

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, February 21, 2024

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

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

Absent- Kathleen Adams.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Added J5. Early Voting Update

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None.*

Presentation and Reports-

Mathew Cooke from Networks Northwest gave the Board an update regarding solid waste law changes and the goal to reduce landfill waste. Mr. Cooke explained that the Board has until July 6th to submit a notice of intent regarding their waste plan. That can include a multi-county plan or a single county plan. The plan approval would require a 2/3 vote of the board and would need to be updated every 5 years.

There is currently a Material Management Advisement committee working with the 10 counties that they currently partner with. Those counties are discussing working together, but he wanted to get the information to the Board as soon as possible.

Comm Theobald questioned if this would be like the recreation plan that Networks Northwest helped put together. Mr. Cooke explained that it would depend on the involvement requested of them. That would then determine the cost as well.

Commissioner Potter questioned if the administrator was bringing this back to the Board. Administrator Porterfield explained that this is a requirement that they are still wrapping their head around.

Public Comment-

Don Koshmider requested a correction to the minutes. InfoWars is one word and the word murder was missed.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the February 7, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Agricultural Exemption Request Form-Building Department
MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the Building Department to enforce the application for agricultural exemption and the #100 fee.

Commissioner Theobald questioned if these were the same requirements of a minimum of 200 square foot. Administrator Porterfield explained that for farm operations there are no size requirements.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-1, with Commissioner Mitchell voting against the motion.

2. Removal of Roof Replacement Fee-Building Department
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the removal of the roof replacement fee and updated fee schedule.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-1, with Commissioner Mitchell voting against the motion.

3. Rehmann Engagement Letter for 2023 Audit
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the presented Engagement Letter and Letter of Understanding from Rehmann for the 2023 audit and authorize the Chairman and County Administrator to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Substance Use Assessment Services Agreement-Opioid Funds
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the presented agreement for Substance Use Assessment Services with the Prosecutor and Catholic Human Services utilizing Opioid Funds and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

5. Early Voting Update
Clerk Nyman explained to the Board that Early Voting began on Saturday, the 17th. As the Board is aware, most townships chose to partner with the County, with the exception of City of Manton and Liberty Township. As of Wednesday, there had been 74 people total that have chosen to vote early. She further explained that early voting goes until Sunday at 4:30 pm.

Commissioner Potter asked if the early voting site was open on the holiday. Clerk Nyman explained that yes, the days required were the second Saturday before the Election to the last Sunday before the Election, regardless of holidays.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield explained that he had turned in all of the paperwork for vacating the alleys. He also explained that he is working on the preliminary reports for the audit. The auditors are set to be here the week of May 13th.

Mr. Porterfield also informed the Board that Advanced Mechanical was working on the heat. As of that day, the heat was not working on the older side of the building, and the roof units that heat the newer side, were trying to compensate for that, making the new side very warm.

The transformer for the Fair Grounds should be delivered sometime by the end of the month. Windemueller was going to get with Boone Sports to begin working on it.

Correspondence-

1. Cadillac Wexford Public Library 2023 Review
2. Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce-Cadillac Leadership

Public Comments-

Michael Mix, Colfax Township Supervisor, addressed some comments made at a previous meeting by Bob Scarbrough. If Consumer's didn't want people putting power on vacant lots, they could handle it. The County doesn't need to. If there was a lawsuit, the tax payers of Wexford County would be liable because of this ordinance. He questioned if Consumers even has a policy against it. The real issue here is control. There are people afraid of letting other people live in freedom.

Shelly Bigelow, Greenwood Township Trustee, was representing the Greenwood Township Board. She serves on the fire board, so she has dealt with the address situation. She wants it looked at. Consumers is wrong. The ordinance is wrong. If you want power on your land, you should be able to have it. She stated that this was for emergency purposes, but you don't know how many people are there if there is an emergency. You only know who owns the home. She asked the Board to rethink the ordinance.

Al Devereaux, S. 13 Road, also wanted to speak about the ordinance. He has land on both sides of his street, but he cannot run power to the lot across the street. He claimed he knew for a fact that its not Consumers holding it back. He also addressed the Board as the Fire Chief for Harrietta and brought up Phil Wendel. They together are requesting \$25,000 of ARPA funds for a high efficient water source in Harrietta. There was a fire near Caberfae, and there was not a water source nearby to fill trucks. They asked that the Board please consider putting money towards that.

Don Koshmider, Haring Township, explained that he has been out getting the word out about the World Economic Forum. He told the Board they can't trust the news. He

wanted everyone to watch InfoWars and use the Rumble App. He is not going to stop. He is trying to get the word out to the community.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Bush hosted the CAMA meeting at Piranha Hose. They had a good turnout.

Comm Potter attended the Clam Lake DDA meeting. There are rumblings regarding sewer and water, and a potential gas station at Pat Johnson's old property. The old Pioneer Apartments are still not up for sale, as there is land issues.

Comm Taylor attended the Conservation District meeting where they are gearing up for their tree sale.

Board Comments-

Comm Townsend explained that he was one of three people to update the address ordinance. The reason was because of Al Devereaux and others who wanted to put up a pole building, but couldn't get an address. Joe, Bob, and he opened it up for those that built a storage building. It was updated to get an address for emergencies. Since then there have been 36 storage buildings, in the 10 townships he serves for zoning, that have applied for and received an address. Mr. Townsend read an email that was previously sent to Mr. Mix to clarify something that was stated. He also stated that he knows for a fact that it is Consumers policy to not run power to vacant land because he was able to get through with Consumers to find that answer.

Comm Potter stated that he's not requesting a change just yet, but if he wants mail sent to a vacant property that he is paying taxes on, he should be able to. If he wants power run to a piece of land that he is paying taxes on, he would want that. He understands there are rules and policies for a reason, so he requested someone sit down and discuss it with him.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:46 p.m. All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk