

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
Regular Session
May 16, 2024

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom.

Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Lieurance lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Present: Damon Lieurance, Robert Savoie and James Traynor

ABSENT: Jim Martin

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Kelly Church, Administrative Assistant Cady Bauers, Clerk Steven Woodgate, and 30 members of the public. 18 members of the public logged in via zoom.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

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

- Regular Board Meeting – April 11, 2024

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

No action items

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Twyla Niznik, Jill Hasley, Patti Willis, Alexis Laaksonen and Danielle Laabs, all RNs at MyMichigan, voiced their concerns about MyMichigan Hospital nurses being underpaid and the hospital being so short-staffed.

Parker Fairbairn told the Commission he is running for State Representative.

Brad Kuusinen, head captain of Drummond Island Ferry, spoke about his opinion with EUPTA and the County Commissioners

Lynn Farnquist with Chippewa County FAN spoke about funding to help people with substance abuse.

Dave Ulrey spoke about defunding the County Surveyor position.

Somebody via ZOOM wanted to speak just after the public comments session closed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2024-11

IN SUPPORT OF LINE 5 TUNNEL

WHEREAS, this resolution pertains specifically to the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners support of the Line 5 Tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac and not Line 5 overall; its integrity, safety, or viability, and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioner continues to support increased utilization of renewable and alternative energy resources and supports efforts to reduce reliance of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, issues have been raised by several concerned parties regarding the possibility and impact of a breach of Line 5 into the Straits of Mackinac, and

WHEREAS, Enbridge had proposed to invest \$500 million to make the existing pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac safer by placing a tunnel with one-foot-thick concrete walls 100 feet underground, and

WHEREAS, consequences to energy supply, local producers, regional airports and refineries, jobs, local economies and the pocketbook of Michiganders, specifically low-income families, and senior citizens, across the entire state are too great for Line 5 to be shut down before the tunnel replacement can be completed, and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has demonstrated a willingness to work with the State on the Tunnel to both protect the Great Lakes and ensure the continued safe delivery of energy, and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extends support for Enbridge's proposed tunnel replacement project, provided Enbridge posts a performance bond for the clean-up expenses in the event of a failure prior to the tunnel being completed in the amount of 2 billion dollars, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa Board of Commissioners urges the State of Michigan to work with Enbridge to complete the tunnel project as quickly as possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners expresses its support for increasing the safety of our current energy infrastructure as our society simultaneously seeks energy efficiencies and energy alternatives that will continue to reduce risk to our environment.

Adopted this 16th day of May 2024 – Resolution 2024-11

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Bob Savoie, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jim Martin

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Interlocal Agreement for Chippewa County, Luce County and Mackinac County to establish a multicounty Materials Management Plan and Designate EUP Regional Planning as the Designated Panning Agency.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Chippewa County, Luce County and Mackinac County to establish a multicounty Materials Management Plan and Designate EUP Regional Planning as the Designated Panning Agency. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and
Information Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2024**

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 Tuesday, April 24, 2024, at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Traynor called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Additions/Deletions and Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

Agenda Items

Legislative and Natural Resources

Board of Commissioner District 1 Opening MCL 46.411 and 46.412

The Committee addressed the resignation received from District 1 Commissioner Scott Shackleton, under MCL 46.411, the county commissioner must be and remain a resident and registered voter of the district that he or she represents, the resignation was received on April 16th. Following MCL 46.412 the vacancy must be filled by appointment within 30 days by the county board of commissioners of a resident and registered voter of that district. The Committee discussed the appointment of Justin Knepper to fill the vacancy in District 1.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend to the full board, per MCL 46.412, to have Justin Knepper fill the District 1 vacancy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Trial Court Funding (Information Only)

The Committee reviewed information from the Michigan Supreme Court regarding MCL 769.1 Sunset; which without would take away the authority to impose court costs.

Note: This has since been approved with a new sunset date of 2026.

EMPG FY24 Reduction (Information Only)

The Committee reviewed information received from Director Greg Postma regarding FEMA releasing the FY24 Notice of Funding for the Emergency Management Grant Program (EMPG) which included the state's allocation with Michigan receiving a 10.28 reduction compared to FY23.

Building and Grounds

Circuit Courtroom Ceiling \$14,691.00 - to be completed the week of September 9th

The Committee reviewed a painting quote from National Painting Contractors/JAMA, to refinish the Circuit Courtroom ceiling paint, they will repair the plaster on all ceiling and alcove areas, prime and apply two coats to all ceiling. We have been working with National Painting Contractors to also, work on the deteriorating north side of the facia and surrounding area. County purchasing policy will be waived. The work will be completed the week of September 9th, with weekend work needed and included in the \$14,691.00; this repair was budgeted in the FY24 budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the quote of \$14,691.00 to repair and refinish the Circuit Courtroom ceiling, quote provided by National Painting Contractors, and waiving the County purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Refinish (10) Exterior Wood Courthouse Doors - \$6,592.00

The Committee reviewed an additional estimate from National Painting Contractors/JAMA to strip, stain and refinish with 3-coats of urethane to exterior side of doors; 2-coats to interior side of doors and install new kick plates.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the quote of \$6,592.00 to strip, stain and apply urethane to the ten (10) exterior woods doors of the Courthouse; at a price not to exceed \$6,592.00, waiving the purchasing policy and for the work to be completed by National Painting Contractors/JAMA. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Storage Building - Change Order - Canopy Roof at Entrance - \$8,700.00

The Committee reviewed a change order for the Sheriff's Storage Building to add a canopy roof with a 5' overhand and 10' wide at the entrance of the new storage building.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the 5' overhand canopy, as presented for \$8,700.00. from Arbic Construction, Inc. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Storage Building - Architect's Field Report (Information Only)

The Committee reviewed the field report dated April 19th, 2024.

Sheriff's Storage Building & Animal Shelter - Driveway repairs

The Committee reviewed information on a section of the shared driveway that needs some repairs, and the new approach that is needed for the Animal Shelter, as they will be moving to the new addition in the next couple weeks. Dan Arbic is proposing to get the shared driveway and the approach done at the same time. It is a 45' x 55' area; we are awaiting a quote and sketch for the work.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the request of the driveway repairs and approach (an area 45'x 55'), pending the price. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Note: The quote came in at \$13,300.00.

Jail – RTU 7 Repair/Replacement

The Committee reviewed a quote from ACC (Automated Comfort Controls) regarding stage one mechanical cooling on the Trane RTU7 serving the jails C section; which is out of refrigerant due to a leak in the condenser coil. The current unit is 25 years old; and to replace just the condenser coil would cost \$13,368.62; it is recommended that a new Trane RTU of the same capacity be approved at the cost of \$37,685.00, the new unit would be six to eight weeks out for the lead time needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve replacement of the Trane RTU unit, with a new unit of same capacity at the cost of \$37,685.00; waiving the County’s purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee and Chairman’s Comments

The Committee briefly spoke about the Line 5 resolution that will be on the upcoming agenda; and not want to make any changes; as this is the resolution that has been passed previously by the other Upper Peninsula Counties; but that the Commissioner ensures that the protection of the water be a primary concern.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2024

Presented by Commissioner Traynor

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, May 14, 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 Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comment

Correspondence and Informational Items

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – Server Purchase \$16,356.92; sole source purchase with DSTech

The Committee review a purchase request for a new server at the Health Department to create additional network storage space and improve network speed and security. The Committee was asked to waive the County purchasing policy as DSTech is the sole source, third-party IT support vendor, the cost of the server is \$16,356.92. Funds to purchase the server will be from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant. The request also includes the reconfiguration and installation of the old server in the SHACC.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the server purchase from DSTech at a price not to exceed \$16,356.92; for the Server Power Edge R350; and to move the old server to the SHACC; with funds from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department Quality Assurance Program Improvement (QAPI) Monitoring

• **Hospice ~Home Health ~ Home Care/Private Duty PIP's**

The Committee received and reviewed the programming data for the Hospice, Home Health and Home Care/Private Duty for the period covering September 2023 to February 2024. This is a quarterly review by the Board to provide oversight to the Health Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to acknowledge oversight for QAPI monitoring for Home Health, Home Care/Private Duty and Hospice services provided by the CCHD between September 2023 through February 2024 have been reviewed. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Upfit cost for Chevy Silverado from Fund 273(Road Patrol OT) up to \$13,000.00; will seek MMRMA RAP grant

Sheriff Bitnar requested up to \$13,000.00 from Fund 273 – Road patrol OT to upfit the new Chevy Silverado; this will include a bed organizer and hard cover for the truck bed. Sheriff Bitnar will also seek a MMRMA RAP grant to help lower the cost; no general funds dollars will be used.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize up to \$13,000.00 to be expended to upfit the Chevy Silverado; including a bed organizer and hard cover; from Fund 273 Road Patrol OT; and to seek a MMRMA RAP grant to lower the costs. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Securus Technologies – Third Amendment – video visits – 20% revenue

The Committee reviewed the Securus Technologies Third Amendment which will add a video connect service, a web-based video conference system that allows individuals to communicate with incarcerated individuals. Securus has been providing services since March 10, 2014; with commission rates to Chippewa County; the commission rate for the Securus Video Connect (SVC) will be 20%.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the Securus Technologies Third Amendment effective until July 8, 2028, or prior with a written notice; amendment as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – 2024 Marine Safety Program Grant \$12,100.00

The Committee reviewed the 2024 Marine Safety Program (Federal Funding) grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Chippewa County Sheriff Department; funds of \$12,100.00. Funds to be used for wages, benefits, and operating expenses.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize acceptance of the 2024 Marine Safety Program (Federal Funding) Grant Agreement in the amount of \$12,100.00, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Control – West side yard work at Shelter \$8,800.00

The Committee reviewed a billing from Arbic Construction, Inc. to work on the west side of the Animal Shelter addition; the price includes fencing removal and reinstall, pea stone and excavation cost totaling \$8,800.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the quote for \$8,800.00 from Arbic Construction, Inc., to work on the West side of the Animal Shelter addition. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – DSTech Updated Statement of Work & Monthly Cost

The Committee reviewed information from DSTech on the County's Statement of Work; which proposed an update in services to Managed IT Plan, which does increase the monthly cost by \$950.00 per month; but eliminates the 10-hour limit on the Help Desk; which we have been averaging over \$2,374 per month. DSTech will be providing a credit and this should avoid future labor overage fees. The SOW effective date will be 5/17/2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the DSTech Statement of Work for Professional Services, upgraded to Managed IT Plan, effective May 17, 2024, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems - Review Bid Summary – Sheriff Building & Animal Shelter Camera Systems

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the camera systems for the Animal Shelter and the new Sheriff's Storage Building. Five bids were received and timely; a wire run will still need to be pulled for the new camera locations; and are working with MMRMA for grant monies to help cover the Animal Shelter camera upgrade. The Sheriff's camera expense can come from the budgeted line in Fund 232 – Community Correction for the equipment needs for the new storage building. Administrator Church asked that a budget amendment be approved for the general fund Animal Control Department to cover the expense of the camera upgrade.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the low bid from ShoreLine Power Services at a total price of \$34,750.00 (\$13,200.00 for the Sheriff's Storage Building and \$21,550.00 for the Animal Shelter); and to approve a budget amendment of \$21,550.00 for 101-430-979.000. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Defender – MIDC 2025 Plan

The Committee reviewed the estimates for the FY2025 MIDC Plan totaling \$1,561,656.94; with a local share of \$226,130.32. The Plan was submitted by Chief Public Defender Jim Robinson; the Public Defender's Office will be losing an attorney effective 5/31/2024; the office currently needs three attorneys.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, acknowledged the submittal of the 2025 Public Defender's Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis Renewal to the MIDC. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

50th Circuit Court - Drug Court – Michigan Drug Court Grant Program \$103,450.00
91st District Court – Mental Health Court Grant Program \$157,268.06

The Committee reviewed the request from 50th Circuit and 91st District for their Drug Court Program \$103,450.00 and Mental Health Court Program \$157,268.06; these grants will come back from the State of Michigan; with amounts lower than the requests; the courts then work with the coordinators to budget the funds. This year we have an extra step because of a change with the Department of Labor, the coordinators will need to become County employees and we have some details to work out because of the number of hours worked.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the submittal of the 50th Circuit Court – Drug Court Grant Program for \$103,450.00 and the 91st District Court Mental Health Court Grant in the amount of \$157,268.06. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Office of Emergency Services – New VHF/UHF Repeater Replacement (Waive Policy)

The Committee reviewed a request from Director Postma, to update the VFH/UHF Repeater associated to the 4 Mile Road tower; used by several Fire Department and EMS agencies thorough the county. ELCOM has maintained and developed the County system for over two decades; and have a technician within 30 minutes of Sault Ste. Marie; because of this the Committee was asked to waive the County Policy and approve the purchase and

installation of the new repeater at the price of \$14,277.30 through ELCOM; this item was budgeted for FY2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize ELCOM services to update the 4 Mile Road Repeater; at the price of \$14,277.30 and to waive the County Purchasing Policy, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Finance - Claims and Accounts - April - County and Health Department

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend the approval of April County bills and payroll: general claims \$412,91.30, other fund claims \$4,453,697.29, payroll \$625,966.34, and Health Department claims \$180,185.88 and payroll \$197,360.29 total claims \$5,870,161.10. 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 Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to adjourn. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.


APPOINTMENT TO DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER VACANCY


Justin Knepper was appointed as Commission to District 1

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Commissioner congratulated Justin Knepper. Commissioner Traynor spoke about Neebish Island Ferry making more trips. Chairman Savoie thanked the nurses and said he is not going to get involved in the labor disputes, but hopes it is resolved peacefully.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor to adjourn, accordingly. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 5:16 p.m.


Steven Woodgate, Clerk


James Martin, Chairman