

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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-Jason Mitchell.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-** *None.*

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

All in Favor.

**Employee Recognition-** *None.*

**Presentation and Reports-**

Vicki Sawicki, North Country CISMA Annual Report, gave the Board her annual report. She highlighted that Wexford County was the highest for no regrowth for wild parsnip. She accredited that to our Road Commission Manager who serves on the Strike team for Hire. They received funding to address the wild parsnip problem.

Ms. Sawicki also informed the Board of the spotted lanternfly. This will be an issue like the gypsy moth issue. She noted that they have been found in Pontiac, and she expects them to be coming this way.

Commissioner Theobald asked Ms. Sawicki if she had a contact at the City like she does with the county road commission. Ms. Sawicki explained that she doesn't currently have a contact, but that is something she has been working on.

**Public Comment-**

Michael Mix wanted to speak on employee recognition. He recently was working on a DNR grant application that he needed information on. He was not able to find the information from his township clerk, so he contacted Megan in Administration. She told him she would be able to take care of him and connected him with Matt in Equalization. Within an hour of speaking with Matt, he had an email with the information he needed. He thanked the employees for being helpful.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the March 6, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. Slagle Assessor Contract Renewal

**MOTION by Comm Potter, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the presented Assessors Service Contract for the period of April 01, 2024 through March 31, 2025 with Slagle Township and to authorize the Chairman and Equalization Director to sign.**

Administrator Porterfield explained this is an annual contract. He had assessed for Slagle Township prior to working with the county. Slagle has preferred to keep this a year to year contract.

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

2. IT Services Discussion

Administrator Porterfield explained that our current IT provider was sold to a nationwide company awhile back, and we are not receiving the service we are used to receiving. The contract is up at the end of the year, and he has requested bids from two other companies. The one company was around \$30,000 more, and they also wanted us to employ an onsite IT person to work with them. He has spoken with Benzie County about potentially sharing that employee.

Mr. Porterfield did note tht VC3 has been more responsive, and even had two technicians on site on Friday. There are several changes coming our way with technology that makes him hesitant to switch this year.

**Administrator's Report-**

Administrator Porterfield informed the Board that there are currently open positions at the Sheriff's Department and Friend fo the Court. He shared that MiWorks will start vacating the office at Lake St the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. He just also received the closing date for the old jail, which will be the first week of April.

Mr. Porterfield also updated the Board on some upcoming meetings regarding Consumer's Energy and the planning commission regarding vacating the alleys at the property by the jail. He noted that it appeared there were some squatters on the property also, but Adam has since taken care of that issue.

**Correspondence-**

**Public Comments-**

Michael Mix, Colfax Township Supervisor, came to talk to the Board regarding the address ordinance again. He had walked in with Commissioner Musta who was

indifferent about the ordinance. He explained a story about the Nazi's to the Board, where a Jewish man helped them appear in a parade because that was their right. He believes in the Constitution, and he is not going to give up.

Jackie Erway thanked Commissioner Adams for attending all the meetings she attends regarding the Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority. She explained there is a newer sewer board, and they are moving forward. They have set up committees to find funding and grants for the sewer. She also noted that another issue they are having is with short-term rentals. The main issue is the larger homes that do not have adequate parking, that then infringe on the neighbors. Selma is attempting to pass an ordinance regarding short term rentals, and Cherry Grove is working with an attorney to address the issue.

Art Stevens addressed the Board to commend Joe Porterfield for his fair and equitable treatment of all people he deals with. When he is asked who exemplifies the government, his answer is always Joe. He thanked the Board for having faith and trusting Joe with our county.

Don Koshmider, Haring Township, asked the Board to look into World Economic Forum and Agenda 2030. These items are near and dear to his heart. He noted that there are ways to fight back, legally and lawfully, in Alex Jones new book "The Great Awakening." He also read the democratic open borders plan to entrench single party rule to the Board.

#### **Liaison Reports-**

Comm Townsend attended an Airport meeting. They are working towards building an event center that will be paid for by the \$1 million grant they received. They are applying for a federal grant for \$1.5 million as well. He also attended a Library meeting.

Comm Bush attended a CAMA meeting at the Airport. He seconded that they were doing great things out there.

Comm Theobald attended a Human Services Leadership Counsel. They talked about the things she presented on previously and highlighted the free taxes they offer for the elderly and our housing issue.

Comm Potter had a phone meeting with Lisa from the Morgue. She is still trying to get the CT scanner for the medical examiner. He noted that the county made it very clear that they did not want the financial burden of it. She did learn they can building the CT scanner inside of a trailer, so the scanner could be mobile. They just need the funding.

#### **Board Comments-**

Comm Adams commented to Mr. Mix that she is not indifferent. She is working towards getting more information. She also thanked Joe for everything.

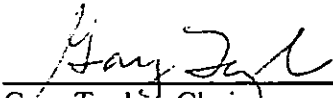
Comm Potter thanked Joe and Jami for putting up with the 9 of them and for listening.

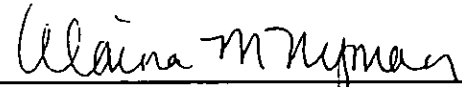
**Chairman's Comments-**

Chair Taylor commended Joe and Jami on the great job they are doing. He also thanked everyone for attending.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. All in favor.

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

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