

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Courthouse, 319 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 12th day of March, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Scott Shackleton, Don McLean, Jim Martin, Robert Savoie and Conor Egan

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Savoie and seconded by Commissioner McLean.

RESOLUTION # 18-03

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO MICHIGAN

HOUSE BILLS 5096, 5097 AND 5098

WHEREAS, Michigan House Bills 5096, 5097 and 5098 seek to amend various local government statutes and the state statutes in a way that would significantly reduce the ability of local governments, county road agencies, and county drain commissions to charge adequate fees, provide safe and reasonable criteria to access public jurisdictions, and collect adequate bonding should these properties be damaged and need restoration from telecommunication providers and their contractors that wish to work, install, and maintain cable, fiber optics, extended poles/antennas, towers, and power units on public properties; and

WHEREAS, the effect of these bills could force local governments, county road agencies, public works departments, and drain commissions to subsidize telecommunications with local and Michigan Transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, as legal guardians of the public property and road right-of-way, local governments, county road agencies, and drain commissions must ensure work in their jurisdictions is performed safely, does not damage our infrastructure, and meets engineering standards (above/below ground), along with federal and state requirements; and

WHEREAS, local governments and county road agencies do not profit by issuing permits, but simply recover the costs of issuing permits, making site inspections, and performing related tasks; and

WHEREAS, HB 5096 and 5097 limit fees to \$300 per permit or \$1,000 on multiple projects; and

WHEREAS, such a “one-size-fits-all” fee does not account for the type of work planned in a rural or urban setting, nor does it consider the risks a project may pose and, in general, the bills supplant engineering-based management with a “cookie-cutter” approach that puts public resources and workers at risk; and

WHEREAS, HB 5097 limits security/bonding to \$20,000 regardless of the potential risk and damage beyond that amount, rural vs. urban setting, and requires that bonds be returned within 60 days after a project is completed, even if damage is being contested; and

WHEREAS, these bills do not take into consideration the statewide ramifications and precedent that these bills would create; and

WHEREAS, while the telecommunications industry may be able to point to isolated instances of local obstacles, it is not a statewide problem.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners oppose HB 5096, 5097 and 5098 and urge State Senator Wayne Schmidt and State Representatives Lee Chatfield to oppose these cost-shifting bills as well; and

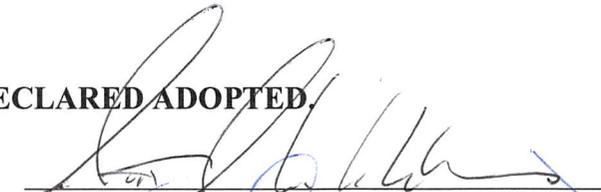
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Snyder, Senator Wayne Schmidt, Representative Lee Chatfield, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the other 82 counties.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

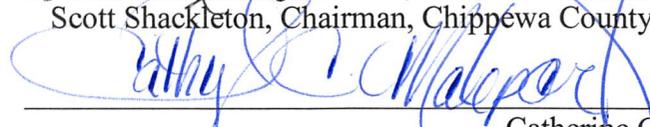
AYES: Scott Shackleton, Don McLean, Jim Martin, Robert Savoie and Conor Egan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Scott Shackleton, Chairman, Chippewa County Board of Commissioners



Catherine C. Maleport, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Chippewa County at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.