

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, August 17, 2022

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

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Joe Hurlburt, Mike Musta, Ben Townsend, Kathy Adams, Michael Bush, Julie Theobald, Jason Baughan, Brian Potter and Gary Taylor.

Absent- *None*.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Added J0-Rehmann 2021 Audit Report-Steve Peacock

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None*.

Presentation and Reports-

Heidi Gustine from the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan presented the Board with their 2021 fiscal year report. She noted that they haven't been able to present to the Board since before the pandemic. In that time, they have seen an increase in services, due mostly to Baby Boomers. They increased from 20% to 27%. They are also anticipating a continued increase in demands in the years to come.

Ms. Gustine explained to the Board that they are a pass through organization as far as funding goes. They receive the money and pass it through to specific services for use. In 2021 they were granted nearly \$2 million.

Public Comment-

Jason Ball, Cadillac, started off by congratulating the Board members on the primary election wins. He then shared grievances that he has with the Board. He noted that the Board meetings totaled 375 minutes, with the average being 25 minutes. After Commissioner Nichols stepped down, that average dropped to 18 minutes. There were a total of only 11 no votes and a total of 127 motions passed throughout those meetings. Mr. Ball then went on further to state that it appears as if outside meetings are happening, due to the lack of discussions happening during the meetings. He noted that he tried to pull the data on Committee meetings, but that information was not available online. He commented that Mr. Taylor never recused himself from voting on anything related to the Sheriff's Department, despite his brother being the Sheriff. He also reminded the Board

that Covid is still very much a real thing and Zoom is needed. He asked how Zoom could be a distraction if the meetings were so short to begin with.

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, played a video about food prices getting ready to rise. He asked that everyone prepare.

Audrey Van Alst appeared as the Chair for the Community Corrections Board. She asked if any members had questions on selling the transition houses. She also noted that she wouldn't be able to live without Community Corrections.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the August 3, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

0. Rehmann 2021 Audit Report-Steve Peacock

Steve Peacock, Rehmann, provided the Board with a full copy of the completed audit report. Before diving into the report, he noted that the audit report came back with a clean opinion, which is the highest level.

He commented on several areas of the report, but highlighted that the Statement of Activities is a good indicator of good budgeting and cost management. He noted that the pension liability went down by about \$600,000, but he wanted to remind the Board that that will continue to change.

Overall, Mr. Peacock said the audit was unmodified and no material weaknesses were found. He also highlighted that no material adjustments were found this year.

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Musta to approve Wexford County's December 31, 2022 Financial Statements, and Independent Audit.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

1. Sale of Transition Houses

MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Adams to accept the recommendation of the Wexford Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board and place both transition houses up for sale with proceeds going into a fund reserve.

Roll Call: Motion approved 9-0.

2. Figura Law Agreement

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the agreement from Figura Law as it is presented and authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. Board of Commissioners Meetings Attendance via Zoom
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to discontinue the use of Zoom during Board meetings effective immediately.

Commissioner Hurlburt asked why would the Board want to get rid of the transparency.

Commissioner Theobald responded that the biggest reason for her was because of the distraction. She noted that she had been interrupted quite a few times during past meetings by users online. It was mentioned that those people should be muted.

The Clerk responded that muting participants has been founded to be a violation of Open Meetings Act, so that is the reason participants have not been muted.

Commissioner Townsend commented that he agrees with the openness of some sort of streaming. He agrees that Zoom is the worst, but he would like to see some sort of service. He suggested a YouTube streaming. He noted that a streaming service recently came in handy for a meeting he attended, where he was portrayed differently than what had happened. He asked that this motion be tabled until another service could be found. He requested that this be sent to Recreation and Building Committee to find another option.

Commissioner Theobald agreed that some sort of streaming service would be nice and would add it to a Rec & Building Agenda.

Commissioner Musta asked if we do completely go away with Zoom, if presenters would be able to present over Zoom instead of making the drive to our building. The Clerk explained that it would depend on how the meeting was published if Zoom needed to be opened up to the public. That would be looked into before making that decision.

Commissioner Townsend reiterated that he would like this decision to wait until there is another system in place. He felt we need to open up for the public, and he is more distracted by the clock on the wall than Zoom.

The Clerk also mentioned that she was asked by Rick Charmoli to let them know he also appreciates having the option of Zoom as a reporter.

Roll Call: Motion passed 5-4 with Commissioners Hurlburt, Townsend, Adams, and Baughan voting against the motion.

4. Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol Application
MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Adams to approve Resolution 22-21 Supporting Wexford County Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention Program Grant Application and authorize the Chair to sign the grant application on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

5. Budget Amendment
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the budget amendment dated August 17, 2022.

2022-08-17

Wexford County Board of Commissioners				
Amendments to the 2022 Budget				
Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
2022-08-01	101-287-980.00	ARPA Funds		(\$30,000.00)
	101-215-800.02	Microfilming	\$30,000.00	
Approved by the BOC 07/20/2022.				

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Joe Porterfield explained to the Board that budgets are almost all entered by Department Heads. He will be going to the Transition Houses to look at any repairs that might need to be done. He was also happy with the audit report, but he will be having a talk with Rehmann because he was not happy with the timing.

Correspondence- None.

Public Comments-

Jason Ball, Cadillac, thanked those members that voted against discontinuing Zoom. He felt that Open Meetings Act should be open. The grievances he does have and stated are all about the lack of transparency with the Commission. He commented that not having all of the minutes available to the public is a violation of the Open Meetings Act, which as Commissioners they should all be aware of. He doesn't feel the Commission is doing a good job.

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, suggested a book written by Alex Jones called “The Great Reset.” He noted that there is also a movie out called Covid Land that explains how people are dying from the vaccines. He hoped everyone watched Info Wars.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Townsend attended a library meeting in Mesick. He asked for prayers for Sandy Bengleink, who was unable to attend the meeting. He also reminded everyone of the magnificent Wings and Wheels at the Airport on August 27th.

Comm Adams attended a 911 Advisory meeting. They were thrilled the surcharge passed.

Comm Bush attended a CAMA meeting where they met with different manufacturers in the area.

Comm Theobald attended an Area Agency on Aging meeting, but most of the information came from Heidi. She did also mention that with the staff increases and rate increases they are in the hole currently and expected to be close to \$1 million by the end of the year. They are hoping that extra money being given to employees will generate more income.

Comm Potter attended a Clam Lake DDA meeting and making good progress.

Comm Taylor attended a Council on Aging meeting where they are working on their budget. He also been going to the Fair Grounds everyday.

Board Comments-

Comm Bush thanked everyone for their hard work.

Comm Theobald thanked everyone for their efforts on the audit. She thanked Jason for coming and speaking. She wanted to let him know minutes are always available in the Administration Office. She also thanked Don for coming and speaking. She knows it can't be easy for him to do, and he still comes and speaks.

Comm Potter also wanted to let everyone know that the Assistant Administrator confirmed that all minutes are also online. He noted that one of the number one priorities for Commissioners is to maintain a budget. He noted that Jami, Kristi, Joe and Alaina are doing the hard work to handle that. He stated that meetings are sped up because the Administrators prep all of the Commissioners, and all of the information they need is included in packets.

Comm Hurlburt was happy to see that Jason stayed through the meeting. He seconded that the packets are great and that they all have time to review their packets before the meeting. He noted that the issue with transparency shouldn't have passed. He noted that there are issues with quorums on our Board. The Executive Committee and the Finance Committee are identical. He noted that the HR Committee is made up of two members of the Finance and Executive Committees, and the vice chairman. He stated that only 4 or 5

people run the whole Board. Commissioner Potter was allowed to respond to Commissioner Hurlburt's comments and explained that to be on the Executive Committee, you have to be a chair of another Committee. He also stated that he has watched the Chair work hard to try and find replacements for Committees and liaison appointments and it isn't easy. He thought everyone on the Board had opinions and the Board was balanced. Commissioner Hurlburt went on to explain that's not how the public sees it. They look on the website and only see a few names as being apart of Committees.

Comm Musta was happy to see the county receive a gold star on the audit. It shows all the hard work that goes into that. He noted that Zoom isn't the best option for us. He is curious how all of our current equipment will interface with another option.

Comm Townsend was also happy with the audit. He is thankful for those that are involved. He noted that we are a Committee run County. The Committee meets and then it goes to the full Board. They review the minutes from the Committee before the meetings, and the Committees do the leg work. He didn't feel that anyone was kept in the dark.


Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor congratulated those involved on the audit. He said it shows the county is in good shape. He also thanked everyone for attending.

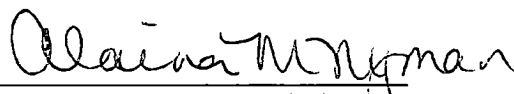
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina Nyman, County Clerk