

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, November 07, 2022

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

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

Absent- Joseph Hurlburt

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added: J.10. *Resolution 22-27, and J.11. Resolution 22-28 Donation of Leave Time for Sheriff Department Employee*

Deleted: I.2.c. *Resignation from Wexford Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board, and J.8. Winter Semester Deputy Cadet Police Academy Sponsorship Discussion*

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None.*

Presentation and Reports-

Brian Martinus, Interim CEO for Northern Lakes Community Mental Health gave their annual presentation. He stated that Wexford County will be getting a 13% increase in the services budget which equates to roughly 2.1 million dollars. The request for services in Wexford County has increased by 10% and for children's services has increased 26%.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in favor.

Public Comment-

Jeanne Housler-Colfax Township- said she doesn't believe the Commissioner's proposed raise is justified. She stated that the board positions are meant to be temporary and should be kept to a two-year limit. She believes that an increase in the per diem amount would more than cover it. She also believes that if there is extra money within the county it should benefit the whole county, not just a handful of people who want to become

politically entrenched in their positions by extending their terms in office. She asked the Commissioners to reject the proposal for the good of the county. She warned that to do otherwise could cause the Commissioners to be perceived as shameless, power-hungry, money-grubbing politicians who don't deserve to represent the districts they serve.

Sheriff Trent Taylor introduced the recent graduates of the police academy, Deputy Howard, Deputy Quiggin, Deputy Wetzig and Deputy Lung. Deputy Wetzig addressed the Board and thanked them for sponsoring them through the academy. He stated that they are looking forward to serving the residents of Wexford County.

Agenda Items

1. Public Hearing on the CDBG Program Income for Emergency Repairs Closeout 2020 and the CDBG Program Income for Emergency Repairs Opening 2021.

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to open the public hearing.

All in favor.

The public hearing was opened at 4:23. No one addressed the Board, and the public hearing was closed at 4:24.

2. Year End Budget Amendments

MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Administrator and Treasurer to transfer funds from one department to another without Board approval to ensure no department is in the negative at the end of the year.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

3. ORV Grant Amendments

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the FY2022-2023 ORV Grant Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

4. Resolution 22-26 Extending Appreciation to Commissioner Joseph Hurlburt

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve Resolution 22-26 Extending Appreciation for Commissioner Joseph Hurlburt's Service and Leadership.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

5. Policy A-1.0 Chairman Term Length

MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the revisions to Policy A-1.0 Chairman Term Length, as it is presented, effective January 1, 2023.

Commissioner Musta asked if this change was just to keep in line with other counties, Commissioner Potter replied that as its written in the law it is recommended to have a 2-year Chairman and a 1-year Vice-Chairman but that it is not mandatory.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

6. Policy A-3.0 Commissioner Pay and Per Diem

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the revisions to Policy A-3.0 Commissioner Pay and Per Diem, as it is presented, effective January 1, 2023.

Commissioner Potter stated that the Clerk went back over 20 years and did not see an increase. He also said that looking at comparable counties and what they offer, we are dead below everyone. He recommended the Board support it.

Commissioner Theobald said that she has been at the MAC Conference several years and our county is laughed at because of how low we pay our commissioners. She also stated that she has had to make cuts to make it to meetings. She stated that she feels we should value ourselves enough to make less than \$10,000 a year. She stated she deserves this money as hard as she works.

Administrator Porterfield says that he has reviewed some salaries of surrounding county boards with similar populations. He reviewed some of the extra benefits that those other counties offer in addition to salary.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-1 with Commissioner Townsend voting no.

7. Schneider-Geospatial Contract

MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Schneider-Geospatial Contract as it is presented and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Administrator Porterfield stated this is something the Board had approved prior, but some language was added to make sure the County is protected.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

8. Closed Session-Pending Litigation

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Potter for the Board to meet in closed session for purpose under section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss written attorney opinion regarding a settlement agreement.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

The closed session started at 4:27.

The closed session ended at 4:44.

MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Theobald to accept the minutes of the closed session as orally read by the Chief Deputy Clerk.

9. Resolution 22-27

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Adams to approve Resolution 22-27.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

10. Resolution 22-28 Donation of Leave Time for Sheriff Department Employee

MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Bush to approve Resolution 22-28 Donation of Leave Time for Sheriff Department Employee.

Commissioner Theobald asked if there was a cap on the leave time, Deputy Administrator Bigger stated, yes, 200 hours.

Roll call: Motion passed 8-0.

Administrator's Report-

Joe Porterfield mentioned that Sheriff Taylor had looked for a fourth person to attend the Police Academy this winter but was unable to find one so the cost won't be near what we thought it would. He also mentioned that he will be meeting with Commissioner Taylor and 4 other counties to look at strategies for opening a new juvenile facility. Joe also reminded everyone of the potluck coming up next Thursday.

Correspondence- None.

Public Comments-

Don Koschmider-Haring Township-wanted to let everyone know that dark forces are busy here at work. Mentioned that Alex Jones new book was missing from the library-hopes they will do something to deter theft. He also mentioned that he has recently gotten a subscription to the Detroit Free Press. Also hopes none of the board members have taken the vaccine or the boosters.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Theobald mentioned that DHS is happy they have money coming back.

Comm Townsend mentioned that he received a letter of acceptance from Keith Newell to be the new Airport Manager. He has gotten to know Mr. Newell and thinks he will be a great manager.

Board Comments-

Comm Theobald would like to see the Commissioners get the same percentage increase as employees in the future. She also mentioned that she enjoyed meeting the new officers.

Comm Potter mentioned that Comm Taylor has agreed to ring a bell for the Salvation Army with him on the upcoming Saturday.

Comm Musta echoed Comm Theobalds statement about enjoying meeting the new Sheriffs Department employees, he hopes they will stick around. He also mentioned that he struggled with the Commissioner pay changes but realizes it is relatively in line with other counties.

Comm Townsend said that he agreed with Comm Musta about struggling with the leap of the increase in Commissioners pay. He stated that he was comfortable with the current pay and thinks it sends a bad message to certain people in the county and fielding calls. He thanked his fellow commissioners for their service to the county.

Comm Adams thanked Don Koschmider for his passion. She is grateful to the new deputies. She mentioned that she also struggled with the increase in wages for the Commissioners but after receiving an email from a caustic former commissioner, she decided to vote for it.

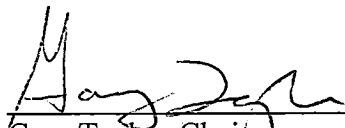
Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor mentioned that he and Comm Bush and the Administrators were able to attend the recent graduation for the deputies. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

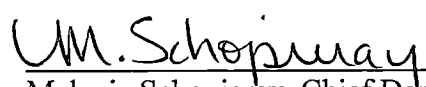
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 5:11 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Melanie Schopieray, Chief Deputy Clerk