

**LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 12, 2015**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Chairman Walls called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins gave the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Deputy Clerk DeWolf called the roll with the following Commissioners present:

Barb Stenger, Chuck Vayda, Colleen Carrington-Atkins, John Brunn, John Fairbanks, Dan Sloan and Karl Walls.

Commissioner Fairbanks moved that the agenda be approved, seconded by Commissioner Sloan, by voice vote carried.

Commissioner Stenger moved that the minutes from the July 22, 2015 regular meeting be approved, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, and by voice vote carried.

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT** – *Limited to 5 minutes each, please!*

Senator Darwin Booher was present and gave a brief update on the legislature and house bills that are in the Senate and House for review. Main issues coming up are as follows:

- No Fault Insurance
- Energy Issue
- Land Use Plan for the State
- Revenue Sharing hearings

Senator Booher reported what committees he is on, such as, Education Committee, DNR Appropriations, General Government, Leadership Committee, etc. Commissioner Fairbanks reported on the property that 9-1-1 is trying to obtain on Wolf Lake Hill and Commissioner Sloan stated he spoke to House Rep. Jon Bumstead regarding this issue. The Board thanked Senator Booher for his update.

Prosecuting Attorney Cooper was present regarding the Title IV-D CRP Grant Agreement and expressed that it should be extended for one year as the County does receive 66% reimbursement. Commissioner Brunn stated there is a conference & training request to be approved for Assistant PA Barbier to attend and stated he feels both the PA and Assistant PA should attend this meeting. Discussion followed regarding if Assistant PA Barbier should attend and PA Cooper stated yes, as they both need to be kept up to date on this topic and if he can attend, he will put in a request for such.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE**

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval of the purchase requisition from the Lake County Sheriff's Department/RRP Center to Brooks Security for repair of the Salley Port Gate due to the storm and power failure in the amount of \$1,130.00, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval of the purchase requisition from the Lake County Sheriff's Department/Road Patrol to Gingrich Tire Center for 16 tires in the total amount of \$1,980.40, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

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Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval of the purchase requisition from the Lake County Sheriff's Department/RRP Center to Cold River Refrigeration for repairs and upgrades to both inside walk-in coolers for the total amount of \$4,797.87, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval of the conference & training request for Jim Holden, Prosecutors Officer, Crime Victim Rights Advocate, to attend the 2015 Victims Rights Annual Conference from September 15, 2015 through September 18, 2015 in Cadillac for the total cost of mileage of \$34.65 (County vehicle is not available), which is 100% reimbursable, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval of the conference and training request for Belinda Barbier, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney to attend Evidence Update on September 10, 2015 in Traverse City, for registration cost \$25.00 and mileage of \$82.50 (County vehicle is not available), for a total cost of \$107.50, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote on the motion above is, 5 yes and 2 NO Commissioners Sloan and Fairbanks.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval of the conference and training request for John Kovalcik, IT/Equalization to attend MiCamp 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Communities GIS Conference from September 9, 2015 through September 11, 2015 in Boyne Falls, for registration cost \$25.00, hotel cost \$439.38 and mileage \$151.80 (County vehicle is not available) for a total cost of \$616.18, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Stenger moved for approval of the conference and training request for Jeannie Hall, John Kovalcik and Lena Lyles, Equalization Department to attend the Advanced Threat Assessment & Situation Awareness on August 25, 2015 in Big Rapids, for the total cost of meals \$30.00, county vehicle is available, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks.

Commissioner Sloan moved to amend to strike John Kovalcik and \$10.00 from this request, no support, and motion failed. Commissioner Brunn asked why Commissioner Sloan did not want Mr. Kovalcik to attend this training and Commissioner Sloan stated he doesn't go out in the field. Roll call vote on the above motion is 6 yes and 1 NO Commissioner Sloan.

Commissioner Stenger moved for approval of the conference and training request for Tracey Cochran, HR Coordinator, to attend the MERS Conference October 8, 2015 – October 9, 2015 in Grand Rapids, for registration cost \$175.00, parking \$38.00, hotel \$141.00 for a total amount of \$354.00, county vehicle is available, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Stenger moved for approval of the conference and training request for Donald Divis and James Anderlohr – Emergency Management to attend the Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop on September 10, 2015 in Howell, hotel cost \$216.00 and meals \$88.00 for a total cost of \$304.00, using county vehicle from LCSD, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Commissioner Fairbanks asked where this was being paid from and Clerk/Register/CFO Myers stated Emergency Management budget and Commissioner Sloan stated Mr. Anderlohr wages are paid from 911. Roll call vote on the above motion is 7 yes.

Commissioner Stenger moved for approval of the conference and training request for Undersheriff Robinson, Lake County Sheriff's Department to attend the Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop on September 10, 2015 in Howell, hotel cost \$108.00, meals \$44.00 for a total cost of \$152.00, using county vehicle from LCSD, seconded by Commissioner Carrington-Atkins, roll call vote 7 yes.

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Commissioner Stenger moved for approval of the conference and training request for Tony Gagliardo, Building Department, to attend the Code Officials 2015 Fall Conference September 22, 2015 through September 25, 2015 at Shanty Creek for registration cost \$240.00, hotel cost \$348.00, meals \$106.00 for a total cost of \$694.00 and using his county vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Carrington-Atkins, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval of the conference and training request for Gregory Block, Trial Court Magistrate to attend the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates Annual Conference from September 23, 2015 through September 25, 2015 in Thompsonville, for registration cost \$175.00, hotel \$140.00 for a total amount of \$315.00 and using county vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval of the conference and training request for Kim Loop, Juvenile Court to attend 206b/207 Training Registration on September 14<sup>th</sup> or September 15<sup>th</sup> in Gaylord for the cost of a meal \$10.00 and using the county vehicle and will be reimbursed 50%, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval of the conference and training request for Kim Loop, Juvenile Court to attend the Northern Michigan Juvenile Officer's Association (NMJOA) on September 17, 2015 through September 18, 2015 for registration cost \$35.00, hotel cost \$75.00, meals \$22.00 for a total cost of \$132.00 and using the county vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval of the conference and training request for Undersheriff Robinson, Sheriff Administration Fund to attend the 2015 Fall Professional Development Conference and Trade Show from October 18, 2015 – October 20, 2015 in Acme for registration cost \$275.00, hotel \$280.00, total meals \$126.00 for a total cost of \$681.00 and using county vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Commissioner Vayda stated he has concerns with Sheriff Hilts on vacation and Undersheriff Robinson being out of the office 2-3 days. Commissioner Stenger stated Acme is not that far away and Commissioner Fairbanks stated he has confidence in the Sheriff's Department, if something were to happen. Roll call vote on the above motion is 6 yes and 1 NO Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval and authorization for signature for the 2015-2016 Secondary Road Application with State allocation in the amount of \$39,246.00, seconded by Commissioner Carrington-Atkins, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval and authorization for signature for the 2015-2016 Title IV-D CRP Grant, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 7 yes.

Commissioner Vayda moved for approval to transfer \$650,000 from RRP Fund Balance to the Building Authority for the Road Patrol Project, with a Budget Amendment forthcoming, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Commissioner Fairbanks asked County Treasurer Kutchinski if she was okay with this, which she stated she was. Discussion followed regarding the pros of this motion and keeping the funds where they are to continue making money. Roll call vote on the above motion is 6 yes and 1 NO Commissioner Sloan.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for payment of bills by fund, as follows:

General Fund	\$144,764.93
Road Patrol	12,957.61
E911	2,659.10
RRP Center	51,838.22

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Friend of the Court	1,013.92	
Building Inspection Department	4,748.84	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund	1,799.00	
Crime Victims Reimbursement	56.55	
E911 Services Fund – Wireless	343.64	
Concealed Pistol Licensing	284.49	
Law Library	509.50	
Child Care-Probate	12,147.27	
Veteran’s Trust	628.00	
JABG Grant	1,153.21	
Ambulance	27,323.00	
D.H.H.S.	613.96	
Commissary Fund	7,673.07	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$270,514.31</u></b>

Seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Questions were asked regarding the legal fees in 911 and the liquor tax. Roll call vote on the above motion is 7 yes.

*The board convened for lunch at 11:43 a.m.*

*The board reconvened at 1:15 a.m.*

*Commissioner Vayda is excused from the afternoon session.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.**

**PERSONNEL** – Commissioner Sloan reported there was no meeting, but at the last board meeting it was approved to advertise locally for the County Administrator’s position and four applications were received. He stated 3 did not meet the qualifications and the 4<sup>th</sup> applicant did meet the requirements, but doesn’t want to interview this applicant for reasons that should not be discussed here.

Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Brunn and Commissioner Carrington-Atkins all stated they would not be available for the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> to interview the four applicants chosen. Commissioner Stenger stated she is very disappointed and sorry to those that could not be here on the 15<sup>th</sup> and everyone had notice on this meeting. Discussion followed to hold a special meeting the week of 8/17/15.

Commissioner Sloan moved for Chairman Walls to call a special meeting to deliberate and discuss the applicants that are being interviewed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, Chairman Walls called a special meeting to be held on August 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 6 yes and 1 absent and excused, Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins asked if there will be a meeting to discuss the applications received locally via the notice in the Lake County Star and Commissioner Stenger stated no. Discussion followed regarding one application and it was stated to check 9and10 News on the website. Chairman Walls and Commissioner Sloan do not want to add any of these applications to the agenda on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Stenger asked that the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> be posted and the recent applicants receive a letter thanking them for taking the time to apply. A lengthy discussion followed.

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Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval that the local applicants be added to the agenda to be interviewed on 8/15/25, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Commissioner Sloan stated that Commissioner Carrington-Atkins is requesting this and won't even be at the meeting and Chairman Walls stated most applicants don't meet the requirements. Roll call vote on the motion above is 1 yes and 5 NO, Commissioners Brunn, Fairbanks, Sloan, Stenger and Chairman Walls and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda, motion fails.

### PERSONS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSIONERS

**1:30 p.m. Christian Veenstra, Watkins Ross** was present to present and explain the OPEB, Other Post Employee Benefit Report and also explain the 20 year projection that was requested by the board. Mr. Veenstra began to explain what OPEB is, the medical costs and pay as you go. He stated this actuarial does not include County Retirement Pension Benefits.

Mr. Veenstra presented a Power Point on our OPEB and explained what GASB 43 & 45 is and how it relates to the County's Annual Financial Statements. He did state this benefit does not have to be prefunded and can continue as Pay As You Go. If the County pre funded, it could lower the County Liabilities. If funds were put in a trust, those funds can only be used for retiree's medical benefits.

Long Term benefits for retirees were discussed and options that the County could do to keep the cost down. Mr. Veenstra stated the annual cost for non-union retirees is approximately \$3,500. Commissioner Sloan asked how is Lake County compared to other counties in MI and Mr. Veenstra stated Lake County is on the lower end with their benefits. Commissioner Sloan asked about the benefit package Lake County provides and how typical is this to have and Mr. Veenstra stated it's very prominent that other counties also offer benefit packages and they are also looking at changes.

The board thanked Mr. Veenstra for his presentation.

Lori DeWolf read a letter from Sheriff Bob Hilts for the record – *See Exhibit "A"*. Ms. DeWolf read another letter from herself, for the record – *See Exhibit "B"*.

### **Julie Hoffman – All Lake County Employees receiving the same retirement Health Insurance Benefits**

Commissioner Brunn stated he has received many phone calls and also received the following in his mail box with no return address or anything and read it in the form of a motion.

Commissioner Brunn moved for approval that ALL Lake County Employees receive the same Retirement Health Insurance Benefit Package as the Employer will pay (100%) of single subscriber rate for all retirees through December 2017, (with the exception of the Post 65 already in place for the non-union and elected officials), and that ALL Benefit Packages will be reviewed Prior to Contract Agreements expiring in 2017, effective today August 12, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Fairbanks stated he agrees with the employees, and the comment that Sheriff Hilts made, "what is good for the goose is good for the gander" and that he actual told that to Sheriff Hilts. He stated since they just received this information and wants time to think about this, and more time to explore more options with the employees. He does not feel ready to make a decision. Commissioner Stenger stated she is not ready to make a decision either. Commissioner Sloan called the question and Chairman Walls asked that the motion be read again and Commissioner Brunn read the motion. Roll call vote on the motion above is 2 yes and 4 NO Commissioner Fairbanks, Sloan, Stenger and Chairman Walls and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda, motion fails.

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Ms. DeWolf stated that all they are asking for is for a little less than 2 ½ years, until the union contracts are addressed, then everyone can be treated the same across the board.

Julie Hoffman asked when the Commissioners are planning to bring this up again. Clerk/Register/CFO Myers requested Chairman Walls hold a Special Board Meeting to hear what our employees have to say. Commissioner Sloan stated he wants the employees to form a committee instead of having all employees come to a meeting.

Commissioner Fairbanks moved for approval to hold a Special Meeting on August 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. with the employees to discuss and explore employee retiree benefits, seconded by Commissioner Stenger, roll call vote 5 yes, 1 NO Commissioner Sloan and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda.

*The board took a break at 2:45 p.m.*

*The board reconvened at 2:59 p.m.*

*Commissioner Fairbanks had not returned.*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.**

**LAKE COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE** – Chairman Walls stated Commissioner Vayda has requested to be taken off this committee and it was stated to leave vacant until such time meetings resume for this committee.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**AMBULANCE AD-HOC COMMITTEE** – Chairman Walls stated Commissioner Vayda has requested to be taken off this committee and Commissioner Sloan stated Commissioner Fairbanks has expressed interest to be on this committee. Chairman Walls appointed Commissioner John Fairbanks to the Ambulance Ad-Hoc Committee to replace Commissioner Chuck Vayda.

Commissioner Sloan reported on their recent meeting and they reviewed the resolution and tasks were given to the members and the next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2015. Commissioner Sloan stated they will plan to hold a public hearing in the eastern part of the county.

*Commissioner Fairbanks returned at 3:02 p.m.*

Chairman Walls stated Commissioner Vayda had interest on being on this committee and requested minutes be sent to him. Chairman Walls explained to Commissioner Fairbanks he was appointed to the Ambulance Ad-Hoc Committee.

### **AREA AGENCY ON AGING – See Exhibit “C”**

**BUILDING AUTHORITY** – Commissioner Fairbanks reported they were to begin Monday, but some issues have come up. Len Todd, Village of Baldwin has received the “Site Plan” and stated they are going to push this project along with no issues. Discussion followed.

**DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT #10** – Commissioner Stenger reported on the Building Healthy Communities Grant for Lake County and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is allowing DHD #10 to use the grant funds for park enhancements at another park location to

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increase physical activity in Lake County. Commissioner Carrington-Atkins reported on Healthy Michigan and there are 2 locations to get vegetables and fruits one by Family Dollar Store and the other is Larry's Place on US 10.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Commissioner Sloan reported he had asked the County cover up to \$3,500 for the establishment of the 501 (c) (3), but The Right Place has stepped up and will cover the cost. Commissioner Sloan did mention that Townships can still contribute and be a partner.

**FIVE CAP** – Commissioner Stenger reported they were awarded a Federal Grant for over 3 million, for Head Start and Great Start. Old busses will be on Craig's List to be sold and will be purchasing new busses. Year to Date, total child meals served 62,138, total adults meals served 11,800. Discussion followed regarding the Bitely location being closed and the difference between Head Start and Great Start.

**LAKESHORE REGIONAL ENTITY OVERSIGHT BOARD** – Commissioner Stenger reported they passed their by-laws and the Counties will receive a letter asking for alternates as they are having an issue with meeting a quorum. Jeff Brown is the new Executive Director as Rich VandenHeuvel submitted his letter of resignation.

**MENTAL HEALTH** – Commissioner Stenger reported there is an Autism Center in Baldwin, located at the Baldwin Business Center and there is one child there now. This is a great place to visit and another great service for Lake County residents.

**MICHIGAN WORKS!** – Commissioner Sloan reported on adopting PA7 agreement to include Oceana County. They applied and received a grant in the amount of \$24,000 and there are funds geared towards Lake County and children's programs.

**ORV PROMOTIONAL GRANT COMMITTEE** – Commissioner Sloan stated the Lake County Trails page on Facebook will pass 10,000 viewers. This coming weekend is the Great Outdoor Expo at the Airport and motels and campsites are already full. Commissioner Fairbanks congratulated Commissioner Sloan on this program as a gentleman from FL was here for this upcoming Expo.

**WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION** – Commissioner Sloan reported on the recent meeting. The Hazardous Mitigation Plans are ready for final approval and once Mr. Divis, Lake County EMD, is ready, the plan will need to go to the Townships.

**YATES DIAL-A-RIDE ADVISORY BOARD** – Commissioner Carrington-Atkins reported this board does not consider themselves as a "Public Meeting Board" as they receive funds from the State and County. She asked who is responsible for this board and Clerk/Register/CFO Myers stated she has researched this and found that they fall under the Yates Township Board. Discussion followed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE – See Exhibit "D"**

Commissioner Brunn reported he received a phone call from a retired colonel from the Army, who is the person that handles the Veterans Affairs here in Lake County. He has some great ideas and would like to come to a meeting and address the Board. Chairman Walls would like Commissioner Brunn to set up a meeting for both to meet this gentleman along with Osceola County representatives to explore options.

**APPOINTMENTS** – It was stated that Commissioner Sloan and Commissioner Stenger have attended various meetings and discussed who should sit on the 501 (3)(c) Board and elect permanent officers. It

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was requested for Chairman Walls to appoint 2 people to the Lake County Economic Development Alliance Committee 501 (3)(c) Board and therefore Chairman Walls appointed Commissioner Sloan and Commissioner Stenger to this board for 1 year. Commissioner Sloan stated there will be no per diems or mileage to be on this board. Discussion followed regarding how to get more to commit and partnership to be on this board.

**CFO REPORT** – Clerk/Register/CFO Myers was present and reported on the following:

1. Has three budget amendments as follows:

Commissioner Sloan moved for approval for Budget Amendment #13502 as follows:

<b>BA #13502</b>			
Debit	101-225.00-702.006	Credit	101-225.00-802.000     \$34,400.00
Description:	to cover the cost for the new contractual Equalization Director		

Seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 6 yes and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Fairbanks moved for approval for Budget Amendment #13518 as follows:

<b>BA #13518</b>			
Debit	211-000.00-400.001	Credit	211-901.00-955.000     \$650,000.00
Description:	to use RRP's fund balance for the Road Patrol Project		

Seconded by Commissioner Stenger, roll call vote 5 yes, 1 NO Commissioner Sloan and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Fairbanks moved for approval for Budget Amendment #13519 as follows:

<b>BA #13519</b>			
Debit	207-000.00-583.000		\$5,100.00
		Credit	207-331.03-703.000     \$3,500.00
		Credit	207-331.03-715.000     \$268.00
		Credit	207-331.03-718.000     \$200.00
		Credit	207-331.03-719.000     \$95.00
		Credit	207-331.03-721.000     \$129.00
		Credit	207-331.03-866.000     \$908.00
Description:	to amend to actual per the Federal Forest USDA Grant		

Seconded by Commissioner Sloan, roll call vote 6 yes and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Commissioner Brunn reported on the recent Solid Waste Management Planning Committee meeting to review any/all public comments received on the proposed amendment to the plan. The county did not receive any public comments. Commissioner Brunn moved for approval of the amendment to the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan as provided by American Waste, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 6 yes and 1 absent and excused, Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Brunn explained what procedures need to be done now and getting 67% approval from the Townships and Villages. It was suggested that Ms. Durkin from American Waste attend the Lake County



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Township Officers Association Meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Luther Fire Hall. It was suggested to contact Paul Bigford to get on the agenda to discuss this.

*Commissioner Sloan left the room at 3:49 p.m.*

*Commissioner Sloan returned at 3:50 p.m.*

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins questioned the 4 applicants that did apply locally and why would they apply if they did not have the qualifications. The way the advertisement was laid out and was worded, they meet the minimum requirements. Chairman Walls stated there were 19 applications received and we narrowed them down to four. Discussion followed and Commissioner Carrington-Atkins stated she will be here Saturday; she rearranged her calendar to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for approval to reconsider the vote to interview the 4 local candidates that applied for the Lake County Administrators Position. Discussion followed regarding the advertising GovHR USA did and this board had ample time to request advertisement be done in the local paper. Roll call vote on the motion above is 3 yes, 3 NO Commissioners Sloan, Stenger and Chairman Walls, 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda, motion fails.

Commissioner Sloan stated he would get a copy of the letter GovHR USA sent out to those applicants that were not chosen to interview to Clerk/Register/CFO Myers.

**RESOLUTIONS** - Resolution #08/12/2015 1335, to reduce the 2015 Tax Request from 1.0000 mills to .25000 mills. Commissioner Sloan stated this will reduce the fund balance in the ambulance fund and will be a tax relief for the taxpayers in 2015 and what is lost in one year, will be replenished within three years.

Commissioner Sloan moved for approval Resolution #08/12/2015 1335, seconded by Commissioner Carrington-Atkins.

A lengthy discussion followed and Chairman Walls asked if there were consequences if this was held off until the next meeting and Clerk/Register/CFO Myers stated the L-4029 is due at the end of September.

Commissioner Stenger moved for approval to table Resolution #08/2015 1335 until the next board meeting August 26, 2015 when Jeff Stockhill, Director of Life EMS, will be here, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, roll call vote 5 yes, 1 NO Commissioner Sloan and 1 absent and excused Commissioner Vayda.

Clerk/Register/CFO Myers requested a Properties meeting be scheduled, 911 Director Dave Sanders is requesting to be on the agenda. There is a Safety/Properties meeting already scheduled Tuesday September 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

### **BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT** – *Limited to 5 minutes each, please!*

Tony Gagliardo was present and commented on the following:

1. Requested a copy of the actuarial the Commissioners received be sent to all the employees
2. Forming a non-union committee is senseless
3. Would closing the building to the public affect the Open Meetings Act, but closing offices would not
4. Agrees that those appointed to the EDA Committee should be from those that have contributed to become stakeholders

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**COMMISSIONERS PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins reported on the recent concerts Idlewild has put on and has drawn over 1100 people just from last weekend and has helped the economy in Lake County. There are a lot of people that have come here and are looking to purchase property in Lake County.

Commissioner Stenger agrees with Mr. Gagliardo.

Commissioner Brunn stated county employees are county employees and should be equal all around.

Commissioner Fairbanks commented on the timing of ambulance runs and it's faster for him to drive to Ludington, than to wait for an ambulance to arrive.

Chairman Walls stated he disagreed with Commissioner Brunn. Employees are not the same, all part of the same team, but not the same and has learned more after today's presentation regarding the actuarial, and feels the board will come up with some agreement with the non-union employees, but will not be pressured into doing so and can't make a decision overnight.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Shelly Myers, Clerk of the Board

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Karl Walls, Chairman of the Board

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***Exhibit “A”***

TO Lake County Board of Commissioners.

FROM Sheriff Robert A Hilts

DATE 8-12-15

RE Actuarial insurance information for today’s meeting.

To the board.

Please forgive my absence as I still am enjoying a much needed vacation. When I learned that a result for the actuarial had arrived and all of the commissioners had received a copy I felt compelled to write you. Please consider your decision carefully as it affects the future of some of your dedicated long term employees. When we close in on retirement and inch toward those so called golden years the view isn’t always so golden. Commissioner comments as to the wages of our employees “they are not bad” and yes that is true. But as we look back to the recent past for example, I was the lowest paid Sheriff in the State and one of lowest in the country for more than half of my 22 years in the position. It was quite disturbing to see the unionized deputies after overtime and holiday pay take home thousands more than myself. And with my responsibilities to my family made it impossible to put a nest egg away for retirement. I could only imagine the struggles the nonunion employees had to make.

As you look to the facts on many occasions county employees were denied pay increases and benefit enhancement because of upcoming contract negotiations. Or nothing left after a contract agreement was made. And it is only recently with the election of commissioners such as yourselves that the pay has come into line and all the hard work rewarded. As you consider your vote I would ask you to think of the state that the county is in. We are not Detroit we don’t have a thieves and criminals controlling the purse strings. **WE HAVE THE MONEY FOLKS.** We are not asking for anything extra just gives us what everyone else has. All we want is to be equal with the rest of the county. So I will close by asking you to consider a quote from a very wise commissioner “what is good for the goose is good for the gander”

Very truly yours,

Robert A Hilts

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***Exhibit “B”***

8/12/15

To all the County Commissioners, Elected Officials, Union and Non-Union Employees:  
WE are ALL county employees and therefore deserve the same health insurance benefits at retirement. At this point, there COULD be up to 5 employees (non-union) who could retire in 2015, 4 in 2016 and 4 in 2017 and with all these employees, 3 turn 65 in 2017.

As the Union Contracts all expire 12/31/2017, we are asking we all be whole, with the exception of when non-union employees turn 65 as we are not asking for. Another item we are not asking to get back. When the union contracts change their retirement insurance benefit, this will then change the non-union and elected officials. We should ALL BE THE SAME.

Thank you for this time for letting us to discuss more on this subject and that you please approve this change today.

DRAFT

*Exhibit “C”*



**AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN  
AGING NETWORK NEWS  
Week of August 5, 2015**

*Helping seniors live independently at home . . .* is the goal of legislation introduced this summer by Senator Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield) and Representative Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield). Senate Bill 395 and House Bill 4719 are identical bills that would provide a Michigan income tax credit of up to \$5000 on modifications making new or existing homes more accessible for people with disabilities of all ages. Modifications eligible to receive the credit will be determined by guidelines developed by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, but will likely include eliminating entrance steps, expanding doorways and renovations on bathrooms and kitchens.

Passage of the credit bill is a priority of the Michigan MS Society. The credit concept also enjoys the support of the 2015 Older Michiganians Day platform. Here are some of the specifics spelled out in the legislation:

- To qualify, a person living in the household must have one or more physical limitations in daily life activities as verified by their physician that impact the ability to enter, exit and use the property.
- Credits would begin for the 2016 tax year, i.e. applied for in 2017;
- Total credits given out in one year could not exceed \$1 million; if they go over, each taxpayer applying would get a prorated amount;
- Credits for a new home are capped at 4% of the total purchase price;
- Credits for an existing residence are capped at 50% of the cost.
- Rental property is not eligible for the credit.
- Credits given would not exceed the amount of income tax owed; if they go over that amount, they can be carried over to the next 6 tax years until they are paid.
- Taxpayers must get a certificate from MSHDA and attach it to their tax form.

*Michigan’s 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) . . .* serve all 83 counties with nearly 1,000 employees, administering \$324 million annually for senior & disability programs, according to the 2015 Annual Report of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan. Other highlights include:

- The MI Choice Waiver saved Michigan \$427 million in 2014 when comparing the average cost of that home care program (\$101/day) with the average cost of Medicaid nursing home care (\$190/day). MI Choice serves adults meeting the same level-of-need as those in facilities, and is designed to be an alternative to nursing homes.
- AAAs funded almost 10 million nutritious meals and over 2 million hours of in-home and community services last year to over 120,000 older adults and caregivers;
- 82% of MI Choice participants served by Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) avoided permanent nursing home placement;
- AAAs transitioned 847 nursing home residents back to their own homes and communities in 2014;
- 98% of MI Choice participants say they are treated with respect by their AAA Supports Coordinator.

*Exhibit “D”*

**NUMBERED CORRESPONDENCE**

- #1      USDA Letter**
- #2      Lake County Permit Summary for July 2015**
- #3      WMSRDC July 24, 2015**
- #4      WMSRDC July 23, 2015**
- #5      Department of Natural Resources Letter**

