

The Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, commencing at 9:01 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners office, Huron County Building, Bad Axe, Michigan.

Commissioners present: Chairman Khoury, Dave Peruski, Ron Wruble, John Bodis, Steve Vaughan, Todd Talaski, and John Nugent.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Peruski:**

- Huron County Planning Commission Chairman Robert McLean, Vice Chairman Carl Duda, and Secretary Julie Epperson appeared before the Board to discuss the status of developing a commercial solar energy ordinance. Mr. McLean said they have been working on the solar ordinance with meetings with Spicer Group involving proposed maps for the areas they could go in. McLean said you may feel it's going too slow but they are working on it and he doesn't want to keep extending moratoriums and hopes to get something ready before the current one expires. Ms. Epperson said that since she was appointed to the Planning Commission they have had 2 meetings with the engineering firm. Commissioner Vaughan said the information from the officers on the Planning Commission was encouraging as he didn't want to see this drag on for residents that want to have a project developed. They also talked about the efforts to review the current wind ordinance approved in 2015. McLean said things have changed since 2015 and similar to the Master Plan they need to go over it from time to time.
- Tony Loewe, Port Austin resident, addressed the Board on the proposed plans for the former Port Austin Air Base property. Mr. Loewe is concerned about plans of Huron Castings purchasing the property and converting part of it for housing up to 300 people from Puerto Rico that would work at its facilities. He feels when they come in they will take jobs at a lower pay scale which would work to lower pay rates in the area that has been going up with demand for workers. Chairman Khoury said if they are coming in legally there is nothing the board can do, adding they have just as much right to be anywhere in the U.S. Mr. Loewe said he had gone to the township first and felt they were monumentally unconcerned. Mr. Loewe said it was a very poor fit for the Port Austin Township and a bad idea.
- At last week's Legislative Committee meeting, there was a discussion regarding purchasing better sound equipment to be used by the Building & Zoning Director for assessing compliance of wind turbines when a noise complaint is filed. Jeff Smith, B & Z Director stated he has been in contact with Larson Davis to determine the most effective equipment for his use based on the criteria of our zoning ordinance. Mr. Smith is also looking into a portable weather station.

**9:42 a.m.**

Recess

**9:45 a.m.**

**SAFETY COMMITTEE – Bodis:**

- Steve Allen, Corporation Counsel, addressed the Board in regards to the opioid lawsuit. Mike Behm spoke with Steve and wanted to know why the Board turned down the law suit. 700 lawsuits will bring all together and then separate back to their area. The judge is on a mission. Mr. Allen went through the cut off dates. Mr. Behm has offered to come up and talk to the Board.
- Randy Miller, 911 Director, explained to the Board we have been awarded a grant for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.
- Commissioner Bodis said they have a preliminary contract with the employees at the Health Department.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – Talaski:**

- We have received a thank you from the special needs children for allowing them to come in and do our shredding.
- The roof on the Courthouse should be finished today.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Wruble:**

- Nothing at this time.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Nugent:**

- Nothing at this time.

**AGENCIES COMMITTEE – Vaughan:**

- Commissioners Vaughan and Bodis attended the Senior Fair last Friday. It had a great turn out.
- Sue Morrell from the Huron County Hockey Association came before the Board to discuss the construction of a new ice arena. There have been several sites proposed; she told the board they always have and still want to rebuild the Arena building. Ms. Morrell told the board their largest contributor would like to see it there as the best option. Commissioner Talaski said this should be turned over to the Properties Committee and they should meet in the future with the Hockey Association and all parties involved. Drawings of the work had already been drafted. Chairman Khoury suggested possibly holding that meeting at the Expo Center so they can walk through the building and see what will be done. Finance Chairman Wruble said the board will need to keep in mind obligations the county has when determining a funding contribution from the county, such as tax appeals on turbines, the impact of SB 1031, unfunded liability for MERS, and OPEB liability.

**CHAIRMAN: - Khoury:**

- Nothing at this time.

**10:15 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned.

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Sami Khoury, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

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Lori Neal-Wonsowicz  
Huron County Clerk