

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

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

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

Absent- Commissioner Michael Must

Pledge of Allegiance.

\*Commissioner Musta joined the meeting after the initial roll call.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-**

**Add:** J.7. Sponsorship of Cadet to the Police Academy  
J.8. Sheriff's Office Part-Time Position  
J.9. Group Worksite Benefit Plans

**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-None.**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the November 1, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes  
**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget  
**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to open the public hearing.**

**All in Favor.**

The public hearing was opened at 4:01. No comments were made. The public hearing was closed at 4:02.

2. Approval of the Recommended 2024 Budget  
**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Recommended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.**

Administrator Porterfield explained that we did use \$500,000 of ARPA funds to help balance the budget, along with \$22,644 from fund balance. He doesn't want people to be too alarmed because he does have the HR Director budget for worst case scenario.

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

3. Resolution 23-18 General Appropriations Act  
**MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 23-18 Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and General Appropriations Act.**

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

4. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ORV Grant  
**MOTION by Comm Adams, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ORV Grant Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.**

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

5. Resolution 23-19 2023 Winter Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget  
**MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Potter to approve Resolution 23-19 2023 Winter Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.**

**Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Health Insurance Rate for 2024  
**MOTION by Comm Potter, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the renewal of the current health insurance plans with a 2.32% increase and to continue HSA contributions in the amount of \$1,250 for single policy and \$2,500 for a double or family policy for the 2024 plan year.**

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

7. Sponsorship of Cadet to the Police Academy  
**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve sponsoring one cadet at the next police academy in January 2024.**

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

8. Sheriff's Office Part-Time Position  
**MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Adams to approve increasing the Sheriff's Office Employee Roster from 16.5 Deputies to 17, effective immediately.**

Comm Potter questioned if this was the same position that is being sent to the academy. Undersheriff Doehring explained that the one going to the academy is to replace one retiring, and they are currently a half position over.

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

9. Group Worksite Benefit Plans

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to allow voluntary payroll deductions to the Equitable Group Worksite Benefit Plans.**

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

**Administrator's Report-**

Administrator Porterfield explained that the legislature has shut down for the year. They did pass the bill regarding solar panels that the Board passed a resolution opposing. It is now on the Governor's desk for signature. He did note that those wanting to utilize solar panels must still apply to the local units. There were also 3 juvenile justice bills passed, but one did not that would have helped the county out. The MIDC cannot represent juveniles.

Mr. Porterfield noted that Operation Greenlight was a huge success. A photo of the courthouse was included in the MAC Newsletter. He thanked the Board for their continued support also.

**Correspondence- None**

**Public Comments-**

Michael Mix, Colfax Township Supervisor, wanted to address a county ordinance with the Board; ordinance 30-A. The biggest complaint he receives is that people cannot get electricity run to their property without a structure. The Colfax Township Board has no problem with people that want to camp on their own property. Section 7 of the ordinance specifies that their must be structure on the property. People want to come visit our area, and they want electricity. They can't get an address assigned either. He asked that the Board take a look at the ordinance and give back local control.

**Liaison Reports-**

Comm Musta attended an AES meeting. Nikki Schultz is doing a great job and settling in.

Comm Townsend attended an airport meeting where they are working on completing their budget. He attended the Consumers Energy meeting in Mesick, where there is a lot of concern from people regarding the dam.

Comm Theoblad attended a DHHS meeting and emailed the information. She added that they are down 23 staff members, and recently had 430 hours of overtime between 15 people.

Comm Taylor attended the Council on Aging meeting. They thanked the Board for approving their budget. He also attended the Conservation District where they are gearing up for next years tree sale.

**Board Comments-**

Comm Potter thanked Joe, Jami, Kristi, Alaina, and all department heads for their work on the budget. He thanked Gary, Kristi, and Adam for their work on Operation Greenlight. He also noted that there is a big housing issue in our county that needs to be addressed:

Comm Townsend noted that he had a good discussion with Mr. Mix about the ordinance. The goal with the ordinance was to open things up. Those involved with the joint planning commission can make an exception, but those that aren't, cannot. He also noted the new naval ship that is hung in the commissioner room. He appreciates our chair and all the work being put in to the wall downstairs.

Comm Adams thanked Joe and his staff for the work on the budget. She also thanked him for being willing to talk to her from his deer blind.

Comm Bush thanked everyone from the top to the bottom. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Comm Theobald wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

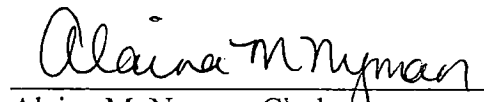
**Chairman's Comments-**

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for their work on the budget, and thank those for attending.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:23 p.m.  
All in favor.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alaina M. Nyman, Clerk