

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, September 21, 2022

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

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

Absent- Commissioners Joe Hurlburt and Julie Theobald.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda- None.

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- None.

Presentation and Reports-None.

Public Comment-

Crystal Lake Johnson was speaking on behalf of Veterans Serving Veterans. They are hoping for additional time on the contract for the octagon building. She hoped the Board would approve the amendment.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. West Michigan Forensic Pathology Services Authority Appointment
3. Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan Appointment
4. Wexford County School Safety Committee

MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Musta to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Manton Library Agreement

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Adams to approve the Agreement for Subaward of Federal Financial Assistance ARPA, with the Friends the Manton Public Library in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 and authorize the chair to sign the attorney approved agreement on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Townsend commented that this would not have been possible without the efforts of Commissioner Bengelink and the ARPA Committee.

Commissioner Potter asked if the library was able to raise the funds needed for the rest of this project. Commissioner Townsend responded that they have not yet because costs have gone up since they began, but they are close.

Commissioner Bush questioned if the property has all been worked out, and it was believed it had been.

Roll Call: Motion approved 7-0.

2. MOU with Grand Traverse County re: NLCMH

MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the multi-county Memorandum of Understanding concerning Northern Lakes Community Mental Health and authorize the Chairman to sign the MOU on behalf of the county.

Administrator Porterfield explained that Grand Traverse County has directed their administrator to pull out of this contract. The recommendation was that the counties need to work together. He also noted that our attorney did review the agreement, and he would not change anything. He pointed it out that there was no financial obligation to the County, and this provided a plan if things were to fall apart.

Commissioner Townsend voiced concerns about the Committee violating the Open Meetings Act, specifically members of the Grand Traverse Board. He noted that certain members of the Grand Traverse Board were contacting other members to reach out to the chair to add things to the agenda. He stated there would be a special meeting to discuss Open Meetings Act and the rules to be followed.

He aired several concerns with the Grand Traverse members stepping beyond their means, and removing members from the board and replacing with people they felt would voter their way. He felt Grand Traverse was threatening to leave Northern Lakes to take control.

Commissioner Townsend also stated that he would love Grand Traverse to go out on their own, but admitted that at some point they would need to move forward. He asked for more time to do more research.

Roll Call: Motion failed 0-7.

3. Delinquent Water Bill Agreement

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Adams to approve the agreement allowing the owners of property 2309-27-2102 to make repayment of their delinquent water bills in the amount of \$50.00 per month for each connection

1720 and 1722 on N. Mackinaw Trail, totaling \$100.00, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

4. Land Purchases

MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Musta to approve the Administrator enter into a purchase agreement to purchase parcel 10-088-00-029-00 and 10-088-00-034-00 on Lincoln St. in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 each, with the money coming from ARPA funds.

Comm Townsend commented that this is a great deal, and the church should be commended for helping out.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

5. Sheriff's Office Rate Increase Request

MOTION by Comm Potter, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Sheriff's wage rate increase request, in the amount of \$3.00/hour for Deputy Sheriff's; \$2.00/hour for Correction Officers; and \$1.00/hour for Animal Control Officers and Administrative Assistants; and to remove 1.5 Sheriff's Deputies and 1.5 Corrections Officers from the employee roster, beginning September 25, 2022.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

6. Victim Rights Grant-Prosecutor's Office

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the grant agreement between MDHHS and Wexford County Prosecutor for Victim Rights for the period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, and authorize the Chairman to sign electronically.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

7. Octagon Building

MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the Amendment to Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Octagon Building dated August 5, 2022, extending the agreement to December 31, 2022, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report-

Joe Porterfield explained that he is continuing to work on the budget. He had just returned from the MAC Conference where one of the big issues discussed was juvenile housing. There may be a solution to this. Overall, he stated it was a good conference.

Correspondence-

1. DEQ-EGLE: Wexford County Landfill

Public Comments-

Trent Taylor thanked the Board for their actions tonight. He hoped it would go a long way with the bleeding at Lincoln Street. He appreciates the support the Board has always shown for them. He knows the employees appreciate it as well.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Potter gave a brief MAC report because he will not be at the next meeting, where he would normally give a full report. He noted that the juvenile housing solution they thought they might have found had fallen through. He also noted that this was the least attended conference since he has been a part of MAC.

Comm Musta attended a Wex Express meeting.

Comm Townsend attended a library meeting in Buckley that went great. He stated the library is doing an incredible job reaching all of those in the County. The Wings & Wheels event at the airport was also a huge success. They had over 3,000 people in attendance and more airplanes, helicopters, and even a jet.

Comm Bush attended an LPT meeting where they discussed Networks Northwest. He also attended a CAMA meeting in Leroy. He's excited that we will start seeing items at Wal-Mart now that are made in Leroy.

Comm Taylor attended a Counsel on Aging and Fair board meeting.

Board Comments-

Comm Townsend stated he appreciated the support on voting down the MOU. The Board will reluctantly have to move forward at least with discussions regarding this. This agreement at least give the option of getting out. He wanted to be clear that he is against who is proposing the MOU, not the NLCMH. He wants the program to succeed, but on the faith of all 6 counties.

Comm Adams thanked the administrators and the committee for helping her during her learning phase.

Comm Bush thanked everyone for the cards, prayers, and phone calls. He wished Julie a quick recovery.

Comm Baughan thanked Commissioner Townsend for his research and his exceptional job.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting* September 21, 2022

Comm Potter appreciated the passion tonight from Commissioner Townsend, and that it was well researched.

Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor attended several Northern Lakes meetings with Ben and the administrators, and he concurred with everything stated tonight. He also thanked everyone for attending.

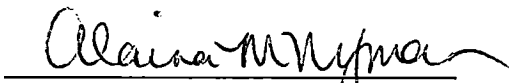
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Potter to adjourn at 4:33 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina Nyman, County Clerk