

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, November 16, 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-None.

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-

Lt. Greg Bock from the Salvation Army started off by thanking Commissioner Theobald for her service with them. He started off by giving a brief history of the Salvation Army, which began in 1887 in the Cadillac area. Their mission is to look out for those in need.

Lt. Bock highlighted some statistics for the month of October as well. They provided services to 150 households, which equated to 408 people. They passed out clothing vouchers to 33 families, and are providing Thanksgiving dinners to 320 families.

He also pointed out that the red kettles are out already, and they are in need of volunteers to ring those bells.

Public Comment-

Randy Lindell, Cadillac, wanted to address some budget concerns he had. He stated he opposed the 911 surcharge that was approved in August, and all that's been done with it is raises have been given. He understands that 911 is important, and we need it, but he was not happy with the raises given. He also questioned why Janet Koch resigned, but then was given 3 months severance. He also had an issue with our animal shelter being a no kill shelter.

Angela Janovich, Mesick, wanted to discuss the change in public comments being switched to agenda items only for the first comment. She read an opinion from the EPA regarding public comment. She went on to recite several definitions. She requested an extra two minutes at the next public comment.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the November 2, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to open the public hearing.

All in favor.

The public hearing was opened at 4:21. No one addressed the Board, and the public hearing was closed at 4:22.

2. Approval of the Recommended 2023 Budget
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Musta to approve the recommended fiscal year 2023 budget.

Administrator Porterfield noted that he did have to use \$500,000 of the ARPA funds to balance the budget. He also pointed out that all of our millages were rolled back, due to Headlee.

Mr. Porterfield stated that being short staffed, the Transition Houses being closed on, and a loan on the Health Department being paid off are all areas that are helping the budget. He was concerned that we had to use the ARPA funds though because those are going to run out after next year.

Commissioner Potter questioned if the grant just received was in the budget. Mr. Porterfield noted that it was not included because it will have to be put in a special fund.

He also questioned what the fund balance was at. Mr. Porterfield noted we are sitting right around 50%.

Commissioner Adams was thankful that Joe sat down with her to go over the budget.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. Resolution 22-25 General Appropriations Act

MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Bush to approve Resolution 22-25 Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and General Appropriations Act and to authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

4. Resolution 22-24 Support for Economic Impact Study Consumers Energy Dams
MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Bush to approve 22-24 Support for Economic Impact Study regarding the Consumers Energy Dam, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Joe Porterfield thanked everyone for supporting the budget. He appreciates all the help that went into it. He couldn't ask for a better group to work with.

Mr. Porterfield also noted that the second Transition House is being closed on the following day. He also received quotes for surveys and environmental studies on the new property just purchased. They are not as high as he was expecting, so he was pleased with that. He also had a meeting scheduled with the Health Department to discuss the lease.

Jami Bigger informed everyone that angel tags would be coming the following week, and the holiday potluck is scheduled for December 15th.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments-

Randy Lindell stated thank goodness for COVID money, but 2024 isn't looking good. He noted that we need the Transition Houses in our area. He thanked Joe for mentioning the lowering of taxes.

Angela Janovich continued with the definitions she was reciting. She told the Board she does not want to be represented by any of them. She went on to note that abortion is satanic and by our Governor pushing for it, she is making the government part of church. It's treason and infiltration of the enemy. She asked for all commissioners to step down.

After Ms. Janovich's time had expired, she noted she was in charge of the meeting and was taking more time for public comment. After a brief interaction, she was asked to leave by a deputy and then removed.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Baughan attended a School Safety Meeting where they reviewed threat assessments.

Comm Townsend commented on the airport, where they are interviewing three potential managers. Any of the candidates will be great.

Comm Adams attended a 911 advisory meeting. She noted that Travis Baker is going full time, and they will be hiring a part time emergency manager. They have updated their computer programs.

Comm Bush attended a CAMA meeting where they toured FedEx.

Comm Taylor attended the MAC Environmental Committee, the Counsel on Aging, and the Health Department meeting.

Board Comments-

Comm Potter thanked everyone for passing the budget, but he is concerned about the future.

Comm Hurlburt commended the Haring Township Fire Chief and his son for helping organize the funeral for Kelly Whitehead. The chief escorted the widow to the funeral, and his son planned the entire service.

Comm Musta noted that the budget was always changing, and we need to watch spending.

Comm Townsend commented that the budget is their greatest oversight as Commissioners. He is glad we have the crew we do to get it done.

Comm Adams is grateful to Joe, Jami, and staff and noted that we have a healthy county.

Comm Bush thanked everyone for their work.

Comm Theobald appreciates that Duane is always here to assist us. If \$6,000 will keep him, she would pass that all day long. She thanked Lt. Boch for coming, and noted that those Thanksgiving meals that are being given out, are being delivered by him.

Chairman's Comments-

Comm Taylor thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

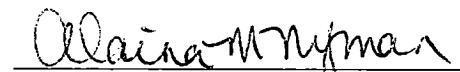
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:47 p.m.

All in favor.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
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Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina Nyman, County Clerk