

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: David Heeres, Joshua Watrous, Karen Bargy, Ed Boettcher, Terry VanAlstine, Brenda Ricksgers, Dawn LaVanway, Christian Marcus.

Absent: Jason Helwig.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Moment of Silence.

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Ron Tschudy addressed the Board on the similarities and differences between Antrim County's toxic plume and worldwide climate change. Public comment closed.

It was moved by Ricksgers, seconded by LaVanway that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded by Ricksgers, that the minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2019 be approved as written. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Communications/Notices: There was none.

LIASON REPORTS:

Commissioner Boettcher – Networks Northwest (NWMCOG) – USDA Rural Development Summary of Major Projects

Commissioner Heeres – Michigan Township Association - Conference

Commissioner Ricksgers – Antrim County Fair Board – renovation and barn building project

Commissioner VanAlstine – Village of Bellaire update

Commissioner LaVanway – Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) Program update

Commissioner Marcus – Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) – new improved Website

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded LaVanway, that the Board amend the Antrim County Solid Waste and Recycling Council Procedures for Conducting Council Activity Article 5.4 to read: "Members shall attend a minimum of three-quarters (3/4) of the regular meetings per year unless ill or unusual circumstances occur as determined by the Chairman of the Council." Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

The Chairman appointed Calvin Shooks to the Antrim County Veteran's Affairs Committee to fill the partial term set to expire December 31, 2019.

It was moved by Heeres, seconded by Bargy, to approve the Chair's appointment of Calvin Shooks to the Veterans Affairs Committee to fill the partial term set to expire December 31, 2019. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

The Chairman appointed Libby Hiser to the Antrim County Veteran's Affairs Committee as the sixth member, with term to begin upon acceptance of appointment and to expire December 31, 2022.

It was moved by Ricksgers, seconded by Watrous, to approve the Chair's appointment of Libby Hiser to the Veteran's Affairs Committee to fill the new position of the sixth member, that the term begin immediately and expire December 31, 2022. Motion carried as follows: Yes- Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, Marcus; No – LaVanway; Absent – Helwig.

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded by Bargy that the claims and accounts totaling \$131,699.30 be approved and paid. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

Jamie Houserman, Deputy Equalization Director presented the Antrim County 2019 Equalization Report.

It was moved by Marcus, seconded by VanAlstine, that the 2019 Antrim County Equalization Report be accepted as presented and that the Chairman, Edgar Boettcher III, Director of Equalization, Lynette Girard, and County Clerk, Sheryl Guy be authorized to sign the Statement of Acreages and Valuations (L-4024's) as equalized and the Assessment Roll Certifications (L-4037/2691 County-wide totals and individually for each municipality) be accepted. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

RESOLUTION #16 -2019 By David Heeres, seconded by Brenda Ricksgers

**ANTRIM COUNTY EQUALIZATION 2019 REPORT
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT**

WHEREAS, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners hereby certify that the assessment rolls of the Townships and Villages have been examined and we find the rolls relatively equal as equalized; and

WHEREAS, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners hereby approve that the valuations be equalized on taxable property, by class, in Antrim County, for the year 2019 in compliance with Sections 209.5 and 211.34 MCL of 1948 as amended, and in accordance with the equalization certificates; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners adopts the 2019 Equalization Report and authorize the Chairman, Edgar Boettcher III, the Director of Equalization, Lynette Girard, and the County Clerk, Sheryl Guy to sign the Statements of Acreages and Valuations (L-4024's) as equalized and all Assessment Roll Certifications (L-4037/2691) County-wide totals and individually for each municipality.

Yes – David Heeres, Joshua Watrous, Karen Bargy, Ed Boettcher, Terry VanAlstine, Brenda Ricksgers, Dawn LaVanway, Christian Marcus;

No – None;

Absent –Jason Helwig.

RESOLUTION #16 -2019 DECLARED ADOPTED.

County Administrator, Peter Garwood addressed the Board on the Bank Building water damage incident and requested the Board to direct him to proceed in the direction of either demolition or repair.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by Bargy, seconded by Ricksgers, that the Board direct the County Administrator, Peter Garwood to pursue communications with Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), liability insurance carrier and insurance adjuster Clare Wasek to identify the cost of demolition of the Bank Building and that a report be provided to assist the Board to make the decision. Motion carried as follows: Yes- Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Ricksgers, Marcus; No – Watrous, VanAlstine, LaVanway; Absent – Helwig.

Grass River Natural Area Executive Director, Jenn Wright addressed the Board with the Grass River Natural Area 50th Anniversary and Spring Report 2019 and requested placement of an Interpretive Sign of Grass River Natural Areas History panel (42" x 55") in the County Building.

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded by Bargy, to authorize the Antrim County Sheriff to sign on behalf of Antrim County a Memorandum of Understanding between Antrim County and Milton Township Fire Department for the purpose of storing law enforcement equipment at the Milton Township Fire Department Station #2 and authorize Deb Haydell, Finance Director, Chief Administrative Officer of the budget to make a line item transfer in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the General Fund, Sheriff, Operating Supply (101-301-741) to the General Fund, Sheriff, Contractual Services (101-301-802). Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

RESOLUTION #17-2019 By Christian Marcus, seconded by David Heeres

**Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003
Support the Process of Legislators to Commence Revising Bill**

WHEREAS, health care costs continue to rise for all Americans and, for some Americans this increase can be devastating; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the focus of many lawmakers who portray it as an “entitlement” program that costs the Treasury too much money. Technically, the term “entitlement” is correct but it has an unfortunate connotation; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is an essential medical plan that millions of seniors and disabled individuals depend upon to stay alive. Medicare is not a gift, as the term “entitlement” suggests. Many of the beneficiaries have worked their entire adult life and paid into the system in order to receive this crucial medical plan; and

WHEREAS, due to spiraling costs largely associated with the price of prescription medications, our elected officials find themselves passing on increased costs to those who can least afford that increase, namely senior citizens and disabled individuals who are on Medicare’s Part D drug program; and

RESOLUTION #17-2019 continued.

WHEREAS, when congress enacted Medicare Prescription Drug Bill they enacted a law that does allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for drug prices the way Medicaid and the Veterans Administration does; and

WHEREAS, one economist, Dean Baker, estimates that Medicare could have saved approximately \$332 billion dollars between 2006 and 2013 (approximately \$50 billion a year) had the Department of Health and Human Services been permitted to negotiate prices of drugs with the drug companies, as federal agencies do in other programs; and

WHEREAS, rising prescription drug costs have been the primary reason for the increase in health benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of prescription drugs and outrageous profits made by pharmaceutical companies is a systemic problem that significantly affects our state and our nation. It deserves non-partisan effort; and

WHEREAS, we must prevent our elected officials from balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it, the elderly and disabled. Increases in premiums and drug costs are unacceptable ways to deal with the flawed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill; and

WHEREAS, we must preserve the Medicare program as it currently exists and to do so requires immediate action to cut unnecessary costs, particularly in the area of prescription drug coverage; and

WHEREAS, we must revise the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper, drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, we cannot allow the previously approved bill to stand as adopted at the risk of having the Medicare program be the cause of a staggeringly increasing deficit which will require tax increases or cuts to the rest of the government, nor can we allow the continuance of price increases to our citizens cause many to contemplate discontinuing medically necessary drugs in order to pay their bills, heat their houses and have food on the table; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Antrim County Board of Commissioners goes on record urging our Legislators to commence the process of revising the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our area Federal and State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, Michigan Association of Counties and the 82 Michigan Counties.

Yes – David Heeres, Joshua Watrous, Ed Boettcher, Terry VanAlstine, Brenda Ricksgers,
Dawn LaVanway, Christian Marcus;

No – Karen Bargy;

Absent – Jason Helwig.

RESOLUTION #17-2019 DECLARED ADOPTED.

Commissioner Bary addressed the proposed action seeking approval and authorization of indemnification by letter of agreement per the request of Sherry A. Comben, Antrim County Treasurer, both as an individual and in her official capacity, in regards to her duties associated with the tax foreclosure process and specifically as it relates to any possible judgements stemming from the Zettle vs Antrim County lawsuit. That the item be **POSTPONED** to the next Board meeting to allow legal counsel review.

Discussion followed.

Peter Garwood, Antrim County Administrator addressed the Board with his report.

Discussion followed on the following matters:

- Zettle vs Antrim County Update: Indemnification letter review by legal counsel
- Farmland and Open Space Preservation Update: Interview applicants
- Inclement Weather Policy Update: Department Head/Elected review
- Sheriff Dept. – Command Unit Contract Negotiations: 2nd Mediation planned
- Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) Update
- Antrim County Facility Master Plan Update: Forum April 23

Commissioner VanAlstine requested an update on the following:

- Building Security
- Building Department relocation and printer.

The County Administrator reported that he and his department continue to work through the assignments and have no updates to report at this time.

Commissioner Marcus addressed concerns of Building Code “State Code” requirements and fees attached to older trailers preventing the public the ability to improve homes.

Finance Director, Chief Administrative Officer, Deb Haydell addressed the Board with her report:

- Revenue & Expenditure Report February 2019
- Budget Amendment Report 1st Quarter 2019
- Budget Amendments – Maintenance Department; Emergency Services; and Contingencies
- Budget write-up expected: General Fund, Health, Autopsies over budget up to \$5,000.00 (101-601-837.002)
- Capital Projects Grass River Natural Area road funding budgeted 2017, 2018 and 2019. The request for a 2019 Capital Outlay, Budget Amendment is forthcoming.

It was moved by Bary, seconded by VanAlstine, that the Chairman be authorized to execute the agreement with Johnson Control-Simplex Grinnell for improvements to the Fire Alarm System and to authorize Deb Haydell, Finance Director, Chief Administrative Officer of the budget to make the appropriate Budget Amendments to increase the General Fund, Capital Outlay, County Building (101-901-980.365) in the amount of \$23,968.02 and the funding to come from Fund #470, Capital Project, County Building (470-967-999.101) budget transfer to the General Fund, (101-000-699.470) in the amount of \$23,968.02. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bary, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

It was moved by Bargy, seconded by Ricksgers, to authorize Deb Haydell, Finance Director, Chief Administrative Officer of the budget to make the following 2019 budget amendments to increase Fund #258, Department of Emergency Services, Contractual Service (258-426-802) in the amount of \$6,471.46 and the Revenue General Ledger Account Budget, charge for services (258-000-616) in the amount of \$6,471.46 with reimbursement to come from Dick's Trucking. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded by Joshua Watrous, to authorize Deb Haydell, Finance Director, Chief Administrative Officer to make the appropriate Budget Amendments to increase the General Fund, Special Projects, Contingencies (101-895-999.00) in the amount of \$53,783.03 and reduce two (2) Special Revenue Funds for wages and fringe benefits, Fund #249 Building Code in the amount of \$4,999.20 and Fund #297 Commission on Aging in the amount of \$ 48,783.83 for a total of \$53,783.03. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

The Chairman addressed the Board with his report on the following:

- Appointments and the process
- Members input appreciated and necessary
- Update notification of interest forms
- Conflicts of interest and/or conflict meeting dates and times
- Possible Ad Hoc Committee review vs past Committee process
- To review Policy and Procedure with County Administrator
- County planning 4 to 5 years in advance for succession of County positions

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Bargy spoke of the RAVE program that the Northwest Michigan Health Department has through the Emergency Services that provides internal reports and communication notices at a cost. The topic of succession planning is premature.

It was moved by Bargy, seconded by Heeres, that the Closed Session minutes dated March 21, 2019 be approved as written. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Watrous, Bargy, Boettcher, VanAlstine, Ricksgers, LaVanway, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Helwig.

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Barbara Bradford addressed the Board for correcting their error made handling appointments and inquired about road repair and cost. Public comment closed at 12:38 p.m.

The Board recessed for a 30-minute lunch break.

The Board reconvened at 1:08 p.m.

Marna Robertson, Administrator of the Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility presented the 2018 Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility Annual Report.

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded by Watrous, that the Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility 2018 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried - All present voting yes.

David Schulz, Manager of the Meadow View Senior Apartments presented the 2018 Meadow View Senior Apartments 2018 Annual Report.

It was moved by Ricksgers, seconded by Marcus, that the Meadow View Senior Apartments 2018 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried - All present voting yes.

Commissioner Marcus left the Board meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Wendy Warren, District Manager of the Antrim Conservation District presented the Antrim County Conservation District 2018 Annual Report (Conservation, Forestry, Soil Erosion, and Recycling).

It was moved by Heeres, seconded by Watrous, that the Antrim County Conservation District (Conservation, Forestry, Soil Erosion and Recycling) 2018 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried - All present voting yes.

It was moved by VanAlstine, seconded by Watrous, that the Antrim County Medical Examiner 2018 Annual Report. Motion carried – All present voting yes.

It was moved by Bargy, seconded by VanAlstine, that the Antrim County Abstractor's 2018 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – All present voting yes.

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Patty Niepoth, Register of Deeds addressed the Board on the status of a comprehensive County wage study. Public comment closed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Chairman, Ed Boettcher, III

County Clerk, Sheryl Guy