



Wexford County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary Taylor, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, third floor of the Historic Courthouse, located at 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE
- D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- F. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION
- G. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS
- H. PUBLIC COMMENT
Designated for topics on the agenda only.
- I. CONSENT AGENDA
The purpose of the consent agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one Commission motion without discussion. Any member of the Commission may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed therefrom and placed elsewhere for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If any item is not removed from the consent agenda, the action noted on the agenda is approved by motion of the Commission to adopt the consent agenda.
 - 1. Approval of the March 5, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes 1
- J. AGENDA ITEMS
 - 1. Request for Letter of Support – Airport Authority 4
 - 2. County Brownfield Discussion
- K. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
- L. CORRESPONDENCE
- M. PUBLIC COMMENT
Open for any public comments.
- N. LIAISON REPORT
- O. BOARD COMMENTS
- P. CHAIR COMMENTS
- Q. ADJOURN

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, March 5, 2025

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

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Aaron Sogge, Jason Nelson, Mark Nyman, Sandy Bengelink, Michael Bush, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, Jason Baughan, and Brian Potter.

Absent- *None*.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-*None*

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the agenda.

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None*.

Presentation and Reports-

Mike Solomon, County Drain Commissioner, provided the Board with a yearly report. He noted that there was a court order from 1967 that sets the lake levels for our area. In his twenty plus years as Drain Commissioner, the winter level has been achieved once. Mr. Solomon put together a spreadsheet with lows, median, and high levels of the lakes throughout the area.

One of the things Mr. Solomon highlighted, was the E.coli levels in lakes. Lake Billings in Manton has had a chronic problem with E.coli levels. Through grant funding with Ferris State University, they were able to determine that was due to coyotes upstream. They were able to do the same testing, with the same sort of funding, for Kenwood Beach as well.

Another highlighted topic was the soil erosion permits. In 2023, there were 24 issued. In 2024, there were 54. Mr. Solomon has been discussing a fee increase with Administrator Porterfield.

Commissioner Theobald questioned if there was any testing done for PFAs. Mr. Solomon explained that testing has not been done yet, however, he will be recommending it to the City of Cadillac.

Public Comment-*None*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the February 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Request to Send a Cadet to the August 2025 Police Academy
MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Sheriff's request to send one Cadet to the August 2025 Police Academy, if necessary.

Commissioner Sogge questioned how many we have sent in the last 5 years. Sheriff Taylor explained we have sent several.

Commissioner Sogge also questioned the cost. Sheriff Taylor replied that it is around \$8,000, but there has been funding through MCOLEs for that. He also explained that the County Attorney had drafted a contract for all cadets to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. Managed Assigned Counsel Coordinator Agreement-Public Defenders Office
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nelson to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for Managed Assigned Counsel Coordinator under the MIDC Act effective March 5, 2025, through September 30, 2025, and authorize the chairman to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield informed the Board that Antrim County came to tour our Sheriff's Department, as they are looking at building a new facility.

He noted that the Register of Deeds Office is moving on track with getting the back log indexed. The part time employee that was approved has started and the recording system is back up.

Mr. Porterfield was excited to announce that the Veterans Office has a new director and service office that will be starting on March 17th. Chris Emmons will be the new director, and Eric Sturgeon will be the new service officer. They have both been registered for classes to work towards their certifications also.

Correspondence-None

Public Comments-

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, reminded the Board of Agenda 2030 and the World Economic Forum. He informed them of a new plan called America 2050 where they would break us up into 10 big mega regions. He asked the Board to steer clear of that and to think of the constitution.

Trent Taylor introduced the new undersheriff, Jeff Harnish to the Board. Jeff has been with the county for 10 years and is going to do great things as undersheriff.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Theobald attended a LDFA meeting. They are working on more testing of wells for PFAs and grant funding.

Board Comments-

Comm Bengelink thanked Joe and Jami for all of their help as a new commissioner. It has been a busy few months, and she appreciates all of the help they have given her.

Comm Theobald welcomed the new undersheriff. She noted it is nice to have a new frame of thought for that position. She also appreciates everyone's patience with her as she gets through all of her appointments and committees.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:17 p.m.
All in favor.

Gary Taylor, Chairperson

Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk

From: Manager <manager@wexfordcountyairport.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:27:22 PM

To: Gary Taylor <gtaylor@wexfordcounty.org>

Cc: Ben Townsend <btownsend@wexfordcounty.org>

Subject: Wexford County Airport Pavilion

Gary,

I don't know if you saw my email about the need for a letter of support for a funds request to Senator Peters office. I am requesting an additional to \$2.5M for our Pavilion. Our cost estimates did not take into consideration the inflationary rates lately. I am collecting letters of support for the Pavilion to send to Senator Peters. Your last note was great. Would it be possible to create another letter addressed to Senator Peters? I have attached your old note as a reference.

Address letter to:

The Honorable Senator Gary Peters

109 E. Front Street

Suite 215B

Traverse City, MI 49684

Email a signed PDF to me.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Keith

Keith R. Newell

Airport Manager

Wexford County Airport

8040 E 34 Road

Cadillac, MI 49601

Manager@WexfordCountyAirport.com

231.878.5178



COUNTY OF WEXFORD

Board of Commissioners

Courthouse
Cadillac, Michigan 49601

December 20, 2023

Keith R. Newell
Airport Manager
Cadillac – Wexford County Airport
8040 34 Rd.
Cadillac, MI 49601

RE: Community Multi-Center Pavilion

Dear Mr. Newell,

On behalf of Wexford County, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners fully supports the Community Center at the Wexford County Airport.

The proposed facility would be a great addition to the County and be beneficial for local organizations. This would build a strong connection between the airport and the community.

The Cadillac – Wexford Airport is an asset to the community and the Board of Commissioners supports the airport manager and his team to complete this project and to see the utilization of resources.

Sincerely,

Gary Taylor
Chairman
Wexford County Board of Commissioners