

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Chippewa County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Don Cooper, Rita Dale, Richard Timmer, Aaron Hopper, Jim Moore and Chairman Earl Kay

Absent: Commissioner Ted Postula

Also Present: Bridgett Nodurft, Don and Chris McLean, Susan DeCoursey, Mary Marsh, Rikki Timmer, Mary Piralli, Tom Farnquist, Sean Ley, Tim Dolehanty, Controller and Diane Cork, County Clerk

It was moved by Commissioner Cooper, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to acknowledge the correspondence received in the Clerk's Office, and if necessary, forward to the appropriate committee. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to approve the County Board minutes of July 14, 2003 with the following correction: Page 2 should read U.S. Representative Stupak and not Senator Stupak. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bridget Nodurft, Whitefish Point Preservation Society, addressed the County Board with concerns of preserving the history of the Whitefish Point Lighthouse as an historic site. She stated that this site is unique because it is a migratory route for wild birds and the goals of the WPPS is to assure this site is restored to historic accuracy, is not commercialized and to protect the fragile ecological environment and significant migratory flyway.

The Preservation Society is questioning the approval of Federal Funds for restoration projects. The Society believes that historic landmarks are being altered or destroyed and approval for these changes has not been properly been addressed.

In response to Ms. Nodurft's statements, Tom Farnquist, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Society, addressed the County Board stating that he has asked to have a meeting with the WPPS and any others who wish to attend to talk about their concerns, but that meeting has not taken place.

Mr. Farnquist explained that the Great Lakes Shipwreck Society is not a profit making organization that in fact lost over \$200,000 last year and does not feel that there is competition with the businesses within the township. It is not the intent of the Society to take business away from the merchants in Whitefish Township but to supply a service to the area and increase the areas economy.

He explained that if you use Federal dollars, you must go thru a 106 review (audit) and jump through a lot of hoops and the Shipwreck Society prides itself in doing this for the historic and educational value to the community. Mr. Farnquist believes that Shipwreck Society is probably the

largest non-profit organization in Michigan and does not feel that monies received and the projects completed or in progress violates any laws or historic value to the site.

Chairman Kay noted that if the County Board was asked, they would be willing to sit down with these organizations to discuss concerns involved.

The following statement was read by Mr. McLean:

“Over the last few weeks there have been a number of stories in the Detroit News and the Free Press explaining the horrible Mental Health System in the Detroit area.

There is a tendency for us to believe that those are big city Detroit problems.

The truth is that in our three county area, served by Hiawatha Behavioral Health, we have had incidents of a deaf mentally ill patient, in crisis, being directed to come back tomorrow, and later being killed in a train/car accident because services were not provided near home; of a middle aged husband, father and grandfather suddenly developing depression and paranoia and being sent home with no information to his family only to have him commit suicide; of a severely mentally ill middle aged man to be termed as “very resourceful” and allowed to become homeless despite protests from his caring family, only to be beaten to death in an alley; or of a woman with a long documented history of mental health problems to be determined as no longer in need of mental health services and to later die trying to cure herself.

Each of these people had families trying desperately to get their loved one the treatment they needed.

The newspaper articles mention that the system provides inadequate services while squandering money on inefficient multi-layered administration. The articles mention how money is tight, pay is low and homes had to be closed in the Detroit area.

We differ here. In our area we are building more office buildings and agency group homes while forcing privately run homes to close. We are providing paid college tuition for employees, paid staff recognition luncheons and parties, expensive board retreats, bronze plaques honoring former board members, out of state travel for employees and board members, expensive luxury cars for personal use and the latest \$10,000 spent on unnecessary landscaping.

How is this possible?

Does the state provide us with extra money because we live in the U.P.?

Does Medicare have a special formula for the U.P.?

Do we have fewer mentally ill people per population in the U.P.?

We all know the answers to these questions are NO.

We believe the management of HBH has systematically screened people out, has refused services and cut needy clients out in order to spend the money on their multi-layered administration.

At the last HBH meeting we had to listen to a lengthy CEO report about how Chippewa County wanted to forget history and how he had saved Chippewa County; about all the buildings the CEO

built and how under his guidance the Board had made such good decisions and had improved staff moral.

His history emphasized material fixtures and furniture that made the staff and himself more comfortable.

What about the history of services to those people I mentioned earlier?"

CONTROLLER'S REPORT – Tim Dolehanty

Correspondence was received from the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team inviting a County board member to attend their quarterly board meetings.

It was moved by Commissioner Hopper, supported by Commissioner Moore, that Commissioner Richard Timmer be appointed as the County Board's designee to attend the Straits Area Narcotic Enforcement Team quarterly meeting in Petoskey on August 14, 2003. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Timmer, supported by Commissioner Dale, to approve Resolution No. 03-23 as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION
OF JOHN EARL WILSON**

WHEREAS, John Earl Wilson enlisted with the Michigan State Police on September 25, 1978; and

WHEREAS, John Earl Wilson has served the State Police at posts located in Sandusky, Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie; and

WHEREAS, John Earl Wilson has earned many accolades in his career including Sanilac County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for saving the life of a choking man in 1980; and

WHEREAS, John Earl Wilson has served the community through his involvement in the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 115, the BPOE-Elks Lodge 552, and the Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge 717; and

WHEREAS, John Earl Wilson will retire from service with the Michigan State Police, effective September 27, 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners respectfully dedicates this document to honor and thank John Earl Wilson for his many years of public service and particularly for his work in Chippewa County.
2. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extends their best wishes to John Earl

Wilson for many years of good health and enjoyment in his retirement.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Cooper, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to approve Resolution No. 03-24 as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION
OF HARRY W. REINFELDER**

WHEREAS, Harry W. Reinfelder began working for Chippewa County on June 20, 1993 as a Corrections officer;

WHEREAS, Harry W. Reinfelder has faithfully served the citizens of Chippewa County for the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, Harry W. Reinfelder retired from service with Chippewa County, effective July 23, 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners respectfully dedicates this document to honor and thank Harry W. Reinfelder for his many years of public service and particularly for his work in Chippewa County.
2. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extends their best wishes to Harry W. Reinfelder for many years of good health and enjoyment in his retirement.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel-Rita Dale-No meeting
Equalization & Apportionment-Jim Moore-No meeting
Health & Social Services-Ted Postula-No meeting
Building, Grounds & Jail Committee-Earl Kay-No meeting
Transportation-Ted Postula (Chairman Kay stated there was a joint meeting held with the E.D.C. and the CC Transportation Authority)
Legislative & Natural Resources-Richard Timmer-August 4, 2003

Controller Dolehanty reviewed the goals presented by the County's risk management insurance carrier. The County was asked to create a safety committee to discuss and formulate safety policies. The new committee would also review accident investigation reports and self-inspection reports.

Commissioner Dale suggested assigning this responsibility to the Health and Human Services Committee instead of creating a new committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Timmer, supported by Commissioner to recommend this matter be assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee.

On discussion, Commissioner Cooper thought this committee should consist of individuals working within the Courthouse buildings. Commissioner Dale suggested an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to see if anyone would attend or volunteer. On a voice vote, the motion carried with Commissioner Cooper voting no.

Discussion was held on the Volunteer Coordinator Proposal re: local animal welfare organization to appoint a volunteer to coordinate all volunteer activities at the animal control shelter without the appearance of favoritism. Controller Dolehanty didn't think the coordination of volunteers through his office was a problem.

It was moved by Commissioner Timmer, supported by Commissioner Dale, to approve the Legislative & Natural Resource Committee report as given. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Computer Committee-Don Cooper-No meeting
Finance, Claims and Accounts-Rita Dale-August 7, 2003

Mr. Dolehanty noted the Prosecuting Attorney signed the Maximus contract on June 25, 2003. The agreement calls on Maximus to perform certain technical assistance services for an annual fee of \$4,800. Mr. Dolehanty stated that work to be performed by Maximus was historically performed by his office, and that the Prosecutor's action was unknown to him until an official from Maximus began questioning documents. According to board policy, all contracts require approval of the board, and contracts signed by anyone but the Controller or Board Chairman is considered void and not binding on the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Cooper, to recommend that a letter be sent to Maximus, Inc. on behalf of the Board to advise them that the agreement is not a valid contract, and that Maximus, Inc. be paid for services rendered in the first quarter of the agreement, with a total cost not to exceed \$1,200. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Dolehanty reported it was necessary for the Board to determine its payment option for Federal Forest funds received under Title III for fiscal year 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to recommend selection of the Option 2 payment method for Federal Forest funds received under the Title III program for fiscal year 2004, and that the appropriate agencies be notified of this action. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Cooper, to recommend the approval of general fund claims totaling \$193,371.35, other fund claims of \$89,581.02, payroll of

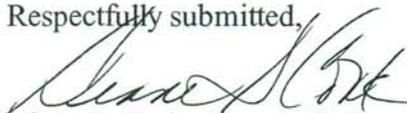
\$528,181.48 and health department claims of \$354,966.59, vouchers 33892 through 34109 and H-1 through H-147. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

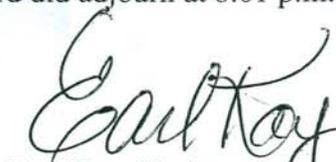
It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Cooper, to approve the report of the Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee as given. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Having no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Hopper, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to adjourn. The motion carried and the Board did adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane S. Cork, County Clerk


Earl Kay, Chairman