

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
Regular Session
April 11, 2024

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Savoie lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Present: Damon Lieurance, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, James Traynor, and Chairman Jim Martin

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Kelly Church, Administrative Assistant Cady Bauers, Clerk Steven Woodgate, and 18 members of the public. 11 members of the public logged in via zoom.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Regular Board Meeting – March 14, 2024

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Traynor, to accept the correspondence received in the Clerk's office and forward to the appropriate committees. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike McCarthy from Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District presented the 2023 Annual Report

Dave Ulrey spoke about his concerns about a land surveyor not being licensed and followed up about a land title not being cleared up.

Chippewa County Home Health and Hospice nurses Cindy Armstrong, Teri Knolls, Joanne Sunders, and Justine Moss mentioned their concerns about the Home Health and Hospice program ending early and lack of support from the commissioners.

Lori Miller, Phylis Reed, and Simon Langner voiced their concerns regarding the shortened schedule with the Neebish Island ferry.

John Marble talked about his concerns regarding Home Health and Hospice ending.

Marta LaLonde spoke about the lack of microphones in the room and how she cannot hear the commissioners talk.

Terry Knowles said the Hospice House is not part of Chippewa County Home Health and Hospice.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Kelly Church provided for informational purposes only – *no action items*

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Shackleton;

RESOLUTION 2024-07

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE FY 2025 GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF OPERATIONAL FUNDING TO THE MICHIGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE ELIMINATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP)

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2024, Governor Whitmer released her Executive Budget Recommendation for fiscal year 2025 which included under the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) recommended budget a \$1,000,000.00 cut to Michigan Conservation District's operating budget.

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2025 budget recommendation for MDARD also recommended the termination of local Conservation District Technicians who administer the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and replace them with 24 State employees.

WHEREAS, this recommendation undermines the local conservation delivery system led by local Conservation Districts covering all 83 Michigan counties using the voluntary, non-regulatory, educational approach used all across the country to address natural resources concerns at the local level.

WHEREAS, Michigan passed Public Act 297 of 1937 to establish Conservation District's as local units of State Government to work with landowners in every county to address natural resource concerns driven by a five member publicly elected Board of Directors. These Boards establish conservation priorities based on their local needs and voluntarily work with landowners to address critical natural resource concerns, the only organization that can do this on private land with the trust of the landowner.

WHEREAS, Michigan Conservation Districts have been critically underfunded for decades. This has left many Conservation Districts without staff to implement programs or provide assistance. Because of this, Michigan Conservation Districts experience high employee turnover which undermines the success of programs and the ability to administer assistance to the public.

WHEREAS, Michigan cannot effectively allocate federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Title II of the Farm Bill due to the lack of funding provided by the State of Michigan. This leaves critical federal dollars on the table that is reallocated to other States that can deliver Farm Bill dollars more effectively.

Adopted this 11th day of April 2024 – Resolution 2024-07

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Chippewa requests that the FY 2025 budget maintain the operational budget for Michigan Conservation District's at \$3,000,000.00 and maintain the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) at its current capacity with local technicians employed by Conservation Districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county of Chippewa implores the legislature to properly fund Michigan Conservation Districts and work with MDARD and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) to find or develop a restricted funding source to provide Conservation District's with a yearly allocation of \$13,000,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senators John DaMoose and Ed McBroom, Representatives David Prestin and Niel Friske as well as the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director Tim Boring and Deputy Director Kathy Angerer and the Michigan Association of Counties.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Martin, Savoie, Shackleton, Lieurance and Traynor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance;

PROCLAMATION

2024-08

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 14th – 20th, 2024

Whereas emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, or emergency medical services; and,

Whereas when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

Whereas the safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Chippewa County Central Dispatch emergency communications center; and,

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and,

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers, EMS personnel, firefighters, and all emergency responders by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information, and ensuring their safety; and,

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Chippewa County Central Dispatch have contributed substantially to rendering aid to citizens, the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and,

Whereas each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners declares the week of April 14 through 20, 2024, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Chippewa County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Martin, Savoie, Shackleton, Lieurance and Traynor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Savoie;

RESOLUTION 2024-09

**ACTION BY THE GOVERNING
BOARD**

**RESTATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL 457(b)
RETIREMENT PLAN**

The undersigned, on behalf of the Governing Board of Chippewa County (“Employer”), hereby certifies that at a meeting of the Governing Board, the following resolutions were approved:

WHEREAS, the Employer has maintained the Chippewa County 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan (“Plan”) since 6-1-1981 for the benefit of eligible employees;

WHEREAS, the Employer has decided to amend the above-referenced Plan by adopting a complete restatement of the current Plan document;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has reviewed and evaluated the proposed amendment(s) to the Plan; and WHEREAS, the Plan document authorizes the Employer to amend the selections under the Adoption Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board has hereby approved the proposed amendment(s) and authorizes the Employer to adopt the Chippewa County 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan as a complete restatement of the prior Plan, to be effective on 6-26-2024;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the undersigned members of the Governing Board authorize the execution of the restated Plan document and authorize the performance of any other actions necessary to implement the adoption of the Plan restatement. The members of the Governing Board may designate any member(s) of the Governing Board (or other authorized person) to execute the restated Plan document and perform the necessary actions to adopt the restated Plan. The Employer will maintain a copy of the restated Plan, as approved by the members of the Governing Board, along with a copy of the prior Plan, in its files;

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Employer will act as administrator of the Plan and will be responsible for performing all actions necessary to carry out the administration of the Plan. The Employer may designate any other person or persons to perform the actions necessary to administer the Plan; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Plan participants shall be provided with a summary of the Plan provisions within a reasonable period of time following the adoption of the restated Plan.

Adopted this 11th day of April 2024 – Resolution 2024-09

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is an Authorized Representative of the Employer and that the foregoing is a true record of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Governing Board, and that said meeting was held in accordance with state law and the Bylaws of the above-named Employer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed my name below as an Authorized Representative of the Employer.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Martin, Savoie, Shackleton, Lieurance and Traynor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance;

RESOLUTION 2024-10

**ACTION BY THE GOVERNING
BOARD**

**RESTATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL 457(b)
RETIREMENT PLAN**

The undersigned, on behalf of the Governing Board of Chippewa County Health Department (“Employer”), hereby certifies that at a meeting of the Governing Board, the following resolutions were approved:

WHEREAS, the Employer has maintained the Chippewa County Health Department 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan (“Plan”) since 8-20-1996 for the benefit of eligible employees;

WHEREAS, the Employer has decided to amend the above-referenced Plan by adopting a complete restatement of the current Plan document;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has reviewed and evaluated the proposed amendment(s) to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan document authorizes the Employer to amend the selections under the Adoption Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board has hereby approved the proposed amendment(s) and authorizes the Employer to adopt the Chippewa County Health Department 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan as a complete restatement of the prior Plan, to be effective on 6-26-2024;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the undersigned members of the Governing Board authorize the execution of the restated Plan document and authorize the performance of any other actions necessary to implement the adoption of the Plan restatement. The members of the Governing Board may designate any member(s) of the Governing Board (or other authorized person) to execute the restated Plan document and perform the necessary actions to adopt the restated Plan. The Employer will maintain a copy of the restated Plan, as approved by the members of the Governing Board, along with a copy of the prior Plan, in its files;

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Employer will act as administrator of the Plan and will be responsible for performing all actions necessary to carry out the administration of the Plan. The Employer may designate any other person or persons to perform the actions necessary to administer the Plan; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Plan participants shall be provided with a summary of the Plan provisions within a reasonable period of time following the adoption of the restated Plan.

Adopted this 11th day of April 2024 – Resolution 2024-10

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is an Authorized Representative of the Employer and that the foregoing is a true record of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Governing Board, and that said meeting was held in accordance with state law and the Bylaws of the above-named Employer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed my name below as an Authorized Representative of the Employer.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Martin, Savoie, Shackleton, Lieurance and Traynor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PERSONNEL, EQUALIZATION AND APPORTIONMENT/TRANSPORTATION/HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 5, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners Personnel/Equalization and Apportionment/Transportation/Health and Social Services Committee was held on Friday, April 5, 2024 at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Damon Lieurance called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioners Shackleton, to approved the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Equalization – Millages and property values

The Committee was updated by Equalization Director Dulcee Ranta who provided information on the County's Personal and Real property totals, Equalized Valuations – REAL and Assessed Valuations – REAL all which are part of the L-4024 report broken down by township acreage with the report showing each of the township's breakdown by the categories of: agriculture, commercial, industrial, residential, timber-cutover and development. The Committee also

reviewed the 14.21% increase in taxable values for 2024, and discussed the Proposal A (Headlee rollback), and its effects on tax bills. The Committee was updated on the prior changes, trends and the studies and market values; upcoming educational meetings and the Townships responsibilities per MCL. Equalization Director Ranta asked the Committee to approved the post Board of Review equalized and certified figures on the L4024. The Committee discussed the June Truth in Taxation upcoming public hearing. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, that the 2024 equalized and certified values, tentative taxable values presented by Director Ranta be approved as reported and that all state required forms regarding same be completed and filed as required by statute and to establish a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing for the June 13, 2024 meeting of the County Board. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee and Chairman's Comments

None offered.

Adjourn

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to accept the minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

**FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

April 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Savoie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was available via Zoom.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to amended and approve the agenda, adding 5 b. Gator Kennels. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comment

Correspondence and Informational Items.

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – Home Health and Hospice Program – Closure Date

The Committee reviewed the most recent Home Health and Hospice update from Administration regarding the need to set an earlier closure date for the Home Health and Hospice Programs; both Health Department and County Administration feel that a June 30th closure date is necessary. The closure is needed earlier due to reduced reimbursements, staffing and to make sure that the services can be maintained at the level the community has received and expected over the years. A June 30th closure date gives the Health Department enough time to send out adequate notices to the staff, State of Michigan, contracted organizations and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). No new patients will be added to the current census of 28. The Board previously approved payout of Home Health and Hospice staff (both union and Non-union) sick time on the books, Administration is asking that the sick time also be paid out, if an employee leaves prior to June 30 due to a new job; the Committee held a lengthy discussion and spoke about several different options. The original motion was amended to add that any full-time staff that stays until June 30, 2024; would receive 100% their sick bank paid and an additional \$500.00. Discussion followed

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the closure of the Home Health and Hospice Programs, effective June 30, 2024 and to payout the Home Health and Hospice full-time employees sick time, plus an additional \$500.00 if they stay until June 30, 2024 closure. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Commissioner Shackleton offered an amendment to the motion to pay the employees sick time regardless to whether the employees stay until June 30th and the \$500 is to be paid out to the employees who stay until June 30th as to what was originally agreed upon. It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, approved by Commissioner Traynor, to amend the motion for sick time to be paid to the employees from this point forward and the \$500 bonus be paid to the employees who stay until June 30th. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Office of Emergency Services – Soo Tower – Space Lease Agreement \$4,470.15

Office of Emergency Services Director Greg Postma ask the Committee to review, approve and authorize to lease space on the Soo Tower sight; the prior lease was just over 20 years ago. The renewal is a 20-year renewal, with annual rent of \$4,470.15.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the U.S. Government Leand for Real Property, for a site lease (Soo Tower) between U.S. Customs & Border Protection and Chippewa County Emergency Services, a 20-year lease (expiring 9/30/2042); costing \$4,470.15 annually. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Office of Emergency Services – Rave Emergency Notification Systems \$5,000.00 (set-up and migration fee)

The Committee reviewed a memo from Director Greg Postma for a one-year service agreement with Rave Mobile Safety. A product that provides emergency messaging to the communities in the county. Previously a Region 8 Homeland Security grant paid for this notification system, this ends

June 2024. To maintain this program, it has an annual fee of \$4,000.00 with a one-time fee \$1,000.00 set-up/migration fee; Director Postma is asking to double the expenditure for this year as only \$2,500.00 was budgeted.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the Rave Emergency Notification System, for an annual fee of \$4,000.00 and a one-time \$1,000.00 for set-up/migration. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Office of Emergency Services – Pager Talk Group Activation Fee for Kinross EMS - Reimbursement

The Committee reviewed a request from Director Postma to activate a Pager Talk Group for Kinross EMS (KEMS), through the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), as Kinross EMS is transitioning from VHF paging to 800 mhz paging. The cost of \$1,500.00 will be paid by the County and fully reimbursed by Kinross EMS

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the \$1,500.00 county expenditure for a Pager Talk Group for Kinross EMS; to be reimbursed by Kinross EMS. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Prosecutors by Karpel (PACC/PAAM Case-tracking application) Contract

The Committee reviewed a request for the Prosecutor Office to migrate from the use of Hyland OnBase, to the new PACC/PAAM case-tracking and workflow application. PACC/PAAM is providing funding to cover the migration and billing costs until September 30, 2026; and following the annual maintenance is expected to be around \$4,000; with limits on the increases, this will be a large savings as the current reoccurring cost is \$24,000.00 per year.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize signature for the contract between Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Chippewa County Prosecutor’s Office for the Karpel Solutions ‘Prosecutor by Karpel’ to provide case-tracking and workflow. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Cyber Incident Response Plan (approval)

The Committee reviewed a request from Information Technology Specialist Anthony Zakic, to approve a Cyber Incident Response Plan for the County, to provide key framework on how we respond to a cyber incident. This Plan is confidential and not FOIA eligible.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve Chippewa County Cyber Incident Response Plan, this plan is confidential and not FOIA eligible. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Policy 505 (update) and Policy 507 (new)

The Committee reviewed the changes in Policy No. 505 – Agency Provided Telephones/Laptops/Tablets, to clarifying to employees when equipment can be asked to produce or return. Policy No. 507 is a new policy regarding Computer and Network Authentication and following the best-practice standards, and Password Policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve Policy No. 505 Agency Provided Telephones/Laptops/tablets update and new Policy No. 507 Computer & Network Authentication (or Password Policy), as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Release RFP’s

- Sheriff Building and Animal Shelter Camera Systems
- Building Security & Access Control System – County Building and Courthouse

The Committee reviewed the RFQ for Sheriff Building and Animal Shelter Camera Systems and Building Security & Access Control System – County Building and Courthouse, as presented.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the to release the RFP’s for Sheriff Building and Animal Shelter Camera Systems and Building Security & Access Control System – County Building and Courthouse, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff’s Office – K-9 Fund (establish)

The Committee reviewed a request to establish a K-9 Special Fund in the general ledger; as requested by Sheriff Bitnar. Chairman Savoie supports the idea but did want the Committee know that there is case law regarding base wages for a Deputy who is assigned as a dog handler; with the base wage being increase by 20-25%.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize establishing a K-9 Special Fund in the general ledger, as requested. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff’s Office – Stonegarden Funding \$135,500.00 (accept)

The Committee reviewed the Stonegarden April 1 to September 30, 2024 allocation; which includes the Sheriff’s Office wages and fringe of \$57,500.00; SSM City Police wages and fringes of \$16,500.00; fuel of \$8,100.00; mileage of \$4,550.00; License Plate Reader maintenance of \$3,600.00; marina slip of \$1,900.00; patrol vehicle maintenance of \$1,750.00; Thermal monocular of \$6,000.00; GPS units \$3,000.00; mobile 800mhs \$14,400.00, portable 800mhs \$19,200.00 and State management and administrative (M&A) \$3,500.00. for a total of \$136,500.00 as the M&A is already expended.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to accept the Stonegarden Funding, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Control – Robinson Fence Co. Inc. \$6,719.00 (approve & waive purchasing policy)

The Committee review a quote from Robinson Fence Co. Inc., to supply and install approximately 110' of 6' high, 9-gauge chain link fence at the Animal Shelter at the cost of \$6,719.00; to replace what was removed for the addition.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the fencing at the Animal Shelter; to install 110' of chain link fencing by Robinson Fence Co. Inc. at the price of \$6,719.00 and to waive the County purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Control – Gator Kennels \$3,960.00

The Committee reviewed the quote from Gator Kennels for four new gates and four replacement gates for the Animal Shelter, these are the royal blue with the paw print design to match the current gates.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the purchase of eight gates (four new and four replacement) from Gator Kennels at the price of \$3,960.00, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Treasurer's Office – Title Check LLC renewal – 5-year agreement

The Committee reviewed a contract renewal from Title Check LLC, who provides the County Treasurer with comprehensive real estate title research, skip tracing of parties with property interest, due process notification, foreclosure processing, task management and property disposition services.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize signature for the 5-year renewal of the Title Check LLC contract with the County Treasurer, as presented with per-parcel rates of \$62.88 for administrative fees; \$55.25 for full searches and \$21.25 for repeat searches. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

C-L-M Community Action Agency – Senior Services and Program Millage Renewal

The Committee reviewed the Senior Services and Programs Millage Renewal; which will generate approximately \$989,000.00 annually; this language was reviewed by legal.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the Senior Services and Programs Millage Renewal Proposal for the August 2024 election as follows:

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

SENIOR SERVICES and PROGRAMS
MILLAGE RENEWAL

(This proposal will permit the County to renew its tax levy at .75 mills to provide operating funds for Chippewa County COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY'S SENIOR SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY and will replace the millage previously levied for this purpose)

AUGUST 6, 2024

Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN be renewed at .75 mill (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of four years, being 2025, 2026, 2027, AND 2028, inclusive for the purpose of providing operating funds to continue and enhance Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Meals Programs and Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Senior Services in Chippewa County, thereby raising in the first year (2025) an estimated \$989,000?

YES _____
NO _____

On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Bid Summaries for Copier Machines (Clerk and Public Defender)

The Committee reviewed the Bid Summary sheet for copiers in the Clerk's Office and the Public Defender, two bids were received that met specifications and were timely. The pricing for the Clerk's Office being higher due to a 3rd paper tray being added.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the low bid from National Office Products, \$4,779.75 for the Public Defender's Office and \$5,132.59 for the Clerk's Office, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – March – County and Health Department

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to recommend the approval of March County bills and payroll: general claims \$315,456.10, other fund claims \$1,542,192.14, payroll \$602,813.86, and Health Department claims \$353,517.50 and payroll \$205,602.67 total claims \$3,019,582.27. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED. 4-0 (Commissioner Lieurance abstained)

Committee Comments

Commissioner Martin spoke about Home Health and Hospice, and how heartbreaking it is for CCHD and the staff about closing the program; noting that the County kept it going as long as possible, he thanked the staff, that we did the best that we could do, that it is very disappointing, but that it was not from lack of trying to keep the program.

Chairman Comments

Chairman Savoie reiterated that it is a sad, tough day to take the lead on making the program closure motion, and that he did not see the program as a failure; but that we are the last county in the State of Michigan to be able to continue to provide the services; but that it is certainly a sad day for the staff and citizens.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor to to accept the Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND
GENERAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Savoie mentioned Chippewa County was the last county out of the 83 counties in the State to have kept the Home Health and Hospice program open. The County cannot have a deficit budget and maintain a program they cannot pay. Commissioner Savoie also stated he has been with the county for 47 years and not once has he refused to meet with anybody, and not one time was he asked to meet with the Home Health and Hospice nurses.

Commissioner Shackleton said the Commission has supported the nurses. The County has kept the Home Health and Hospice program running for many years and the it can not longer keep it running. Commissioner Shackleton also said the Commission has given more support for this layoff than they ever have before.

Commissioner Traynor said he does not collect commissioner wages, does not get paid for meetings, or gets reimbursed for mileage for ferry fees. If there was a meeting, he would have gone. If he was asked to meet with the nurses, he would have met with them. He attended 97 meetings last year. Commissioner also represents Neebish Island at the EUPTA meetings and will back the nurses. He called every hospice provider in the U.P. and Northern Michigan to help. He wants to see this county survive and everything in it.

Commissioner Lieurance stated it was a tough decision to close down the Home Health and Hospice program. Government is not to be a competitor to private enterprises. He encouraged the nurses to contact the Commissioners individually with issues. Commissioner Lieurance also wants to reconsider a resolution supporting the tunnel for Line 5.

Commissioner Shackleton mentioned there was not a lot in information previously on the tunnel and now there is lots of information so a resolution would be a great idea. He also mentioned about making the speakers in the room better.

Chairman Martin was concerned about the thickness of the pipe on Line 5. In regards to Home Health and Hospice, the County is losing \$1-\$1.5 million and cannot run a deficit. The Commissioners did the best they could for as long as they could.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Shackleton to adjourn, accordingly. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



Steven Woodgate, Clerk


James Martin, Chairman