

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session  
February 13, 2017

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the 91st District Courtroom of the Chippewa County Building.

Chairman Shackleton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Present: Commissioners Egan, Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

Absent: None

Also Present: Scott Brand, Evening News, Sheriff Mike Bitnar, Undersheriff Greg Postma, John Odell, Joyce Odell, Karen Senkus, Lana Forrest, Julie Wilson, Michelle Robbins, Audrey Hofbauer, Cathy Lynn Chappa, Marvin G. Chappa, Chippewa County Prosecutor Robert Stratton, Kristina Dennison, Mike McCarthy, Tammy Peyton, Brad Ormsbee, Dick Timmer, Rob Baker, Douglas Warren, Tom Fornicola, Spencer Ross, John Weist, Maria Lee Brown, Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, Administrator Jim German, and Cathy Maleport, Clerk.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**LIFE SAVING AWARDS**

Sheriff Mike Bitnar together with Undersheriff Greg Postma and Chairman Scott Shackleton, on behalf of the Board and people of Chippewa County, presented plaques of recognition for Douglas Warren, Spencer Ross and David Kutz as a token of their appreciation, respect, admiration and gratification of their acts performed on December 4, 2016. Undersheriff Greg Postma explained how the three gentlemen saved Mr. Greg Robert's from drowning as he had been tossed from his watercraft and had fallen into the icy waters of the St. Mary's River. He indicated in his statement, that if it were not for the above referenced men, he firmly believes this would have been a recovery mission, rather than an act of selfless heroism.

**APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the regular Board Meeting minutes of December 19, 2016 and the Organizational Meeting minutes of January 2, 2017 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, 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.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Sheriff Mike Bitnar provided information to the Board on a grant question regarding the annual fee.
- Sugar Island Township resident Cherlyn Scott appeared before the Commission in hopes the Board could help her with her concerns regarding new neighbors with approximately twenty wolf dogs.
- Sugar Island resident Julie Wilson also addressed her frustration with the wolf dogs on Sugar Island.
- Kristina Dennison-Somes with the Chippewa Mackinac Luce Conservation District appeared before the Commission to thank them for all their support over the years, and that she was leaving the area as she has taken a job with the Department of Natural Resources in Minnesota. She introduced Mike McCarthy, her replacement, who has been their agriculture technician with the conversation district for the last three and a half years.

**Administrator's Report** – Jim German, given for informational purposes only – *no action items*.

## OLD BUSINESS

### A) Appointment to War Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees

**War Memorial Hospital Board** – 1 appointment, expires 12/31/2020

*Current Member: Ted Postula*

*Candidates: Conor Egan, Ronald Meister, Bradley Ormsbee, Ted Postula and Kevin White*

Chairman Shackleton explained that the recommended individual did not receive the necessary support needed by the WMH Nominating Committee. They did not forward the candidate's name to the full board for consideration and they requested another candidate. A discussion followed.

**A roll call vote was taken as follows:**

Round 1

Commissioner Egan – Ron Meister  
Commissioner Martin – Ted Postula  
Commissioner McLean – Bradley Ormsbee  
Commissioner Savoie – Ted Postula  
Chairman Shackleton – Ted Postula

Having received the majority, Ted Postula was appointed to the War Memorial Hospital Board, for a term to expire 12-31-2020.

**B) Appointment to Hiawatha Behavioral Health Board / appointment, expires: 3/31/2020**

*Current member: Kathy Cairns*

*Candidates: Kathy Cairns, Jim Moore and Robin Lynne Savoie*

Chairman Shackleton explained that Commissioner Egan has resigned from the Hiawatha Behavioral Health Board requiring the need to fill the vacancy. Commissioner McLean indicated that the way they have structured their board is having four County Commissioners. There has been an agreement amongst the counties that since Chippewa County is the largest, we would have two Commissioners and each of the other counties would have one. He raised concerns of not having two Chippewa County Commissioners sitting on the HBH Board and noted that we're giving up the possibility of a Commission seat. Chairman Shackleton added, that when they had seven members on the Board it was easier to have a Commissioner that had the time and inclination to serve on that Board.

**A roll call vote was taken as follows:**

Commissioner Egan – Kathy Cairns  
Commissioner Martin – Jim Moore  
Commissioner McLean – Jim Moore  
Commissioner Savoie – Jim Moore  
Chairman Shackleton – Jim Moore

Jim Moore having received the majority of votes, was appointed to the Hiawatha Behavioral Health Board for a term to expire 3/31/2020.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Central Dispatch Board of Directors appointments (*one needed for each*)**

It was noted that these are three positions that are nominated by the County Board and that the 911 Board consists of 11 members.

- 1) Chief of Police – *Candidates: Chief Robert Marchand*
- 2) Emergency Medical Service – *Candidates: Renee Gray*

3) Fire Department – *Candidates: Jim Miller, Lyle Harter, Dan Wilcox*

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Marchand, Chief of Police and Renee Gray, Emergency Medical Services to serve on the Central Dispatch Board of Directors. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**A roll call vote was taken as follows for the Fire Department Candidates:**

Commissioner Egan – Jim Miller  
Commissioner Martin – Dan Wilcox  
Commissioner McLean – Dan Wilcox  
Commissioner Savoie – Dan Wilcox  
Chairman Shackleton – Dan Wilcox

Dan Wilcox having received the majority of votes was appointed to the Central Dispatch Board of Directors.

B) U.P. Energy Workgroup Appointment – *Chair Appointment*

It was noted that Commissioner McLean has graciously consented to that appointment.

Chairman Shackleton appointed Commissioner Don McLean as the representative for the U.P. Energy Workgroup and thanked him for his service.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

PERSONNEL/EQUALIZATION/TRANSPORTATION/HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chair – Commissioner Egan  
January 17, 2017

**Special Prosecutor**

The Committee received notice that the County may need to hire a special prosecutor to clear up conflict cases due to the Public Defender being elected to the Prosecutor, there are potentially eighty-seven cases that are involved. The Committee indicated that it was in the best interest of the Community to resolve these cases, cost effectively, and to establish a pay structure and billing requirements, if a special prosecutor is hired. Administration, along with the Public Defender and Prosecutor will be working on ways to get the number of cases reduced.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to authorize \$10,000 to hire a special prosecutor to close the conflict cases left open, the agreement for the special prosecutor should include the pay structure and billing requirements for the cases. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Chippewa County Health Department Gift Policy**

The Committee was updated on the current gift policy for CCHD. It was discussed about the

relationships between the care giver and the patient and if small gift cards or other handmade items should be able to be accepted. Current policy would have this issue come before the Commission. The idea of the Health Officer making the decision if the caregiver can keep the gift was discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to change the CCHD Policy 3.03.011 Gifts to Employees/Non-Solicitation. *See attached.* On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Chippewa County Health Department Pink Ribbon Policy**

Donations out of the Pink Ribbon fund at CCHD were discussed. It was thought that these donations that help people with related expenses for different types of cancer should come before the Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to have all Pink Ribbon requests come before the County Board. A discussion followed which included the possibility of revising it. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and accept the Personnel/Equalization/Transportation/Health and Social Services meeting minutes of January 17, 2017 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

## **FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

Chair – Commissioner Martin

February 9, 2017

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Senior Services and Programs Millage Renewal Proposal**

The Committee received the proposed language for the August 2, 2017 Election. – Chippewa County Senior Services and Programs Millage Renewal Proposal, to review and approve. This proposal, if approved by the voters, will permit the County to continue the millage previously authorized for Senior Services and Programs with the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the below referenced for the Senior Service and Programs Millage Renewal Proposal, and to place it on the August 2, 2017 ballot.

Shall the expired previously voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Chippewa County, Michigan of .5 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) which was reduced to .4994 mill by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at .4994 mill (0.4994 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of four years, being 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, inclusive for the purpose of providing operating funds to continue and enhance Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Meals and Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Senior Services in Chippewa County, thereby raising in the first year (2017) approximately \$551,000?

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Health Department Write-offs (approve)**

The Committee had previously directed Administration along with authorizing additional hours for Chuck Leonhardt, to review and reconcile the Health Departments Accounts Receivable anticipated write-offs. The Committee was presented with an overview of the write-offs which range over a 9 year period, with the majority of the write-offs (77%) being in FY 2014 and FY2015. The main reasons for the write-offs were due to claims being denied because of 1) the wrong NPI physician number; 2) wrong primary insurance originally billed; 3) the payer was not mapped in Carefacts to Networks correctly; 4) Medicare billing request for Anticipated Payment had too many Q codes, and 5) the rules changed for the notice of election for Hospice Medicare patients. Samples of the write-offs by reason were also broke down by write-off reason for the Committee to review as follows: Home Health Medicaid \$81,195; Hospice Blue Cross Blue Shield \$41,100; Hospice Medicare \$57,120; Home Health Medicare \$269,252.03; Home Health Blue Cross Blue Shield \$81,723 and Hospice Medicaid \$75,892. Carefacts also made adjustments that both increased and decreased billings which could not be followed so it was not removed from the general ledger resulting in \$224,451.74 adjustment to the General Ledger. Total write-off and adjustments are as follows:

• Write-offs reconciliation worksheet	671,725.49
• Carefacts Adjustments	224,451.74
• Adjustment to decrease the A/R G/L balance 9/30/16	132,773.73
• Possible write-offs from existing Carefacts receivables	<u>45,898.04</u>
Total Amount of write-offs and adjustments	
As of September 9/30/2016	\$1,074,849.00

The Commissioners all had questions for the Health Department's Administrative staff, seeking accountability for the issues with the rejections; questioning the number of meetings being held at the Health Department and letting the Health Department Administration know that it is not business as usual, and the business structure needs to change with the Health Department needing to be caught up. During the discussion Finance Director Christine Lundquist answered several questions regarding her department, and she stated she only expected a \$200,000 - \$250,000 accounts receivable write-off due to the changes Carefacts made. Chuck Leonhardt further updated the Committee, as the Health Department is as of October 1, 2016 using Healthcare 1<sup>st</sup>, a third party provider, for home health billing, which appears to be going okay, but he advised that follow-up and having management trained, so that they know the procedure for input, how to check for rejections, correct rejections, have the ability to print and understand reports at any time so that they are not relying on other staff to get them the information.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the Health Department write-offs and adjustments as presented, totaling \$1,074,849.00 as follows:

• Write-offs reconciliation worksheet	671,725.49
• Carefacts Adjustments	224,451.74
• Adjustment to decrease the A/R G/L balance 9/30/2016	132,773.73

• Possible write-offs from existing Carefacts receivables	45,898.04
Total Amount of write-offs and adjustments	
As of September 9/30/2016	\$1,074,849.00

Commissioner McLean noted that they were unaware of this situation. This was prompted by dissolving the Health Board and the Commission is now taking a more active role in overseeing what is being done at the Health Department. This is a huge amount of money coming out of our budget; we all know that it should not have happened. This was a surprise but I think we have a number of things going now that will bring us back in line and put us in a more positive place.

Commissioner Martin added that we know it's not going to happen again.

Chairman Shackleton indicated that they've been talking about and learning about this for the last three or four months. The reality is, this came as a shock and surprise and he thinks the Commission and our Administrative staff working with the County Health Department staff is taking the right steps in going forward. He explained that the Health Department had always been treated, as long as he knew, as an independent little entity that ran their own operation. That is not how it is anymore, there now brought into the county like any other department with a department head oversight. The system is fixed now or nearly fixed. At this point all services are going to be maintained and we hope for that to be indefinite.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Health Department – Retiree Health Care Policy (Rescind 3.09.001 & authorize re-write two parts A) effective immediately for new retirees and B) changing the current retirees**

The Committee received information and recommendations on the Health Departments current Retiree Health Care Policy, which does not match the County policy, with different plans to go about bringing the HD in line with the County retiree health policy. The HD has thirty-six retirees currently receiving health care at no cost to any of them; of those, fifteen should have been paying a portion to continue coverage based on County policy which indicates retiree's lifetime coverage is hired before January 1, 1984, based on years of service and age. Those hired post January 1, 1984 have coverage limited to years of coverage not to exceed 15 years based on years of service and age too. Three pre -1984 current retirees should have been paying a 25% premium payment; seven others should no longer be receiving health care and should have also been paying either 25% or 50%; four can maintain coverage with premium payment necessary with the final nine maintaining 100% coverage with an added not to exceed premium payment. It was also noted that the Health Department policy has had many changes in the past few years. The changes will not change for the three Teamsters on the current listing. The Committee reviewed options and discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to rescind policy 3.09.001 and re-write the policy to follow County policy utilizing the pre and post January 1, 1984 eligibility requirements and have the change effective in 90 days for the current retirees. *(See attached policy)*

Commissioner McLean noted that this was not a decision that the Commission arrived at easily; there was a lot of discussion and consternation.

Chairman Shackleton indicated that this single policy change was probably the toughest vote, he ever had to make. These folks did not do anything wrong; but, they were getting benefits different from the rest of the count, and that he could not, justify there being two sets of retiree employees who really should be treated the same.

Commissioner Martin stated that he feels terrible about it and noted that this is supplemental insurance for the affected individuals. All these people are over 65 years of age, it's not like they suddenly have no health care. He indicated, we have to do what's best for the entire county.

Commissioner Savoie explained his view by stating that this affects real people and real lives, and that he has some human compassion that this was allowed to occur. On the other point, they received some benefits they weren't eligible for, and it was brought to our attention. I'm sorry for those that this had an impact with.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Health Department – Pink Ribbon Expenditure (approve)**

The Committee reviewed a Pink Ribbon expenditure, which is all donated funds for those clients diagnosed with breast and /or cervical cancer requiring assistance with travel and lodging related to treatment may apply for assistance, following policy 1.99.013.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the Pink Ribbon expenditure of \$2,808.47, as presented following policy 1.99-013. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Health Department – Human Resources Policy – Bumping Rights (approve)**

Health Department Administration is seeking to have a Bumping Rights Policy approved as follows: Unless a position is governed by a collective bargaining agreement, no employees will be allowed to bump a less senior employee. This policy will clarify any past practices that may have transpired.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Bumping Rights Policy 3.09.004 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Home Health & Hospice Policy – Admission Criteria & Process (authorize change, adding residency requirement)**

The Committee reviewed above referenced policy which establishes standards and a process by which a patient can be evaluated and accepted for admission. Admission criteria #9 currently indicates within the geographical area that the EUP Home Health and Hospice service, upon discussion with Administration including the Health Officer and the Home Health & Hospice Director, a minimum of six month residency requirement is recommended. The Committee was also updated on future indigent cases, as the Health Officer has reached out to establish a mutual



agreement with EUP Hospice House and the EUP Home Health and Hospice, which will be brought back to the Committee for review and action, if required.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve changing Policy 8.03.005, the Home Health & Hospice Policy, to indicate #9 under Admission Criteria to read: The patient must reside a minimum of six months within the geographical area that the EUP Home Health & Hospice services. On a voice vote, the motion carried. (See attached)

**Authorized Signors for Central Savings Bank Account (approve)**

The Committee, as the governing body of the Chippewa County Health Department was asked to authorize and approve that the County Treasurer and the County Clerk as authorized signors, as back up for the Health Officer and the Deputy Health Officer for the HD account at Central Savings Bank. The HD was asked to verify this approval with the auditors.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to authorize the County Treasurer Marjorie Hank and the County Clerk Cathy Maleport, as signors for the Chippewa County Health Department's Central Savings Bank account, as back-up signors to Health Officer Senkus and Deputy Health Officer Forrest. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Sheriff Department – Grant 2017 MI Medical Marijuana Operation and Oversight Grant**

The Committee was asked to approve, authorize and establish a special fund for a Medical MJ Grant in the amount of \$8,203. The grant would be used for education of the Medical Marijuana Act, equipment to enforce the Act or Overtime to enforce the Act. The education portion would be spent on a new Sheriff's APP (iPhone and Android), that will be linked to the Medical Marijuana Law and to help offices better communicate with their communities. Questions regarding future annual subscription fees were brought up, and the Sheriff will be notified seeking clarification.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Medical MJ Grant, in the amount of \$8,203 and to establish a special fund upon clarification from the Sheriff. On a voice vote, the motion carried. It was noted, if there is no grant available they do not have to renew it. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Drug Court-Service Contracts (approve)**

The Committee received service contracts from McLean Consulting and Great Lakes Recovery for services to be provided from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 to be approved. Circuit Court Administrator Tina Ojala notified the Committee of two recent graduates of the Drug Court.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioners Savoie, to approve the service contracts from McLean Consulting in the amount of \$39,200, to provide case management services to the Drug Court and Great Lake Recovery in the amount of \$16,950, to provide substance abuse and related counseling to participants of the Drug Court Program, both covering the period October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Central Dispatch – Instructor Coordinator Course for Chippewa County EMS (approve)**

Director Michelle Robbins requested the approval to approve EMS training coursed in Chippewa County, this course would train experienced EMS personnel to instruct and pass their EMS knowledge and experience to residents in Chippewa County to help them become EMS professionals and to hopefully recruit additional responders. The cost of the course is \$7,980, sponsored by the Consolidated Community School services, student cost would be \$200 per student with the balance being paid by Chippewa County OES monies. This expense is budgeted.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to approve the Instructor Coordinator Course for Chippewa County EMS, to help recruit and promote additional responders. The total cost of the course is \$7,980, with per student cost of \$200 and the balance being paid through the Office of Emergency Services (Fund 211). On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Information Systems – 5 Star Armor Service Agreement - \$3,000 (approve)**

The Committee received a request from Information systems to approve a service agreement from 5 Star Armor to temporarily support the LEMS system in the Sheriff's Office, during the gap, if issues arise, while the County waits to go live with the new state system.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the 5 Star Armor Service Agreement in the amount of \$3,000, to support software and hardware from February 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017, to cover the gap until the County goes live with the new state system. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Treasurer – Condemned City Property Agreement with City for “First Right of Refusal” (approve)**

The Committee received information on 606 Eureka Street and 629 Magazine Street in Sault Ste. Marie that have been condemned by the City Commissioners, with an order for demolition; both properties will be foreclosed on March 31, 2017, if the taxes continue to not be paid. A meeting with the City and County was held to come up with a cost sharing resolution. It was determined that the City would take these properties at “First Right of Refusal” and the County would waive the minimum bid.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to approve that 606 Eureka Street and 629 Magazine Street, “First Right of Refusal” and waived the minimum bid by the County and granted to the City so that the properties can be demolished at the most cost effective resolution. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**FY2017 Equipment – Authorize Purchasing Policy Waiver for Budgeted Items**

- **Sheriff – Protective Technologies – Metal Detectors - \$10,999.98**
- **Central Dispatch – APCO Adviser – software - \$12,937.50**
- **Probate Court – JAVS upgrade - \$28,619.27**
- **Probate Court – Graphic Sciences – scanning project - \$21,000**

The Committee reviewed the previously budgeted equipment, software and hardware upgrades and the scanning project for Probate Court. The Committee was requested to approve he projects and waive the County purchasing policy as these items were reviewed and approved during the budget process. The Committee discussed the metal detectors briefly, stating it is a step in the right direction for something that is long overdue regarding security and safety.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the purchase of he metal detectors from Protective Technologies - \$10,999.98; the purchase of software from APCO Institute - \$12,937.50; to upgrade the Probate Court JAVS system - \$28,619.27 and the Probate Court scanning project - \$21,000 (the first of a three year project) and to waive the County Purchasing policy as this is specialized equipment that is only available in certain places. It was noted that this is just for the courtroom; it is not going to be outside the entry door of the courthouse. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Request for Quotations - Release**

- Central Dispatch/Animal Control Vehicles Mid-size SUV's
- Sheriff – Dodge Charger Police Package
- Sheriff – Ford SUV Patrol Vehicle

The Committee received the RFQ's for four vehicle purchases to be released to receive quotes for purchasing.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to approve the release of RFQ's for two Mid-size SUV's, a Dodge Charger Police Package and a Ford SUV Patrol vehicle. A discussion followed. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **FINANCE - Claims and Accounts**

The Committee reviewed the bills and payroll presented for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to recommend the approval of December and January bills and payroll as follows: the general claim totaling \$537,523.65, other fund claims of \$640,169.38, payroll of \$1,078,144.90, Health Department January claims \$576,109.00; total claims of \$2,831,946.93 and vouchers H-1 through H-556. On a voice vote, the motion carried. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to accept and approve the Finance Claims and Accounts committee meeting minutes of February 9, 2017 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **COMMISSIONERS REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Commissioner McLean noted that the Finance meeting held on February 9, 2017 is probably one of the most difficult and longest meetings he has ever taken part in.
- Chairman Shackleton addressed the Sugar Island issue in public comments indicating he knows animal control has been involved, the health department has been involved, and the Sheriff's department has been involved, but if I were them, I'd probably feel the exact same way. I don't know what we can do, or how we could help them, but I wish we could and asked Kelly to send a Memo or an update of the history of what we know so far on the issue.

- Addressing the dogs issue on Sugar Island Commissioner McLean noted that it's a township responsibility to pass ordinances regulating dogs.
- Commissioner Egan echoed Commissioner McLean's comments concerning the wolf dogs on Sugar Island. This is a local Government Issue; you have to be a participant in local government in order to reap the benefits of it.
- Commissioner Savoie expressed his concerns with an issue in his district. He referenced receiving a call from Hulbert Twp Supervisor, Norma DeLong, asking him to attend their Hulbert Twp Board meeting tomorrow night and placed him on the agenda. He explained that she is saying that it has been well over a year that an Ex- Commissioner and current Commissioner had promised them that the county was going to build a multimillion dollar ambulance building in Strongs Area and staff it with full time EMT's and paramedics. It's been an excess of a year and they don't see any brick and mortar going up. He indicated he doesn't know if there were any promises or if anyone was misled; but, he was going to attend that meeting tomorrow night and do his best to inform them what our role is as county government, what our obligations are, and what our mandates and essential services that we have to provide. He also referenced a letter he received in the mail from a concerned citizen indicating they pay the same taxes as everyone else, and they don't get the same services as those who live in the Sault. They attached an evening news article that Scott Brand wrote last February; where there was a workshop held in Kinross that he attended as Sheriff. They wanted to know what I'm going to do about it to uphold their commitments.
- Commissioner McLean indicated that he was at the meeting in Kinross and there were no promises made of building anything. He stated that it was pointed out very clearly how much money it would cost to do that and what they had to do as townships to form a group and start moving on this. They tried and I don't think it has progressed very far.
- Chairman Shackleton noted that he was at that meeting, certainly this is not a new issue to me either but what was said in private, I have no idea. What he gathered from the meeting was that everybody was concerned about the future, but everybody was pretty much satisfied with how things were now, except for a couple townships. He further explained that those townships were the only townships that did not access an ambulance millage in their townships.
- Commissioner Egan noted that they did look into all of it, as they wanted to make sure there wasn't some way to provide better services or make sure that future services were maintained at the level they are now. A subcommittee was formed and that he did not have any contact with it after that. To his knowledge no promises were made.
- Commissioner McLean noted that it's something he learned the first couple years as a Commissioner, that it is all about the money, and that this is something that is cost prohibitive. It's nice to consider but when you start talking about hundreds and thousands of dollars in order to keep the system up and running. It would be nice to have that, but it's just not possible

Addressing the organ transplant (Gift of Life) issue in Chippewa County, Commissioner Martin noted that he talked to someone after the meeting and that people in Chippewa County do donate organs and the Gift of Life is used. He explained that typically when they get to that point, they are usually moved to Traverse City, Petoskey or Marquette; and therefore, those hospitals get credit for the organ transplant.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Scott Shackleton, Chairman