

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Organizational Meeting  
January 2, 2019

Bonnie Scheele, County Clerk, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Governmental Center.

OPENING CEREMONIES OR EXERCISES

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

PRESENT: Betsy Coffia, Bryce Hundley, Brad Jewett, Addison Wheelock, Jr. (5:35 p.m.), Ron Clous, Gordie LaPointe, and Rob Hentschel

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Beth Friend**, East Bay Township Supervisor, welcomed the new Board of Commissioners.

**Karl Kovacs**, CEO Northern Michigan Community Mental Health, requested the Board consider appointing Carol Crawford to the NM Community Mental Health Board.

Commissioner Wheelock arrived at 5:35 p.m.

**Jennifer Alexander** spoke in opposition to the Invocation Policy

**Jason Gillman** requested that the Board rescind the Traverse Area District Library Board appointment made last month.

**John Coleman** spoke in opposition to the Invocation Policy

**David Petrove** spoke in opposition to the Invocation Policy

**Heather Kingham** spoke in opposition to the Invocation Policy

**Matthew Schoech** spoke about the form of government created by the U.S. Constitution.

**Harold Gurien** spoke in opposition to the Invocation Policy

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

County Clerk Scheele explained the process for nominating commissioners to be Chairperson and opened the floor for nominations.

**Nominations**

Commissioner Clous made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jewett, to nominate Commissioner Hentschel as the 2019/2020 Chairperson.

Commissioner Hundley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coffia, to nominate Commissioner Wheelock as the 2019/2020 Chairperson.

There being no further nominations, the County Clerk asked the nominees if they would like to speak on their qualifications as a chairperson. Commissioners Hentschel and Wheelock both addressed the Board regarding their qualifications. The County Clerk opened the floor to discussion.

**Voting on Nominee(s)**

Roll Call Vote on Commissioner Hentschel to be elected as County Board Chairperson for 2019/2020 term.

Roll Call: Yes 4, No 3

Nay: Hundley, Wheelock and Coffia

A majority of Commissioners voted to elect Commissioner Hentschel as the Grand Traverse County Board Chairperson and the election was closed.

The County Clerk handed the meeting over to Chairman Hentschel.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Chairman Hentschel called for nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2019.

**Nominations**

Commissioner Jewett made a motion to nominate Commissioner Clous as the Vice Chairperson for 2019.

There being no further nominations, the Chairman declared the nominations closed.

**Voting on Nominee**

Roll Call Vote on Commissioner Clous to be elected as County Board Vice Chairman for 2019.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 7

A majority of Commissioners voted to elect Commissioner Clous as the Grand Traverse County Board Vice Chairman and the election was closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: Traverse Area District Library Appointment under New Business

Add: Study Session to be scheduled for January 9, 2019 under New Business

Moved by Clous, seconded by LaPointe to approve the agenda with the addition of TADL appointment and study session under New Business. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES

Commissioners reviewed the Board Rules of Order.

Moved by Clous, seconded by Wheelock to approve the Board Rules of Order as presented. Motion carried.

**A) Changes to the Board Rules for Consideration**

1) Invocation Policy

An amended Invocation Policy was distributed.

Moved by Clous, seconded by Jewett to approve the Invocation Policy that was distributed.

Moved by Coffia, seconded by Hundley, to amend the original motion to have a moment of silence added as an agenda item before or after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kit Tholen, Civil Counsel, explained that according to Robert's Rules of Order the motion made by Commissioner Coffia would not be an amendment but a different motion.

Chairman Hentschel indicated that they would continue to discuss the original motion made by Commissioner Clous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**John Coleman** asked questions about the new Invocation Policy distributed.

**Katie Bean-Larson** opposed to the Invocation Policy

**Steve Horne** opposed to the Invocation Policy

**Matthew Schoech** supports the Invocation Policy

Moved by Hundley, seconded by Coffia to table the decision on the Invocation Policy until the next meeting. This motion supersedes the previous motions on the table.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 4, No 3

Nay: Clous, Jewett and Hentschel

2) Additional Board Rule Changes

Chairman Hentschel suggested changes to 10.3.6, 10.3.3 and the process on motions to rescind in the Board Rules

Moved by Hentschel, seconded by Coffia to direct staff to make the changes to the Board Rules and bring the amended Board Rules back for approval. Motion carried.

3) Pension Liability Information

Moved by Hentschel, seconded by Clous to have the Chairman state before the approval of the agenda at every meeting the following information: Last recorded percentage of pension funded; the dollar amount needed to be fully funded; and the date the information was provided to the County.

Moved by Coffia, seconded by Hentschel to table action on the motion above until the next meeting. Motion carried.

4) Study Sessions

Moved by LaPointe, seconded by Clous to direct staff to amend the Board Rules to state that no formal action will be taken at a study session. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL RESOLUTION

Resolution  
1-2019

**Resolution Permitting the Treasurer to Waive  
Administration Fee and Interest Charge on  
Delinquent Taxes for Senior Citizens  
And Others Specified by Law**

WHEREAS, Act 166 of P.A. of 1977, section 59 (3) as amended, permits County Boards of Commissioners to direct the County Treasurer to waive the administration fee (4%) and interest charges of (1% per month) added after the last day of February for senior citizens, eligible widows, totally and permanently disabled, or blind, as defined in said Act, between March 1 and April 30 on taxes in the first year of delinquency; and,

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the County Board that the County Treasurer be authorized to waive the administration fee and interest between March 1 and April 30 for taxes in the first year of delinquency for eligible taxpayers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THAT THE County Treasurer is hereby directed to waive the administration fee and interest between March 1 and April 30 for taxes in the first year of delinquency for eligible taxpayers as provided in Act 166 of the Public Acts of 1977, section 59 (3), as amended.

Moved by Wheelock, seconded by Clous to approve Resolution 1-2019. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULES

A) **Board of Commissioners' Meeting Dates and Times**

Moved by Jewett, seconded by Clous to change the start time of the Board of Commissioner meetings to 8:00 a.m.. The meeting dates will remain on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and the study sessions will remain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**John Coleman** opposed to changing the start time

**Jason Gillman** supports changing the start time

**Courtney Klatt** opposed to changing the start time

**Dave Petrove** opposed to changing the start time

**Donna Hornberger** opposed to changing the start time

**Katie Bean Larson** opposed to changing the start time

**Harold Lassers** opposed to changing the start time

**Alisa Korn** supports changing the start time

Roll Call Vote: Yes 4, No 3

Nay: Coffia, Hundley and Wheelock

**B) Commissioner Appointments/Assignments for 2019**

Chairman Hentschel distributed a list of appointments to boards and committees.

**Tom Bensley**, Sheriff, spoke about Commissioner Wheelock's experience on the Criminal Justice Coordination Committee.

Moved by LaPointe, seconded by Coffia to adopt the appointments presented by Chairman Hentschel with the option for the Commissioners to speak to the Chairman regarding changes to their appointments. Motion carried.

**C) Mileage and Meals & Incidental Rates for 2019**

Dean Bott, Finance Director, explained the IRS mileage, meals and incidental rate reimbursements for 2019.

Moved by Wheelock, seconded by Jewett to approve the 2019 reimbursement rates. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Commissioners took a break at 7:55 p.m.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 7:59 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

**1) Traverse Area District Library (TADL) Appointment**

Moved by Clous, seconded by LaPointe to rescind the appointment of Susan Odgers to the TADL Board pending legal advice of civil counsel on if they have the authority to rescind this appointment.

Jason Gillman and Steve Horne answered Commissioners' questions regarding the number of applicants interviewed for the TADL board.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 4, No 3  
Nay: Coffia, Hundley and Wheelock

**2) Study Session January 9, 2019**

Commissioners will have a study session on January 9, 2019 to discuss the County financials and the pension.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Donna Hornberger** made comments about the TADL agreement

**Jason Gillman** made comments about the TADL agreement

**David Petrove** made comments about the TADL agreement

NOTICES

Reminder that all future board meetings and study sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Bonnie Scheele, County Clerk

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Rob Hentschel, Chairperson

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Initials)