

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting * Monday, August 15, 2016

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Leslie Housler.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – Commissioners Michael MacCready, Gideon Mitchell, Mark Howie, and John Fuscone.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Public Comments

Gary Finstrom, Wexford County Sheriff, addressed the Board. He questioned if the proposed millage for 911 is on the November ballot will the county still go to Gaylord, or will dispatch stay as a county department or change to an authority? He believes that Wexford County needs to provide 911 Central Dispatch for the County residents.

Fred Osborn, Barbara Street, Cadillac, questioned asking for the same millage amount for November as was requested in August. He would like to see dispatch remain local and go to the voters with the 911 proposal in the spring of 2017.

Agenda Items

1. 911 Surcharge Discussion

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 16-32 Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate Authorization of the Telephone Surcharge for Emergency Telephone Services, increasing the monthly surcharge to \$2.25, as presented.

A Board member felt strongly about not putting the proposal to the vote until the decision has been made: County Department, Authority, or MSP Gaylord. If the public would like to keep it local they will support the millage.

It was pointed out that if the millage is approved for the \$2.25 surcharge the County is requesting it will not be enough to support a county department or authority. The additional monies needed will be paid by the County or shared by all jurisdictions in the county. However, if the decision is to go with 800 MHz radios, millage money can be used to make the purchase.

Adm. Jordan reminded the Board of the cost study done by Plante Moran. They quoted figures for the years of 2017 to 2021. ~~Included in that study was the cost of going to MSP Gaylord, County Authority, and a County Department.~~

(Removed by request of the BOC at the 09/07/2016 meeting)

Another commissioner pointed out that the annual costs were unknown. Board members felt more information is needed before they can decide the best direction for 911 Dispatch.

The consensus of the Board was to place the proposal for 911 Dispatch on the November General election ballot; however, the Board needs to make a decision as to which way they are supporting before the elections and after further study information is reviewed.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comments

Sheriff Finstrom pointed out that additional staff will be needed in the new jail facility. Some of those dollars for additional staffing can be generated from not renting inmate bed space with other counties.

Fred Osborn felt it was important to let the public know where their tax dollars for the 911 dispatch will be spent if the millage passes.

Board Comment

Comm Goodwill agreed that the Board must decide which way they are going. More information is needed before that decision can be made.

Comm Theobald agreed with Comm Goodwill, the Board needed to make a decision as to what they want to do.

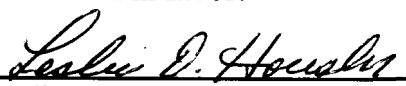
Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler felt this board needed to know the actual savings the county would see if they out-sourced dispatch. If the Board decided to go with an authority or a county department and the millage does not pass, the County will have a difficult time putting the 2017 budget together.

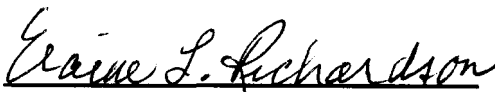
Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn
at 2:30 p.m.**

All in favor.



Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk