

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, November 1, 2023

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

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

Absent- Commissioner Jason Mitchell

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-**

J.10 Date for Public Hearing on FY 2024 Budget

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**All in Favor.**

**Employee Recognition- None**

**Presentation and Reports- None**

**Public Comment-**

Molly Whetstone, Haring Township- Thanked the Board of Commissioners for serving the community. She asked the board to please vote no on sending \$100,000 dollars of the ARPA Funds to the Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority. She mentioned that if the County is going to spend ARPA funds to a utility, it should to Mesick. They are and have been struggling. She told the board that if they are going to give the funds to one, then they should give it to all. Four systems were run by the County DPW and all of them were in terrible condition when they were handed over to the local municipalities. Ms. Whetstone is in favor of spending the funds on the wall downstairs.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the October 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. Northern District Fair Board Tractor Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the presented Lease and Option to Purchase Agreement for the Tractor, Attachments and**

**Accessories between the Northern District Fair Association and the County and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0**

2. Fiscal Year 2024 Snowmobile Grant Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2024 Snowmobile Grant Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

3. Council on Aging Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

**MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Council on Aging's Fiscal Year 2024 budget.**

**Roll Call: Motion Passed 8-0.**

4. ARPA Funds – WWI Memorial Wall Match Donation

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve allocating \$12,500 of ARPA funds to complete the WWI Memorial Wall Project.**

**Roll Call: Motion Passed 8-0.**

5. ARPA Funds – Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority

**MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Musta to approve the Agreement for Subaward of Federal Financial Assistance ARPA, with the Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority in the amount of \$100,000 for their sewer utility improvement project and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.**

Comm Potter explained that he was two sided regarding this motion. The county has a huge deficit with the county finance and could use the money to balance our budget; however; we have always been in support of the Lake Mitchel Sewer Authority and do not need complete failure of the system. This started with Mike Bengelink before he passed, and he had always said that this is something that we need to support.

Comm Adams state that if there are other situations that need the ARPA funding, then they need to make their request to the county. Lake Mitchell benefits our entire community, not just the homeowners on the lake.

Comm Townsend-ARPA funds at first were to be designated for water and sewer projects, at which time Comm Townsend approached the Mesick board about available funding and they declined funding from the county. The ARPA committee opened up requests to anyone that would want to apply for funding.

**Roll Call: Motion failed 4-4 with Comm Bush, Theobald, Baughan and Taylor voting against the motion.**

6. Central Dispatch MEVO Anywhere Mobile Kit Purchase

**MOTION** by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the purchase of MEVO Anywhere Mobile Kit in the amount of \$7,755.37 and a yearly annual service fee of \$2,235.19, and to waive the three-quote requirement in accordance with Section I. of Policy D-1.0 Purchasing, Contracts and Sales

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0**

7. Ottawa County Juvenile Bed Rental Agreement

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center Bed Rental Agreement for a three-year term beginning October 01, 2023, through September 30, 2026 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

8. 2023 Bulk Paper Purchase

**MOTION** by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Theobald to award the 2023 Bulk Paper Bid to Central Michigan Paper Company in the amount of \$14,602.90.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

9. Fiscal Year 2023 MSP EMPG Grant

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the MSP Emergency Management Grant Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

10. Date for Public Hearing on FY 2024 Budget

**MOTION** by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Musta to hold a Public Hearing on the 2024 budget on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Administrator Porterfield mentioned that he would be emailing the budget to the Board, that he still working with a few department heads and that it would be going to the next finance meeting.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.**

**Administrator's Report-**

Joe and Jami met with Kaitlin Stark, from the Chamber and Nicki Schultz, the new liaison for The Alliance for Economic Success, to discuss the current housing crisis in our county. Joe and Jami also met with Drew and Jim from Weadock regarding the county health insurance for 2024. The increase is expected to be about 2.5 percent. They are working on putting together reports based on our claims from this to see if possibly

switching to an HMO would be beneficial to the county. Former County Commissioner Terry Harvey passed away on Sunday, October 28, 2023. There will be a memorial gathering at Hitesman Holdship Funeral Home on Friday November 3 from 2:30-5:30.

**Correspondence-** *None*

**Public Comments-**

Jacqueline Erway, Lake Mitchell Property Owner's Association. She is very disheartened with the no votes regarding the ARPA funds for the Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority. They have had a Sewer Authority for 8 years now and have seen their rates go from \$236.00 a year to \$1600.00 a year. People are paying more for their monthly sewer rate than they are for their property taxes. She is very disappointed that the money wasn't donated in honor of Mike Bengelink, who initially started the request to help The Lake Mitchel Sewer Authority.

**Liaison Reports-**

Comm Adam explained that Lake Mitchell Improvement Board met this month, and they are hoping to meet Friday to approve their budget.

Comm Potter attended Clam Lake DDA where the Pioneer property would hopefully be up for sale this winter, pending an agreement with a neighbor that has been using a portion of the property for 60 years.

**Board Comments-**

Comm Townsend stated that sometimes they take notes and vote with their conscience and they vote how their constituents want to, but there are many factors to consider. He wanted the public to know that he respects all of his fellow commissioners and their backgrounds. If a vote does not come out how he would like it to, he would still support what the ruling is. That will always be his stance.

Comm Adams appreciated Comm Townsends comments.

Comm Theobald thanked Joe for bringing up the passing of Terry Harvey. He will be missed. She was very sorry that the board could not come to better understanding on having the money to just give. If they had the money to fix everything, then all would have voted yes. They have to be cautiously careful and represent their districts.

Comm Potter noted that Dianne Hoffman, a local attorney, had also passed away.

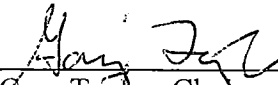
**Chairman's Comments-**

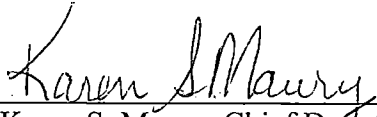
Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. All in favor.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting\* November 1, 2023

  
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Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
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Karen S. Maury, Chief Deputy Clerk