

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
Regular Session
February 13, 2025

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 4:31 P.M. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Shackleton lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Present: Justin Knepper, Damon Lieurance, Scott Shackleton, James Traynor and Chairman Jim Martin

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Kelly Church, Clerk Steven Woodgate, Administrative Assistant Cady Bauers and 1 member of the public. 6 members of the public logged in via zoom.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to accept 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 Knepper, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Organizational Meeting – January 7, 2025

Commissioner Knepper commented on the areas in the minutes where he passed on the votes, but according to Robert's Rules of Order, he was able to pass his vote to vote after everybody else votes so he could figure out what the other commissioners were doing. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to accept the correspondence as written and to forward onto the appropriate people. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Reed said the new appointee to the EUPTA Board visited Neebish Island and made a positive impression.

Lori Miller stated she is concerned about the Cloverland issue with EUPTA.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to accept the administrator's report as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

2025-01

John Trembl

Let It Be Known that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join with the Chippewa County employees and residents of Chippewa County, to express their wish of good health and happiness upon his retirement from the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation.

John Trembl has served the citizens of Chippewa County in a manner above reproach, and for this we extend our thanks. ***John Trembl*** has provided outstanding service for twenty-three years.

John Trembl has taken personal pride in his work with Chippewa County EDC as the Test Track Manager and has worked hard to continue the improvements of the test track and its surroundings.

John Trembl through his high-performance standards, his friendship, his enthusiasm, and his care to his fellow workers and citizens place him in the highest of categories.

John Trembl on behalf of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, your co-workers and the residents of Chippewa County, extends their appreciation to a friend and leader who is dedicated and who made a favorable impact on the Chippewa County EDC during your tenure.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon his retirement from the EDC, this document is signed and dedicated to honor ***John Trembl***, for his countless hours of work. For his untiring efforts in improving the Test Track, we join together to extend to ***John Trembl*** a gracious thank you for a job well done.

MOVED: Commissioner Traynor

SUPPORTED: Commissioner Knepper

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Knepper, Lieurance, Shackleton, Traynor, and Chairman Martin

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION 2025-01 DECLARED ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

2025-02

Brian Decker

Let It Be Known that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join with the Chippewa County employees and residents of Chippewa County, to express their wish of good health and happiness upon his retirement from the Chippewa County Road Commission.

Brian Decker has served the citizens of Chippewa County in a manner above reproach, and for this we extend our thanks. ***Brian Decker*** has provided outstanding service for thirty-two years.

Brian Decker has taken personal pride in his work with Chippewa County Road Commission as the Office Manager / Finance Director and has worked hard to manage and maintain the financial health of the Commission, while assisting with planning and prioritizing projects the Commission performed and also ensuring that compliance with all applicable financial regulations was maintained.

Brian Decker through his high-performance standards, his friendship, his enthusiasm, and his care to his fellow workers and citizens place him in the highest of categories.

Brian Decker on behalf of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, your co-workers and the residents of Chippewa County, extends their appreciation to a friend and leader who is dedicated and who made a favorable impact on the Chippewa County Road Commission during your tenure.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon his retirement from the Chippewa County Road Commission, this document is signed and dedicated to honor ***Brian Decker***, for his countless hours of work. For his untiring efforts in improving the road infrastructure, we join together to extend to ***Brian Decker*** a gracious thank you for a job well done.

MOVED: Commissioner Shackleton

SUPPORTED: Commissioner Traynor

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Knepper, Lieurance, Shackleton, Traynor, and Chairman Martin

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION 2025-02 DECLARED ADOPTED

DISCUSSION ON ZOOM FOR FINANCE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Commissioner Knepper stated he received feedback from the community stating there is not enough transparency, so he would like to see the zoom for the finance meeting remain, and asked if the decision to end zoom was made through email. The Commission discussed there is only one person on average logging in via zoom which is a commissioner's spouse and everything taken up at the finance meeting is taken up at the Board meeting. The Commission also discussed the option of zoom being available upon request. Chairman Martin stated the decision to end zoom was not made through any emails because it would violate the Open Meetings Act. It was moved by Commissioner Knepper to retain zoom and review use for the rest of the year, but there was no support. Chairman Martin requested to put the zoom discussion on the agenda for May's Board meeting to see if there are any requests to watch finance meeting via zoom or if there are any complaints about the meeting not shown via zoom.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information
Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Building, Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information Technology Committee was held on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Traynor called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. with a quorum present.

Additions/Deletions and Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

Agenda Items

Building and Grounds

Jail Control Boards

The Committee started the meeting after doing a walk through at the Sheriff's Office so that the Committee could look at the control boards which are the access systems to operate the Correctional Facility. An overview of the access control, fire suppression, relays for lights; the systems are having several issues lately with the response time from the contracted provider not being very timely. Discussion followed with regards to the systems current

service contracts with tentative planning, dependent upcoming service calls. The Sheriff's Office also spoke about an increase in population of Federal Inmates, which will bring in added not budgeted revenue. A request for increased part-time wages for a Federal Inmate ICE Liaison Officer was discussed, which will go to the Finance Committee. This position will be a liaison for the prisoners and the Jail Administration. Commissioner Knepper asked that a press release be done so that the local constituents, understand how these ICE inmates are being processed and how that they can end up here in the local correctional facility, as he gets questions when people are checking the Sheriff's App. No action was taken.

County Building Generator

The Committee was updated on the County Building Generator breakdown and repairs; we currently have a temporary generator on lease from Wolverine Power as back-up. The current needed repairs are \$5,493.00 and another \$14,920.55 summer repair of the radiator will be needed. The Committee spoke about the Generac's life span and needed additional information, to determine if an RFQ will be needed this year.

RFQ's

Central Dispatch UPS

Central Dispatch Electricity Upgrade

Public Defenders Rally Bar

The Committee reviewed the three Requests for Proposals, including a memo from Director Postma explaining the needed upgrades for Central Dispatch; the rally bar will aid the Public Defender in processing cases through the Courts and with communication with his clients; a second rally bar maybe added to the request, if the MIDC approves a budget line increase.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize release of the Requests for Quotes for Central Dispatch's UPS and Electricity upgrade and for the Public Defenders Rally Bar. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Circuit and Probate Courtroom air conditioning

The Committee's opinion was sought on, how to potentially add air conditioning to the Courthouse's Circuit and Probate Courtrooms. This has been an on-going conversation, in trying to address not only the heat but also that of the acoustics and quality of being able to hear well in the Courtrooms, during the summer months because of the need to open the Courtroom windows for the venting of the room A/C units. Administration asked that a project manager/HVAC engineer be the lead on a project like this; discussion followed. Administrator Church will follow up with U.P. Engineers & Architects.

Committee and Chairman's Comments

Commissioner Knepper asked about the County preparing a capital maintenance/strategic plan long-term plan for the County Buildings.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to accept the meeting minute as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

**FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Shackleton called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Senkus, Cady Bauers, and Kelly Church

Approval of the Agenda as Amended

Adding items 4. a. a Nine Unit Cat Stax (kennel) and item #8 Probate Court Emergency Guardianship Services; both items will be added under agenda items.

Public Comment

Correspondence and Informational Items

Health Department

Health Department – EIN change effective 10-1-2025

The Committee was asked to pass a motion to approve changing the Health Department's EIN to the County's EIN effective October 1, 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the Chippewa County Health Department changing to the County's EIN effective October 1, 2025. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – New Health Department Logo

The Committee received and was asked to approve the new Health Department logo.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the Chippewa County Health Department new logo, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – Policies

Clinical Policy 4.01.007 Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments – Dental Provider

Administrative Policy 7.01.053 SHACC – Over the Counter Medication Non-Clinical Staff

The Committee reviewed two new Health Department policies Clinical Policy 4.01.007 was needed to accommodate the state guidelines, the program has been providing services for two-years. Administrative Policy 7.01-053 is a new policy that will allow the SHACC clerk to administer over-the-counter medications to students.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper to approve and authorize Clinical Policy 4.01.007 Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments – Dental Provider and Administrative Policy 7.1.053 SHACC – Over the Counter Medication Non-Clinical Staff, as presented. Commissioner Knepper commented that parental permission is required. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Federal Inmate Liaison Officer wage \$16.45

The Committee was asked to authorize the wage of \$16.45 for a new part-time position in the jail, the position will serve as the Federal Inmate Liaison Officer, who will help Jail Administration with the processing of the federal inmates.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the part-time Federal Inmate Liaison Officer wage at \$16.45, which is the Step 7 on the County part-time pay scale. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Generator repairs (via Building & Grounds Committee)

Rental est. \$2,760 and Repairs \$5,493.00 & \$14,920.55

The Committee was updated on the needed general repairs, rental of the spare unit and updated on how we got to this point. The \$5,493.00 in repairs stems from originally the generator not starting for its weekly check, which lead to batteries, battery chargers, cables, fuses and then to the electrical room where the breaker was lock and unable to fail when it needed to. The spare unit was rented until parts were available and service rendered; the \$14,920.55 is for a radiator leak, which is a small leak that maintenance has been watching. Administration will report back to the Committee, if any additional issues arise prior to the radiator replacement.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize payments for the generator repairs costing an estimated \$2,760 for the rental unit and repairs of \$5,493.00 and a replacement radiator costing \$14,920.55 to Wolverine Power Systems, as presented. One a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Office of Emergency Services

Rave Emergency Notification System – Annual Service \$4,280.00

Instructor Course EMT - \$7,200.00 (7-person rate)

The Committee reviewed the annual renewal from Rave Mobile Safety which provides emergency messaging to our communities within the county by using a variety of different methods, including cell phones, TV announcements and zone-specific land lines. The Committee also reviewed a request to provide \$7,200.00 for an EMT-Instructor Course, these courses are the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Services Management to provide EMS and Fire agencies with training opportunities.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the Rave Emergency Notification System one-year renewal at the price of \$4,280.00 and to authorize up to a 7-person EMT-Instructor Course at the cost of \$7,200.00, and as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Shelter

Equipment purchases from millage funds (waive purchasing policy)

Add Nine Unit Cat Stax (kennels)

The Committee reviewed a request from Animal Control, as one of the goals of the shelter was to provide some medical care in-house; during the addition and renovation a surgical suite was included. The request is to start purchasing the necessary equipment; the equipment availability is subject to change. The equipment included surgery table, autoclave, anesthetic machine with vaporizer, surgery warming mat, ceiling mounted surgical light, scavenge system and regulator hose (for oxygen), recovery kennels and delivery and installation at total estimated at \$12,175.00, if items are available. Plus, an additional \$2,550 for a mayo stand, ultrasonic cleaner, surgery packs and controlled substance lock box, when available. The Committee also reviewed the request for a Nine Unit Cat Stax (indoor cat enclosure) at the cost of \$4,570.00; to replace units with rust as they are not able to be cleaned properly. Shelter Manager does believe she has someone that can repair and resurface the rusting units.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve waiving of the county purchasing policy and to purchase the listed items, as available for the Animal Shelter's surgical suite and to purchase the Nine Unit Cat Stax at the cost of \$4,570.00; all purchases through the millage fund. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Shelter – Supplemental Animal Control Services w/City of SSM

The Committee reviewed the renewal contract for Supplemental Animal Control Services between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and County of Chippewa, which covers the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. This has been a long-term collaborative agreement, which provides the City of Sault Ste. Marie with supplemental animal control services at a monthly flat fee of \$1,300.00. The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Commissioners

approved the renewal earlier this month.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the Supplemental Animal Control Services, covering the period 1-1-2025 to 12-31-2026, between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and County of Chippewa, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

District Court – JAVS – Maintenance and Support Agreement \$6,110.00

The Committee reviewed the JAVS maintenance and support agreement for Chippewa County's 91st District Court, the agreement provides an extended warranty coverage, preventative maintenance, support and services for the courtroom recording system. The service agreement runs from February 1, 2025, for a one-year period at the cost of \$6,110.00; this amount was budgeted for FY2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to authorize and approve the JAVS Maintenance and Support Agreement for a one-year period starting February 1, 2025; at the cost of \$6,110.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Survey and Remonumentation

Correct motion from November 12, 2024 – total grant \$133,816.00

The Committee was asked to make a correction motion from the November 12, 2024, Finance Claims and Accounts minutes. The minutes should have reported the total grant at \$133,816.00 including the County's \$15,000.00 allocation.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to correct a motion from the November 12, 2024, Finance Claims and Accounts; approving the Grant No. BCC 25-17 between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Chippewa County; and the 2025 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation in the grant amount of \$133,816.00. On a voice vote the motion CARRIED.

Surveyor – FY2025 Remonumentation Program - \$133,816.00

- **Administration - \$19,087.79 – Patricia Weinreis**
- **Monumentation Contracts**
 - **\$54,000.00 – Alpine Engineering – 30 corners**
 - **\$54,000.00 – Sidock Group – 30 corners**
- **Peer Review Professional Surveyors - \$5,000.00 shared**
 - **Jeff Davis, P.S., Sidock Group**
 - **William L. Karr, P.S., retired**
 - **Ginger L. Michalski, P.S., Alpine Engineering**
 - **Larry Rogers, P.S., Retired**
 - **Lawrence Weinreis, P.S., M.D.O.T**

The Committee reviewed the 2025 Survey and Remonumentation Grant from the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation of \$118,816.00 and the County contributing \$15,000.00 for a total of \$133,816.00. The Committee reviewed the contracts for administration, monumentation and peer review for the 2025 Remonumentation Program. All documents need to be approved and authorized for signature by the Committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Lieurance, to accept and authorize the Program Representative/Administrative contract in the amount \$19,087.79 for Patricia Weinreis, P.S., under the direct supervision of Robert Laitinen, PS, Chippewa County Surveyor; to approve two (2) Monumentation contracts each contract for \$54,000 for Alpine Engineering and Sidock Group to monument 30 corners each; to approve five Professional Service Agreements for the Peer Review Surveyors, total not to exceed \$5,000 for the following Surveyors: Jeff Davis, P.S., Sidock Group; William L. Karr, P.S., retired, Ginger L. Michalski-Wallace, P.S., Alpine Engineering; Larry Rogers, P.S., Rogers Land Surveying and Lawrence Weinreis, P.S., M.D.O.T. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Legal Services Agreement – Smith & Johnson; to be co-plaintiff with Chippewa County EDC for PFAS-related airport settlements

The Committee was asked to enter into a Legal Services Agreement with Smith & Johnson, for the County to be co-plaintiffs along with Chippewa County EDC in a multidistrict litigation regarding PFAS (products containing perfluoroalkyl substances), the defendants in the suit are companies that manufactured Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF). AFFF is a water based firefighting agent used to control and extinguish Class B fuel fires and was used in many military locations including Kincheloe Air Force Base. The litigation will be like the Opioid Settlement.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve enter into a Legal Services Agreement with Smith & Johnson, with the County be co-plaintiffs with the Chippewa County EDC in this multidistrict litigation regarding PFAS and AFFF. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Cost Allocation Plan – RFQ Release

The Committee reviewed the request for quote for the County's Cost Allocation Plan for years FY24, FY25 and FY26.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the release of the request for quote for the County's Cost Allocation Plan. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Discharge Non-Diminishing Mortgage - Neubecker

The Committee reviewed a letter from Attorney Mark Dobias, requesting and explaining the request for the County to approve a release of lien; the property is dilapidated, and the estate value was negligible; the estate has no assets, and the lien (non-diminishing mortgage) is holding up the sale of the property.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the County of Chippewa to discharge a Non-Diminishing Mortgage Lein, recorded Liber 1002, Pages 1513-1514 in the amount of \$8,283.00; to help clear the estate of Steven P. Neubecker and Katherine M. Neubecker. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Probate Court – Emergency Guardianship Services

The Committee reviewed an Emergency Request for Guardianship Services line item to be added in the amount of \$5,000.00, due to recent events, the prior provider who did many of these cases pro bono. There are currently 36 cases that need to be overseen, the Judge is estimating that about 25 of these cases will require some emergency payment from the County and has been working with company, Assisting Services, that can fill this role, temporarily for some and long-term for others – but comes at a cost. Judge Blubaugh would like the opportunity to meet to further talk about long-term needs and resolutions going forward.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize an Emergency Guardianship Services line item being added to the Probate budget in the amount of \$5,000.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend the approval of January County bills and payroll: general claims \$324,865.28, other fund claims \$1,623,089.01, payroll \$633,503.42, and Health Department claims \$1,209,299.20 and payroll \$142,009.08 total claims \$3,932,765.99. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee Comments

No additional comments were offered.

Chairman Comments

No additional comments were offered.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the Finance Claims and Accounts Meeting minutes of February 11, 2025. Commissioner Knepper stated his concerns regarding zoom are assuaged because of Commissioner Shackleton's clear and concise overview of the finance meeting minutes. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Shackleton stated Sault Tribe ResourceWare was attacked and it shut down their operation. He would like to put together a meeting with the Tribe once the it recovers from the attack for the County to be better prepared. Commissioner Knepper also commented on the impact on Sault Tribe from the ResourceWare attack.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to adjourn, accordingly. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 5:32 P.M.



Steven Woodgate, Clerk


James Martin, Chairman