION:

If the TA and Resolution arrive in time for consideration by the board, approve the tentative agreement through the resolution.

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 first day of December 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-31
EXTENDING APPRECIATION FOR
KENT MYERS' DEDICATED SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners would like to personally thank Kent Myers for his commitment to Wexford County for over the past four years. Kent worked with dedication and pride to meet the needs of Wexford County; and

WHEREAS, Kent began his career with Wexford County on March 8, 2017 as the Director of Veterans Services serving Wexford County; and

WHEREAS, Kent came to Veterans Services after retiring from a 20 year career in the Coast Guard, as well as serving 5 years in the Navy; and

WHEREAS, Kent prioritized Veterans Services involvement with area Veterans and taught classes that helped them in many ways, such as Aid and Attendance, Burial Benefits, Veterans Pension, etc.; and

WHEREAS, under Kent's leadership the New Freedom Ride as well as the first Veterans Expo were brought to life; and

WHEREAS, Kent worked to establish a human services presence in the Veterans office and brought in programs that have helped veterans and the community; and

WHEREAS, Kent has done many things for Veterans in Wexford County including to help Veterans navigate through claims, emergency assistance, process applications, manage the county's veterans burial allowance program, and get Veterans connected with VA health care services; and

WHEREAS, during this time he also was involved in getting free counseling to the Veterans, i.e., Mike Coonan, through the MVAA Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners wishes you the best in your future endeavors and once again thanks you for your efforts for over the past four years while you served Wexford County as a very dedicated and appreciated employee.

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 21-31 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Wexford County at a regular meeting held on December 15, 2021, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Human Resources/Public Safety Committee
FOR MEETING DATE: December 1, 2021
SUBJECT: 2022 COVID-19 Leave

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

In March of 2020, the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) created 80 hours of paid leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19 for eligible employees. There were 34 Wexford County employees who used 1,431 hours of COVID leave in 2020. As part of the FFCRA, this leave terminated on December 31, 2020.

There was no similar 2021 COVID-19 leave mandated by the federal government. However, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners acknowledged that, given the prevalence of COVID-19, providing additional 2021 COVID leave would increase the stability of County operations and increase the safety of County employees and the general public. On February 3, 2021, the Board generously approved up to an additional 80 hours of COVID-related leave for eligible employees. There were 51 Wexford County employees who used 2,130 hours of COVID leave in 2021.

At a recent department head meeting, it was noted that COVID will be with us for some time to come, and that quarantine recommendations/requirements may change. Currently, the CDC recommends quarantining for those with a close contact if not vaccinated, or if vaccinated and showing symptoms.

On November 23, 2021 the HR/PS Committee approved a motion recommending that the full board approve eighty hours of 2022 COVID leave. Administration drafted Resolution 21-32, which was sent to the HR Director and the Clerk’s Office for review. 21-32 is a revision of Resolution 21-06, which was recommended by legal counsel for approval of the 2021 COVID leave.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Resolution 21-32 Temporary Emergency Covid-19 Leave Benefits.

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 first day of December 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-32
TEMPORARY EMERGENCY COVID-19 LEAVE BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19 Pandemic, in March 2020 Congress approved and the President signed House Resolution 6201, the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (FFCRA), which included the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA); and

WHEREAS, EPLSA benefits were offered to FFCRA eligible full time Wexford County employees and to part time Wexford County employees on a pro rata basis; and

WHEREAS, the statutory EPLSA benefits expired on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2021, in light of the fact that Congress had not reauthorized or mandatorily extended the EPSLA, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners recognized the need for emergency temporary COVID-19 leave and authorized up to eighty hours of Temporary Emergency COVID-19 leave to eligible full time County Employees and part time employees on a pro rata basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the need for additional emergency temporary COVID-19 leave benefit in 2022 due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic; the fact that Congress has not reauthorized or mandatorily extended the 2020 EPSLA; and to foster and support prudent decisions by staff to treat or quarantine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes for 2022 the grant of up to eighty (80) hours of paid Temporary Emergency COVID-19 Leave to eligible full time County Employees and part time employees on a pro rata basis to be administered by the County pursuant to the eligibility and procedural requirements of the expired EPSLA leave. This additional County-provided leave is non-cumulative with leave granted or utilized in calendar year 2022; does not carry over from one year to the next; and, unused Temporary Emergency COVID-19 Leave is not subject to payout to employees or upon separation from employment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this authorization shall automatically terminate when the COVID-19 Pandemic is over, or December 31, 2022, upon Congress mandatorily extending/reauthorizing or providing a replacement to, in whole or in part, the expiring leave provisions of the EPSLA, or upon action by the Board of Commissioners terminating or amending this Resolution, whichever date is soonest.

If Congress does act to provide extended to replacement COVID leave benefits to eligible County employees, then the provision of leave for eligible County employees shall be exclusively governed by and subject to the requirements, terms, conditions, and procedures provided by applicable law and/or appropriate collective bargaining agreement leave provisions (for unit employees) or County leave policies (for non-unit employees).

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 foregoing is a true and complete copy of Resolution 21-32 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Wexford County at a regular meeting held on December 1, 2021, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Finance Committee
FOR MEETING DATE: December 1, 2021
SUBJECT: 2022 Non-Union Wages

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

The collective bargaining agreements approved by the Board of Commissioners in 2021 for the Technical, Professional, and Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM): General Courthouse Unit and TPOAM: Administrative and Supervisors Unit included wage increases of \$1.00/hour for all levels in 2022, a \$0.50/hour wage increase in 2023 and a \$0.50/hour wage increase in 2024. The contract for the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Non-312 Unit is currently under negotiation.

2020-2022 collective bargaining agreements (for Dispatch and POAM 312) included the same type of general wage increases, as did the Command Officers Association of Michigan 2021-2023 agreement.

In addition to union employees, the County also has many non-union employees and six elected officials. On December 5, 2018, following the ratification of collective bargaining agreement for the TPOAM units and the POAM Non-312 Unit, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to implement the same base wage increases in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for Wexford County non-union and appointed employees.

RECOMMENDATION:

Finance Committee recommends to the full board for approval wage increases for full time and part time non-union employees and elected officials that mirror the 2022-2024 union contracts; exceptions would be judges, whose rate of pay is determined by the State of Michigan, and any employee who has an individual contractual agreement with the County.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: Finance Committee
FOR MEETING DATE: December 1, 2021
SUBJECT: FY 2021 ORV Grant Agreement

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

The ORV Grant Agreement for FY 2021 in the amount of \$17,000 is attached for consideration. This amount is the same as last year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Finance Committee is recommending the Full Board approve the ORV grant agreement.



FY 2021-22 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT AGREEMENT

By authority of Part 811 Off-Road Vehicles, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

This Agreement is between the Department of Natural Resources for, and on behalf of, the State of Michigan (DEPARTMENT) and the Wexford County Federal Tax Identification Number 38-6007337 (GRANTEE).

- 1. The Agreement period is October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.
2. The GRANTEE has been approved by the DEPARTMENT to receive Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Law Enforcement funding for the following scope of work:
a. ORV law enforcement and related activities with emphasis on the state-designated ORV trail system and other public land.
b. ORV law enforcement program operating expenses.
c. Contractual services, supplies and materials (CSS&M), including purchase of personal gear, such as boots, gloves, goggles, uniforms, and first aid kits; purchase of parts for equipment used in the program and cost of labor for installation or repair work; purchase of electronics and associated items costing \$1,000 or less each.
d. Purchase of the following equipment for ORV law enforcement purposes: None

- 3. The DEPARTMENT agrees as follows:
a. To grant to the GRANTEE a sum of money up to 100 percent of the total eligible cost of ORV law enforcement and related activities, operating expenses and CSS&M, but not to exceed Seventeen thousand Dollars \$ 17000
b. To grant to the GRANTEE a sum of money up to 100 percent of the total eligible cost of equipment purchased for ORV law enforcement purposes and authorized under item 2.d. in this Agreement, but not to exceed None Dollars \$

- 4. This Agreement shall be administered on behalf of the DEPARTMENT through Parks and Recreation Division (PRD).
a. All reports, documents, or actions required of the GRANTEE are to be submitted to PRD, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, MI 48909-7757.
b. The GRANTEE'S contact for this grant is:

Name Title

Address

City, State, ZIP

Telephone No. FAX No.

E-mail

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) LAW ENFORCEMENT
GRANT AGREEMENT

5. The GRANTEE may not assign or transfer any interest in this Agreement to any other agency, group or individual.
6. To receive reimbursement under this Agreement, the GRANTEE shall submit a completed State Aid Voucher (form PR1988-2) along with required documentation of expenditures and an activity report to the DEPARTMENT by October 15, 2022.
7. The Agreement may be executed separately by the parties. This Agreement is not effective until:
 - a) the GRANTEE has signed it and returned it, and
 - b) the DEPARTMENT has signed it.

The individuals signing for the parties indicated below certify by their signatures that they have the authority to do so and will ensure the terms of the Agreement are fulfilled.

GRANTEE

Name (Print) _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Name (Print) _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this completed, signed agreement to:

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
PROGRAM SERVICES SECTION
P.O. BOX 30257
LANSING MI 48909-7757**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FROM: FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FOR MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2021
SUBJECT: **EQUALIZATION DIRECTOR 2022/2023 WAGE INCREASE**

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

2022 and 2023 wage increase for the Equalization Director.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion for full board approval of 2022 wage increase in the amount of \$4,950 and 2023 wage increase in the amount of \$7,151.50 for the Equalization Director.

12/1/2021

J.7

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

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense	
20211201	274.000.390.00	Fund Balance	\$11,000		a.
	274.000727.00	Office Supplies		\$ 11,000	
	MSUE Moving Costs.				



K.

Administrator's Report to the BOC

For the meeting of December 1, 2021

Completed Projects/Tasks

FOIA Requests: The Administration Office received 20 new Freedom of Information requests between November 1 and November 24.

Current Projects/Tasks

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act): The Board has until December 31, 2024 to obligate the funds and until the end of 2026 to expend the funds. US Treasury's Final Rules have, at the time of this writing, not yet been released. The latest information is that the Final Rules will be available at some point in 2022, which is not high on the helpful scale.

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding – Courts Round Two Funding: An application, reviewed by the judges, was submitted ahead of the deadline. We have not yet received information on approval/denial of the application.

Year End Tasks: There are a number of things that happen toward the end of every fiscal year. These include submittals to the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (and uploading to the website) of the County's projected budget, performance dashboard, Citizen's Guide, and debt service report. These submittals are required in order to receive the FY 2022 CIP payments from the State. Another task is projecting departmental budgets of wages and benefits, accrued to December 31, to ensure that departmental budgets do not end in the negative. That task typically occupies nearly all of my time the last two weeks of December.

Additional Notes/Meetings

Michigan Association of Counties – Statewide County Administrator's Meeting: This meeting, held on November 18, was virtual. Much of the discussion circled around the pending opioid settlements and that there are many details regarding the settlements yet to be determined. What is known is that the settlement arrangement distributes the allocations over a period of 18 years, and that the annual distributions will not necessarily be the same every year. Expenditures will, of course, be required to meet eligibility requirements.

One additional point made by MAC staff was that there does not seem to be any real chance that the legislature will extend a virtual meeting option of the Open Meetings Act using a declaration of a state of emergency past the current sunset of December 31, 2021.

OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS)/MISOSHA Rules: Though the ETS has been stayed, resulting in a stay at the state level, the possibility exists that the stay will be lifted and that the rules will become effective.

Legal counsel has provided a template policy whose intent is to keep the County in compliance. Jami Bigger, HR Director, and I will complete the draft policy and have it ready to present to the Board of Commissioners for consideration if the need to have such a policy arises.

Current Career Opportunities at Wexford County:

- Assistant Public Defender - position open until filled
- Corrections Officer - positions open until filled
- Deputy Treasurer II - application due November 29
- Dispatcher - position open until filled

Respectfully,
Janet Koch, County Administrator



NMRE Response to Senate Bills 597 & 598

Received by Wexford County

NOV 22 2021

Administrative Office

As a society, we have seen firsthand the devastation the pandemic has had on the mental and behavioral health of our communities. It has also shined a light on the critical gaps in the current behavioral health system and, while Michigan mental health care is among the best in the nation, there is no doubt that more needs to be done.

Unfortunately, this crisis has also created opportunism by commercial insurers and others who claim they have the cure for "Michigan's broken behavioral health system". They blame the publicly governed behavioral health system for the lack of access to necessary services that should already be available by the same commercial insurers and Michigan's privately managed Medicaid Health Plans (MHP).

In Senate Bills 597 and 598, introduced by Senator Mike Shirkey (R) and supported by Senator John Bizon, MD (R), the state would contract with private insurance companies, which are often owned outside of the state of Michigan, to provide a Medicaid health care benefit package that includes the full integration of physical and behavioral services, including those managed by local governmental entities. This type of privatization of behavioral health services leaves the counties, their Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) and other safety net providers that work most closely with patients out of the governance and financing role. This plan would also place behavioral health services behind - or in competition with - overall healthcare spending managed at the hands of large insurance companies - insurers that arguably have a monopoly and currently do not handle non-medical social supports that assist individuals living with substance abuse disorder, mental health diagnosis or intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Supporters of this bill also express concerns with an outdated Community Mental Health system struggling, or even failing, to meet mental health needs.

However, there is a side to this story that needs to be heard: The Northern Michigan Regional Entity, essentially owned and governed by the 21 counties in Northern Lower Michigan through their respective CMHSPs, has effectively serves nearly 19,000 individuals annually. Additionally, as the fiduciary responsible for the 21 counties, NMRE and its five member Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs), **manage over \$200 million in Medicaid funding and federal block grant funding. These entities employ or contract approximately 3,000 individuals across the 21-county region. The NMRE's funding, unlike for profit or non-for-profit commercial insurance plans, goes directly to services or back to the state of Michigan tax payers.**

Integrated physical and behavioral health care throughout Northern Lower Michigan exists because of Northern Michigan Regional Entity.

A leader in the state of Michigan for on the ground integrated behavioral and physical healthcare initiatives, NMRE has reinforced cost savings and increased benefits for the individuals we serve through partnering and adopting programs. Programs such as the Behavioral Health Homes Initiative, which began as a pilot in 2014. Building off that success and based on locally identified need, in 2018

the NMRE was also the first region in the state to start an Opioid Health Home to serve and combat the identified opioid crisis. Over the past several years, commercial insurers looked to us as a model and requested access to our network of resources we have provided for more than 50 years. This is especially important in rural areas of Michigan, as there is no competitive provider base; NMRE's network includes payors and providers to manage services for our local communities. These programs provide physical and behavioral health services coordination to all of the 19,000 people we serve, and the Opioid and Behavioral Health Homes alone have generated nearly \$1,000,000 in overall healthcare savings per year that goes back to the State of Michigan.¹

As best stated in a memo from the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Sheriff Association, the Michigan Judges Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan to Senate Majority Leader Shirkey & Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee opposing Senate Bills 597 and 598: "Thousands of families across the State of Michigan depend on the public mental health system for affordable, accessible care. The changes being suggested at the legislative level do very little to improve care and access for people with a mental illness or addiction. The proposal focuses solely on the administrative / managed care level, not the direct service level, and the suggested changes could in fact hurt individuals receiving the care they need at a time when so many across our state are struggling, vulnerable and in need of support".

"Our organizations want to express our support for Michigan's public mental health system and its strong local collaboration and problem-solving approach. Local law enforcement, judiciary, and prosecutors across Michigan have been in partnership with the Community Mental Health centers (CMHSPs and PIHPs) in their communities for years".

Throughout Northern Michigan, we have been steadfast in our efforts to support our neighbors battling mental and behavioral health crises. While we are grateful to see legislators taking note of this important issue, we are disheartened in the approach being taken to address the faults in the system.

"Where you live should not determine access to mental health care and mental health care, like all health care, must reflect how people live their lives," says Shirkey. On that, we can agree. But we also need to recognize that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work for Michigan. We must empower our local mental and behavioral health care leaders who have been invested in the people of their community for more than 50 years to continue doing the work they're equipped to do. Allow them the resources necessary to effectively do their jobs. Give them the ability to administer care holistically. Moving funding from public to private isn't the solution. What is? Backing those that have been doing the work all along, and giving them the ability to manage funding and care in a way that best benefits society.

Please use the following link to contact your State Senator.

https://senate.michigan.gov/senatorinfo_list.html

¹ Milliman study