

**WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Housler.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Robert Colvin, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Mark Howie, Gideon Mitchell, Alan Devereaux, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – None

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** – None

**Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve the agenda, as presented.**

**All in favor.**

**Employee Recognition** - None

**Presentations and Reports** - None

**Public Comments**

Michael MacCready, 117 Roberts, Manton – believes the county leadership needs change.

Dr. Cara Brenza, Doctor of Psychology for children in the area, she expressed concern about placing the jail next to the school. She believes the county can do better in finding a different location. She is concerned about the emotional and physical impact this may have on the children at the Northview Seventh Day Adventist.

Kristi Schwartz, Tustin, is a counselor at a school and expressed concern about the play area at the school being next to the jail. She has contacted jails in the area and none of them are closer than ½ mile from a school. Ms. Schwartz ask the Board to reconsider their vote.

Gunther Schwaretz, Tustin, worked as a therapist on a sex offender team. He believes the sound of children playing triggers the offenders to reoffend. He feels the physical harm to the children is not imaginary, but real. The Northview Seventh Day Adventist School is small but they are in the process of growing. He encouraged the Board to look at other properties.

Jillian Schaffer, Cadillac, expressed her job is her children and she is a stay at home mom. Her family just moved here from Grand Rapids to come to a smaller town, Cadillac. She believes the jail is a risk to school children and neighborhood children.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the October 01, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve Consent Agenda, as presented.**

**All in favor.**

**Agenda Items**

1. PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG Economic Development Application  
Laura Galbraith appeared before the Board as a representative of the Traverse City Chamber. She explained that this CDBG application is funded by HUD to help business when they are unable to get financing. The Chamber is responsible to see that all due diligence has been performed if the applicant is not repaying the loan. HUD has a loan committee put together to see if the project is feasible. Our County Treasurer Stanton was appointed to this Board by the County Commissioners.

The applicant for this loan is the Harrietta Hills Trout Farm and they are requesting \$210,000. There will be a Public Hearing tonight with a 15 day comment period for the public. After the 15 day comment period CDBG will be back before this Board asking them to pass a resolution to approve the project. If the loan is not paid off, CDBG must prove they have done their due diligence and HUD should write it off.

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to open the Public Hearing at 5:25 p.m. on the CDBG Funding for the Harrietta Hills Trout Farm, LLC.**

**All in favor.**

Michael MacCready, Manton, questioned if this business had any connection to the Harrietta DNR Hatchery.

Dan Vogler, owner of the Harrietta Trout Farm, LLC, appeared before the Board to express his appreciation. It can be a challenge to get financing due to the unique nature of his business. They have a facility in Grayling that has worked with Crawford County and has gained the public confidence. He has been in business for 17 years. He then touched on the economic times and the impact on his business. He then provided the Board with some background on what his business is all about. He further stated that there will be six new full time hires.

No others commented on the hearing and the Public Hearing closed at 5:34 p.m.

2. Resolution 14-34, Extending Appreciation to E.S. Fawcett  
**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie to approve Resolution 14-34, Extending appreciation to E.S. Fawcett, as presented.**

**All in favor.**

Chairman Housler presented the resolution to Mr. Fawcett and read it into the record.

3. MGT Cost Allocation Agreement

**MOTION by Comm Housler, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the MGT Cost Allocation Plan Extension for two additional one year periods, 2014 & 2015 for a fee of \$7,000 annually, as presented.**

Adm. Hinton explained that the County needs to prepare a cost allocation to apply for FOC reimbursement. The County had used Maximus for years and we paid \$10,000 per year. Some employees left Maximus and began doing the same business at a lower price of \$6,000 per year. Adm. Hinton explained how the cost allocation works. MGT is requesting an additional \$1,000 per year for a two year period.

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

4. Pre-application for the Rural Development Loan

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Rural Development Loan pre-application, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

5. Haring Township Water Supply Special Assessment #96-01

**MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve the 2014 Certification for Haring Charter Township Water Supply Expansion Special Assessment District #96-01, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

6. Village of Mesick Wastewater Special Assessment #94-01

**MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Mitchell to approve the 2014 Certification for the Village of Mesick Wastewater Disposal Special Assessment District #94-01, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion passed eight to one with Comm Howie voting against the motion.**

7. Consider County Commissioners' Salaries for 2015

**MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve Resolution 14-36, Establishing Salaries for County Commissioners effective January 01, 2015, as presented.**

The Finance Committee had considered an increase for Commissioners of \$500 per year and recommended it should go before the Board. Their last increase was back in 2010 where they received \$333 increase. Adm. Hinton stated that the original budget draft included the increase. He also reminded them that elected officials received a 1% increase in 2014 along with most other employees of the county. Some commissioners felt it was hard to approve this request when the Board is pushing some departments to

make cut backs. Other commissioners felt the per diem needed to be increased rather than a pay raise.

**Roll call: Motion failed two to seven with Commissioners Howie, Mitchell, Taylor, Fuscone, Goodwill, Colvin and Hilty voting against the motion.**

8. Policy A-3.0, Commissioner Per Diem

**MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the revisions to Policy A-3.0, Commissioner Per Diem, as presented.**

This policy amendment has no change in the per diem rate, just the base rate, which has not be adjusted since the last raise. An amendment to the motion was requested.

**MOTION by Comm Housler, seconded by Comm Taylor to amend the motion and Policy A-3.0 to conform to the current commissioners' salaries.**

**All in favor.**

The vote was called for in the initial motion.

**All in favor.**

9. Budget Amendment

**MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the budget amendment for the Animal Control Fund, dated 10/15/2014, in the amount of \$1,800, as presented.**

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners  
Amendments to the 2014 Budget**

<b>Adj #</b>	<b>Acct</b>	<b>Acct Description</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expense</b>	
20141001	225.000.607.06	Spayed/Neuter Fee	\$1,800		(a)
	225.000.962.04	Spayed/Neuter Education		\$1,800	
	To reflect additional revenues and fund the spaying and neutering of animals adopted during an upcoming Animal Adopt-a-thon				

10. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Mitchell to resolve into a committee of the whole for the purposes of discussing the jail project.**

**All in favor.**

Hooker DeJong provided Board members with a schematic design of the proposed jail/sheriff offices. Bob VanPutten, Hooker DeJong, has met with the Sheriff, Administrator and Jail Administrator to discuss the design of the Sheriff's portion of the

building. They have also met with the City of Cadillac to let them know what may happen on the building site. The City provided good input on utilities and fire. Hooker DeJong received a proposed bid from LSG Engineering Service for \$5000. They would like this Board to approve the bid at tonight's meeting so they can keep things moving forward.

Bob VanPutten, Harrison LandMark, also met with the Sheriff and staff on the Sheriff's quarters. The largest update tonight will be in that area. Mr. VanPutten believes they have good access to utilities, but no storm water holding system. The facility will be moved about 10 feet to the North. There may be a partial extension of Lincoln Street. They are also looking at a second emergency access for emergency vehicles only.

The City is requesting a periodic update throughout the process. Mr. VanPutten will coordinate that with Administrator Hinton.

Another change they have suggested is putting a partial basement under the Sheriff's portion. This will be a secure site from staff and public. A commissioner suggested cutting the shower in the Sheriff's office.

The commissioners and public were again reminded that there would be no outdoor activity area only sky lights on the upper side or roof area of the jail portion for ventilation.

When questioned if they could change the in/out activity room to the North wall, Mr. VanPutten thought that may be a possibility.

Mr. VanPutten suggested that the Board consider a Construction Manager due to the size and complexity of the project. This person can help with the construction process and the bid packages. Some Board members felt if the construction manager was good he could save money to help pay for his services.

Board members discussed the security of the facility and the impact it may have on the school area. Some suggested putting a berm up or trees around the Northeast quarter and East side of the site.

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to rise and report the findings of the Committee of the Whole.**

**All in favor.**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to accept the bid proposal from LSG Engineers in the amount of \$5,000.00, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved 8 to 1 with Comm Goodwill voting against the motion.**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Devereaux to approve the design schematic design dated October 15, 2014, as presented.**

**Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.**

**MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Devereaux to affirm the location of the Stan Fawcett property as the new jail site.**

**Roll call: Motion approved 8 to 1 with Comm Goodwill voting against the motion.**

### **Administrator's Report**

Adm. Hinton reported on the following:

- Negotiations will begin 10/16/2014 on the COAM Contract, which will expire at the end of this year;
- The election is being held on 11/04/2014 with six county millages on it and two commissioner races;
- Work is ongoing on the 2015 budget, however, the upcoming election may have some impact on putting the budget together.

### **Correspondence**

1. CWTA – Moving Forward
2. County Treasurer Stanton provided the Board with the County's Cash/Investment report dated 10/15/2014

### **Public Comments**

Stan Fawcett, 39 Road, Cadillac, encouraged the Board to not move Lincoln Street closer to town. The emergency exit touched on by Hooker DeJong is a good idea for the Sheriff's Department, but not for the public. The Board should look at moving the traffic out of the residential area.

Dr. Cara Brenza told the Board that most of the community is not in favor of building the jail next to the school.

Michael MacCready, 117 Roberts, Manton, encouraged the Board to read the Department of Justice documents. He believes a large berm and trees could be the solution to the problem before the Board. Mr. MacCready then read a prepared statement on why the Cadillac News was now asking candidates in their questionnaires if they have ever been convicted of a crime.

Gunther Schaffer felt that after the last Board meeting some commissioners wanted to review the decision for the jail site. The site that has been selected will have a large impact on the school. He has concerns about prisoners escaping from the jail and going to the school yard. The jail poses many risks for the children. He encouraged the Board to look again for another site.

Christy Schwartz is angry and disappointed with the discussion tonight involving the jail site. She asked how many sites were looked at before this particular site was selected. She believes it will be a great facility, but located in a bad area, by the school.

Emily Gram, Tustin, has been a teacher at Northview Seventh Day Adventist School for one year. She explained how she enjoys the Cadillac area. After looking at the proposal on line, she has some pros and cons to offer. The facility needs to be safe for both the community and the children in the area. The school members were surprised at the selection of the location so close to their facility. She appreciates the goals that the community is seeking, but if one incident happens it will cause much damage.

### **Liaison Reports**

Comm Colvin attended a District Health meeting and he learned that the Health Michigan plan in Wexford County is doing very well. Also, they are in the process on interviewing for COA Director to replace Bonnie Forbes, who has resigned.

Comm Hilty attended a DPW meeting last night and they are working on their preliminary budget.

Comm Howie explained that the CWTA Board is discussing the Interlocal Agreement and looking at some changes. He touched on the possibility that if the upcoming millage fails, what may happen with the facility. The Board is working hard to find an interim director.

Comm Fuscone explained that the DPW at their last meeting touched on the Mesick Bonds. They have referred it to legal counsel to protect the County.

### **Board Comment**

Comm Goodwill believes the plan and facility is excellent. However, he would be willing to look at other sites.

Comm Colvin agreed with Comm Goodwill.

### **Chairman's Comments** - None

### **Adjourn**

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Mitchell to adjourn  
at 6:55 p.m.**

**All in favor.**

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Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

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Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk