

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, October 6, 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

Delete J.1 Closed Session

Add J.10 Community Corrections Grant Agreement; J.11 Administration Staff Request;
J.12 9-11 Authority

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- Sara Merz, GIS Department for 10 years. Ms. Merz was not in attendance to receive her award, but it will be given to her. Theresa Ladd, Probate Court for 10 years. Ms. Ladd was present to accept her award. Becky Huttenga, Dispatch for 15 years. Ms. Huttenga was not present to accept her award, but it will be given to her.

Presentation and Reports- *None.*

Public Comment- *None.*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the September 15th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

2. FY 2022 Proposed Budget

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nichols to approve holding a
Public Hearing on the 2022 budget on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm.**

Administrator Koch gave some highlights of the proposed budget. She mentioned a few areas for the commissioners to take a closer look at. She also mentioned that the commissioners still need to decide how to use federal funds. Administrator Koch also mentioned several vehicles planned to be purchased and what they would be used for.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. AES Allocation Request

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to approve a one-year agreement beginning January 1, 2022 with Alliance for Economic Success in the amount of \$15,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

4. MGT of America-Dashboard Requirement

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the three-year Consulting Services Agreement with MGT for the 2021 Citizens Guide and Performance Dashboard and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Motion approved 9-0.

5. Building Department Relocation

MOTION by Comm Hurlburt, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the relocation of the Building Department in 2022 to the former MSUE Office along with all the associated costs.

A commissioner mentioned that he walked the MSUE office and that there is substantially more room and that that room is much needed.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

6. Policy C-1.0 Communication with Legal Counsel

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the update to Policy C-1.0, Communication with Legal Counsel to include the Human Resource Director.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0

7. TPOAM General CBA Ratification/Resolution 21-27

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to approve Resolution 21-27, a Resolution to Ratify the Tentative Agreement for the TPOAM Courthouse Unit.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

8. TPOAM Supervisor CBA Ratification/Resolution 21-28

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve a Resolution to Ratify the Tentative Agreement for the TPOAM Administrative and Supervisors Unit.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0

9. **Budget Amendments**-none

10. Community Corrections Grant Agreement

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nichols to approve the FY 2022 Community Corrections Grant Agreement, CPS-2022-1-33, in the amount of \$120,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

11. Administration Staff Request

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Musta to approve the hiring of two part time Administrative Assistants in the Administration Office through the end of 2021.

A Comm questioned where this came about. A Comm commented that the Administrator has interviewed two very good candidates and the thought is to hire both as part time with the intention of making one full time next year and this way, they can be trained at the same time.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-1 with Comm Theobald voting against.

12. 911 Authority

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to approve starting the process of changing the 911 Committee to a 911 Authority.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Koch gave an update on union contract status. Commissioners approved two contracts tonight, we are still waiting on the Corrections contract.

Lake street parking lot project will not be able to be done this year. There are some older deeds that need to be sorted out by the engineer. We have switched over from At&T to Telnet, that went well. ARPA reporting requirements deadline changed from October 31st to January 31, 2022. New chairs for the Circuit Courtroom will arrive next week.

Correspondence- none

Public Comments- Caitlyn Berard from the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce had mentioned that she has been able to speak one on one with several of the commissioners that that she feel this is a very personable and efficient group. She looks forward to working with the county in the future.

Don Koschmider, 576 Sara Street, Cadillac. He wanted to reach out to community leaders and let them know that we are under attack with Covid. Patients are given a drug that is causing liver failure and causing lungs to fill up with fluid. Don wanted to warn others of potential dangers of this medicine. He wanted people to be aware that other treatments are available. He also mentioned that he watches Alex Jones on ROKU and encouraged others to watch as well.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Nichols attended a Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency meeting, and they are looking at assessing the board members. She also went to a Cedar Creek meeting last night. A long-time liaison member will be leaving, and that person's position will be filled with two people.

Comm Hurlburt updated the Commission on an issue that was raised by Dan O'Riley at a previous board meeting. He told the board that Haring Township will be covering 1/3 of the cost of repaving 16th street, the road commission will be covering 1/3 of the cost and then the residents will be responsible for 1/3 of the cost. He also mentioned meeting with Paul from EMS. EMS wants to make some repairs to the building on Cobb Street. MMR wants to pay for the repairs. Administrator Koch will look into similar contracts and how we have handled that in the past.

Comm Theobald mentioned that DHS is currently at 9 employees in the building due to Covid. She mentioned that they are in desperate need of foster parents and asked that if anyone knows someone interested, have them get in touch with DHS.

Board Comments-

Comm Potter wanted to take a minute to recognize the Board Chair for all of the effort that he puts into the Board. He suggested that next year when wages are discussed for the 2023 Board Chair, they should look at increasing the difference in the pay between the Chair and the other Commissioners.

Comm Townsend wanted to thank Caitlyn Berard for being at the meeting and mentioned that she is doing a great job bringing the community together to improve housing in our area.

Comm Bengelink shared a quote from Theodore Roosevelt.

Comm Theobald mentioned that she really appreciates all the policy updates and that she agrees with Comm Potter regarding the Board Chair.

Comm Nichols mentioned that it has been a long time since the pay rates for a board member have been increased. She asked that it be considered to take another look at the

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wages. Also, she is looking forward to hearing about the MAC Conference and also hopes that other Commissioners will have an opportunity to attend the conference in the future.


Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor thanked everyone for coming.

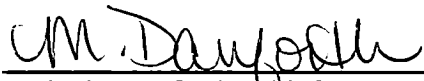
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:31 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Melanie Danforth, Chief Deputy Clerk