

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairman Taylor.

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

Absent- Michael Musta and Julie Theobald.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

ADD: J.5. Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2023 Additional Funding

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Public Comment-None

Employee Recognition-

Marty Penney was not present to receive his award for his 30 years of service. It will be given to him at a later time.

Presentation and Reports-

Lisa Kaspryak presented the Board with the Mid Michigan Medical Examiner 2022 Annual Report. She highlighted that all of their current investigators are either residents of or to the counties that are adjacent to Wexford County. Four of their investigators have reached national standards for being a medical investigator, while all others are working towards that goal.

Ms. Kaspryak explained that in our county they handled 142 cases. The report broke those down by manner of death by month, by age, and then further broke down those they considered natural death. In 2022, there were also 6 successful organ donors for Wexford County, that were able to save numerous lives.

Ms. Kaspryak also wanted to highlight that their group covers 14 different counties. If there is ever a mass fatality, they would be able to bring in all the resources from those other counties.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the May 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority Resignation Acceptance

3. Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority Appointment
MOTION by Comm. Adams, seconded by Comm. Bush to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. 911 Professional Services
MOTION by Comm. Adams, seconded by Comm. Bush to approve the presented Engagement letter with Legacy Litigation Group and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion Passed 7-0.

2. Marine Safety Program Grant Agreement
MOTION by Comm. Bush, seconded by Comm. Baughan to approve the annual Marine Safety Program Grant Agreement in the amount of \$8,900.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion Passed 7-0.

3. VC3 Multifactor Authentication
MOTION by Comm. Baughan, seconded by Comm. Potter to approve the quote from VC3 for Multifactor Authentication in the amount of \$9,089.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Administrator Porterfield explained that this was being pushed by our insurance company. It is added security for logging into email. A portion of this will be covered by grant money.

Roll Call: Motion Passed 7-0.

4. L-4046 Taxable Valuations 2023
MOTION by Comm. Adams, seconded by Comm. Bush to approve the 2023 Taxable Valuations Report, Form L-4046, and authorize the Chair and Equalization Director to sign the valuations.

Mr. Porterfield explained that this is an annual report that is required.

Roll Call: Motion Passed 7-0.

5. Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2023 Additional Funding
MOTION by Comm. Baughan, seconded by Comm. Bush to approve the increase of \$10,000.00 to the P.A. 511 Community Corrections Grant for fiscal year 2023 and authorize the Chairman to sign, the change notice.

Comm. Potter questioned if this was funding from a Michigan Department of Corrections grant. Ms. Stark explained that it was.

Roll Call: Motion Passed 6-0, with Comm Potter abstaining.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield attended the MAC conference. They are working on getting the state to set up a revenue sharing trust. He asked that each commissioner respond to the action items they received from MAC. They also focused on the binding arbitration for the corrections officers that could be costly for the county.

He highlighted that he had a meeting with Consumer's Energy regarding Hodenpyl Dam. Consumer's Energy has been told to reach out to the local agencies for money to put towards keeping these dams open. They are estimating they would save \$27 million over the course of 50 years if closed.

Correspondence- None

Public Comments-

Jackie Erway gave the Board an update on the Sewer Authority. Representative Fox has written a bill that is moving forward. They are hoping to secure the \$18 million, but they did lock in a \$9.4 million loan with the USDA that was approved by the Authority. They have also accepted bids, and the contractors are expected to begin in segments.

Rose Denny, Cadillac, commented that she has been serving her county since 2014. She is the current chair of the Wex Express and was vice chair of the Housing Council & Land Conservancy. She noted she has been reappointed several times without filling out an application, only giving verbal interest. She highlighted that she was a success story of Northern Lakes, being a former consumer and then elected 4 years to be their vice chair. She was one of two members to attend the Winter Conference, and also was named the chair of the Recipient Rights Committee.

She was caught off guard when she was replaced on March 1st without being able to give a written statement or chance to be heard. She was told on March 1st that the appointment decision would not be made until March 15th, and then it was added to the agenda that same day. She received an email from Commissioner Townsend stating he and Gary Taylor fought behind the scenes but were going to be outvoted, so they voted the way they did to show public unanimity. She had family friends reach out to Commissioner Adams, and Commissioner Bush to find out they were only given one application and didn't see the recommendation from Northern Lakes Community Mental Health.

She stated she believed the vote was an abuse of power that hurts the people being served, as well as violates the law and current policies. She asked the Board to rescind their vote that was made on March 1st. She noted she has missed her first WexExpress meeting and two NLCMH meetings. If she has to miss more, she will come back with family and friends, and file claims against the surety bonds.

Liaison Reports-

Jason Baughan noted that all Safe Schools meetings are suspended until the school year resumes.

Comm Potter attended the MAC Judicial meeting where they discussed the corrections officers binding arbitration.

Board Comments-

Comm Adams wanted to add to Ms. Erway's comments that it was very important to accept the loan from the USDA because they needed to show intent. She also wanted to let everyone know she apologized to Rose for her uneducated vote. She was hurt for her, and she wanted to remind commissioners that they can vote to continue members on these Boards, but they need to do so with integrity and kindness.

Comm Potter was very grateful for those citizens who want to be a part of these Boards. He noted that when terms are up, they are not required to keep that person. They took what was in front of them and made a decision. He wanted to highlight that this now gives another citizen a chance to serve. These appointments are not lifetime, and he felt the Board did nothing wrong.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.


Adjourn

MOTION by Comm. Bush, seconded by Comm. Townsend to adjourn at 4:29 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk