

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
800 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baldwin, MI 49656

Regular Meeting-**Approved**  
Wednesday April 11, 2018

Prayer: Commissioner Maddox

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman called the Meeting to order at: 10:01 am

Commissioner Walls moved that the Agenda dated April 11, 2018 be approved; seconded by Commissioner Balulis. *All in favor-motion carried*

Commissioner Walls moved that the Minutes dated March 28, 2018 be approved with corrections; seconded by Commissioner Dermeyer. *All in favor-motion carried.*

Lake County Clerk Patti Pacola called the roll with the following Commissioners present:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Maddox   | Brunn    |
| Runnels  | Walls    |
| Balulis  | Dermeyer |
| Lodholtz |          |

Absent: none

**Public Comment:**

Numerous community members along with past and present 911 Dispatch workers were present to discuss staff shortages, work conditions, the outsourcing of Lake County 911 Dispatch. Commissioner Walls informed those present that the Board of Commissioners could not answer questions during public comment. Issues mentioned included: working up to 176 hours per pay period, one dispatcher per shift, qualified applicants being over looked, Supervisor not listening to concerns, and hostile work environment.

Terry Grindell ask Administrator Lake if he hires for 911 and received no answer. He also asks that the Commissioners give applicants a second chance so that they may relieve some of the hours being worked.

Under Sheriff Wes Beirling added that Sheriff Martin had sent three applications under his recommendation with only one being interviewed and none hired. Beirling also added that the Sheriff Department is also willing to help.

Larry Collier ask what the 911 Committee is doing about this and why has this problem not been looked at? No answer was received. Collier also stated that: "911 has been approved showing that the people want it in Lake County" and ask where the 911 Director was.

Steve Stukettee added that Management should be the first level looked at in the problem and that we need to keep the money and jobs here in Lake County.

**Presentations:**

Jake Ludera (the new Baldwin District Forest Ranger) was present to introduce himself.

Al Ensico (County Equalization Director) presented the Lake County Equalization Report for FY year 2018.

Nicolette McClure (and guests from Veterans Services) was present to discuss Veterans support issues in Lake County, provide information on House Bill No. 5536 and Veterans Relief Fund (Excerpt) Act 214 of 1899. Included in the information was a Resolution, Ballot wording used in Wexford County and Grant information. Nicolette ask the Commissioners to consider getting this on the November Ballot for 1 mill (\$.10 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

**Committee Reports:**

Commissioner Maddox reported for the Lake County Economical Development. They have 2 Grants that have been approved, they continue seeking Townships to match funds and they ask the Commissioners to lift the mandatory match and release the given \$25,000. Commissioner Maddox also reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be asking for permission to distribute their Parks and Rec. Plan.

Commissioner Runnels had various Committee reports to share including MAC where topics of the opioid problems where discussed. Runnels shared that Michigan is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for opioid problems. 4-H locations for upcoming activities were also shared.

Commissioner Balulis gave an IT Committee update on phones and fax lines and what we are saving. IT is also working on getting fiber hooked up and there will be a new antenna coming in a month or so.

Commissioner Brunn added to the IT report that our IT Director stayed \$3,500 under Budget with the fiber project.

Commissioner Walls gave a MiWorks report along with a Pathology report. They are working on a plan for each County with more discussion to come future meetings.

Commissioner Dermyer went to DC to lobby for FiveCap and that the Road Commission will be doing two Brines this year and paying for ½ on each Brine.

Chairman Lodholz called a 5-minute break at 11:25  
Resumed at 11:32

**Motions:**

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to approve of the semi-monthly detail analysis dated April 11, 2018 totaling \$178,414.89; with a second from Commissioner Runnels. Roll call vote:

Dermeyer-yes, Walls-yes, Brunn-yes, Balulis-yes, Maddox-yes, Runnels-yes, and Lodholtz-yes.  
*Motion carried.*

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to approve of four Departmental Purchase Requisitions in excess of \$1,000 dated April 11, 2018; with a second from Commissioner Runnels. Roll call vote: Dermeyer-yes, Maddox-yes, Brunn-yes, Walls-yes, Balulis-yes, Runnels-yes and Lodholtz-yes. *Motion carried.*

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to approve of the RAP Grant application to MMRMA for costs associated with staffing the Lake County Sheriff's Office with two Road Patrol Deputies who are trained as Field Training Officers and authorize the County Administrator to sign any and all necessary documents; with a second from Commissioner Runnels. Roll call vote: Dermeyer-yes, Maddox-yes, Runnels-yes, Brunn-yes, Balulis-yes, Walls-yes and Lodholtz-yes. *Motion carried.*

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to approve of the RAP Grant application to MMRMA for costs associated with providing all Supervisors of the Lake County Sheriff Office Road Patrol with current and up to date First Line Supervision Training and authorize the County Administrator to sign any and all necessary documents; with a second from Commissioner Walls. *Roll call vote: Walls-yes, Brunn-yes, Balulis-yes, Runnels-yes, Maddox-yes, Dermeyer-yes and Lodholtz-yes. Motion carried.*

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to approval of the RAP Grant application to MMRMA for costs associated with equipping a Dodge Charger with a bumper guard to help minimize the damage caused by a car/deer collision and authorize the County Administrator to sign any and all necessary documents; with a second from Commissioner Runnels. Roll call vote: Brunn-yes, Walls-yes, Dermeyer-yes, Balulis-yes, Maddox-yes, Runnels-yes and Lodholtz-yes. *Motion carried.*

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to accept the Lake County Equalization Report as presented for the year of 2018; with a second from Commissioner Walls. *Voice vote-all in favor-motion carried.*

### **Correspondence:**

The Lake County Permit Summary Report for March of 2018 was presented with no discussion.

### **New Business:**

Commissioner Balulis made a motion to approve the Board Chairman's reappointment of Barbara Maiville to the Lake County Jury Board with a term expiring on April 30, 2021; with a second from Commissioner Runnels. *Voice vote-all in favor-motion carried.*

Commissioner Dermeyer added to the 911 Dispatcher topic that the Department is in a crisis and should have been taken care of months ago.

### **Unfinished Business:**

none

**Administrators Report:**

Added more info to the Grant topic Commissioner Maddox spoke of and will discuss it more at the next meeting.

Trial Court Juvenile Probation Officer will be leaving soon due to health.

The opioids contract is 200 pages thick and he will be working on a report to show how much opioids have cost Lake County.

The 911 Department is down to two dispatchers. Staff continues to call Board Members instead of following protocols-these actions undermine the authority and they should go to their Supervisor, and if they were more professional there would be less problems. Does not know how to solve it but no one owes them an explanation. Administrator Lake added that he did sit in on interviews and they have found 1 or 2 possible candidates. We need to get to a platform of professionalism and less drama. There is no solution in pointing fingers.

Commissioner Dermeyer added that anyone of them should be able to call their Board members at any time.

Commissioner Walls added that they should not be micro managing and chain of command needs to be followed.

Administrator Lake added that the 911 Director was not present because he did not know about the meeting discussion and they are not moving 911 to Newaygo. Newaygo is their back up.

Commissioner Dermeyer ask to be added to the record that "she muddied the water".

Administrator Lake continued with his report that he has had numerous FIOA requests from personnel and the media.

Audits begin in two weeks.

**Public Comment:**

Dave Woodman spoke on behalf of the Veterans in Lake County adding that a tax levy should have been done years ago and that Lake County is not taking care of their Veterans. Further discussion followed.

Wayne Eversole (Service Officer for 515) was sent to Newaygo for services and was refused there so he muddled through on his own. Stating: "there is a need in Lake County".

Faith Stuketee added to the 911 discussion that the problem doesn't seem to be with the Dispatchers. The Director should step in immediately when there is a problem.

Jessica (911 Dispatcher) shared that the 911 Director allows members to get their kids from school and bring them into the building through the Judges door and remain in the 911 Department. She also added that the Director does not do the scheduling or cover shifts.

Sue (911 Dispatch) added that workers are shut down immediately and told they need to be thick skinned. Sue also claims that when the problem was taken to Administrator Lake-the problem was repeated word for word to another Dispatch worker.

Tony Gagliaro spoke of Economical Development. 911 had the loss of two workers when he was director and to lose 9 in one year is a problem and the reason needs to be found.

Terra (911 Dispatch) added that no fingers where pointed and dividing will do no good.

Jazz (911 Dispatch) added that the Director is the problem and Mr. Lake screaming at them is not professional.

Under Sheriff Beirling stated his concerns with dispatch being short as we move in to summer events which leads to safety issues with his staff and Fire Departments.

Larry Collier added that there has always been a big turn over in Dispatch but Commissioners know about it now and should be able to work towards a solution. We need to stick up for our employee's.

Commissioner Walls left the meeting at 12:30

**Commissioners Comments:**

None

Commissioner Balulis made a motion at 12:46 to go into Closed Session to discuss the Administrators Evaluation; with a second from Commissioner Runnels. Roll call vote: Maddox-yes, Runnels-yes, Balulis-yes, Brunn-no, Dermyer-yes and Lodholtz-yes. Absent-Walls. *Motion carried.*

Regular session resumed at 1:27 pm

*Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm*

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Patti Pacola-Lake County Clerk