

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, February 15, 2023

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

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Jason Mitchell, 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-**

**ADD: J.3.** Letter of Understanding POAM Non 312 and **J.4.** Two Seven Oh Grant – Animal Control

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

All in Favor.

**Public Comment-** *None*.

**Employee Recognition-** *None*.

**Presentation and Reports-** *None*.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the February 1, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in favor.

**Agenda Items**

1. Rehmann Letter of Understanding

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the present Engagement Letter and Letter of Understanding from Rehmann and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

1. Child Care Fund Grant Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Child Care Fund Grant Agreement amendment and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.**

2. Letter of Understanding POAM Non 312

**MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the presented Letter of Understanding, between the County and the POAM Non 312 Union, Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the county.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.**

3. Two Seven Oh Grant – Animal Control

**MOTION by Comm Musta, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Two Seven Oh, Inc reimbursement grant agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.**

**Administrator's Report-**

Joe Porterfield stated that the county closed on property this week at Lakeside Title and should be closing on the next property in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Porterfield stated that he was informed of a problem with one of the sewer lines at the Fairgrounds, and that it will need to be replaced. Mr. Porterfield reached out to MAC and believes that we may be able to get a grant for repairs, since the property is recreational.

**Correspondence- None.**

**Public Comments-**

Jacqueline Erway, Cadillac, is a resident on Lake Mitchell. Ms. Erway would like to bring attention to a situation happening with the Lake Mitchell sewer system, which used to be a part of the county DPW. She believes that the county did a disservice by dismantling the DPW. The problem with the sewer system was then handed over to three townships, which then passed the burden along to only about 800 residents, the Lake Mitchell property owners. The Lake Mitchell Sewer Association has been fined by EGLE and is currently under an administrative consent order. There are violations dating back to 2017. Homeowners are seeing a huge, gradual increase over the last four years. The bids for repair went from 9.8 million dollars to close to 20 million dollars. Residents' sewer bills will go up to about \$250.00 a month.

Ms. Erway believes that it should be an immediate, environmental concern for the entire County and State. The loss of the lake was a great concern as it benefits more than the residents that live on the lake. Cadillac News, in a 1970's article, stated that the loss of the lake should be a major concern for the entire county. Last month Cadillac News had an article about how Reed City received 26 million dollars in funding to improve their water systems. Those funds came from the State through grants.

Ms. Erway said that the previously discussed donation of \$100k, from ARPA funds, aren't going to go far. Looking at going to sewer board to see about hiring a grant writer.

### **Liaison Reports-**

Comm Musta attended an Alliance on Economic Success meeting. Lisa Miller stepped down last year, effective January 2023. Sherri Holden and Mark Logaway are the current interim directors. They have started a candidate search and are hoping to find someone by May.

Comm Townsend attended the Airport Authority board meeting and met the new director. Everything is going well, and they are on track and could possibly even see a profit in the future.

Comm Adams attended the first Opioid Settlement Fund committee meeting. It was a brainstorming session, and they are looking for more voices from the community that can affect how those funds are used.

Comm Bush attended the CAMA meeting at Lincoln School. It was neat to see the different things they are doing at the schools and how different the population is.

Comm Baughan attended the Wexford County School Safety meeting. There was continued discussion on threat assessments and swatting. Wexford/Missaukee ISD and CTC were awarded a grant to hire a school resource officer. The officer will work with the Wexford County Sheriff's Department.

Comm Potter attended the Wexford County Road Commission meeting. Everything is going fine there. They are budgeted and ready to get to summer. Mr. Potter also attended the Clam Lake DDA meeting. Pioneer Apartments are going to be bulldozed this spring. It looks like they are going to receive a blight grant. There is an upcoming MAC judicial meeting where they will hopefully discuss that the public defender attorneys are set to get an increase in wage from the state. It raises the issue that the attorneys will be making a higher wage than the Prosecutor and prosecuting attorneys, and that burden could then fall back on the county.

Comm Taylor stated that the fairboard is busy planning for the summer fair and other activities. The conservation district is setting up their tree sale.

### **Board Comments-**

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Comm Musta attended the first Opioid Meeting and he looks forward to going to the next one and hearing from people in the community. There will be a new bike shop coming to town, Einstein Cycle.

Comm Townsend would like to congratulate Rick on his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Cadillac News.

Comm Adams would like to thank Jackie for explaining the situation at the lake and she hopes that a creative solution can be found.

Comm Theobald stated that her thoughts and prayers are going out the students and families at MSU.

Comm Potter stated that he would like to thank the ladies for coming and discussing the sewer problem at Lake Mitchell. He would like to correct that the public defender's offices new wages will be more comparable to the Attorney General's offices wages.

**Chairman's Comments-**

Comm Taylor would like to thank everyone for coming.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:17 p.m.

**All in favor.**

  
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Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
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Ashley Hackert, Deputy County Clerk