

October 25, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners was held in the County Building at 225 West Main Street, Room 100. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Paul Beachnau. Invocation by Commissioner Ken Borton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Erma Backenstose.

Roll Call:

Present: Clark Bates, Paul Beachnau, Paul Liss, Lee Olsen, Erma Backenstose, Richard Sumerix, Ken Borton, Bruce Brown.

Excused: Doug Johnson.

Motion by Commissioner Richard Sumerix, to approve the minutes of October 11, 2011 with attachments. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the reappointment of Connie Blotske to the Board of Canvassers with term to expire October 20, 2015. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

John Burt reported on the Animal Control building; Courthouse sidewalk; Sgt David Day memorial bench; Laptop auction.

Motion by Commissioner Lee Olsen, to approve the sale of the following to the highest bidders:

- E6500 Laptop (8H18HH1)- \$150.00
- D610 Laptop (1MYYQ91) - \$101.01
- D610 Laptop (JJYYQ91) - \$100.50
- D505 Laptop (8SD7L51)- \$50.50
- D505 Laptop (6PNQR61)- \$15.00
- 19" monitor- \$25.00
- 19" monitor-\$22.01

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Department Head Report:

Trisha Adam reported on the HR Department.

Mary Sanders reported on some training some of the Township officials received; MTA meeting November 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Bagley Township.

Elizabeth Haus reported on the Village.

Roberta Tholl reported on the road commission.

Correspondence:

Chairman Paul Beachnau received a letter from the Department of Human Services.

Rachel Frisch reported on the third quarter financial reports.

New Business:

Motion by Commissioner Ken Borton, to approve the October 18, 2011 Warrant in the amount of \$154,372.31 as presented. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bruce Brown, to approve the October 25, 2011 Warrant in the amount of \$340,273.17. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, to approve the contract with Explorer Solutions in total amount of \$118,000 with \$20,000 to come from the Capital Projects Fund (Fund 499), \$5,000 from Otsego County Economic Alliance, and the remaining \$93,000 from a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and a USDA (United State Department of Agriculture) grant. Approval contingent upon County Attorney review. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Erma Backenstose, to adopt Resolution OCR 11-31 in recognition of James Cotant.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Clark Bates, Paul Beachnau, Paul Liss, Lee Olsen, Erma Backenstose, Richard Sumerix, Ken Borton, Bruce Brown.

Nays: None.

Excused: Doug Johnson.

Motion carried/Resolution adopted. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Clark Bates, to adopt Resolution OCR 11-31 in opposition to the closure of the Gaylord Processing and Distribution Facility.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Clark Bates, Paul Beachnau, Paul Liss, Lee Olsen, Erma Backenstose, Richard Sumerix, Ken Borton, Bruce Brown.

Nays: None.

Excused: Doug Johnson.

Motion carried/Resolution adopted. (see attached)

Public Comment:

Paul Sopsoitch addressed the Board.

Ron Smith addressed the Board.

Board Remarks:

Commissioner Erma Backenstose: Salvation Army.

Commissioner Paul Liss: Transportation meeting.
Airport update.
Community Mental Health meeting.

Chairman Paul Beachnau: Livingston Township meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Paul M. Beachnau, Chairman

Susan I. DeFeyter, Otsego County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. OCR 11-31
COMMENDATION IN HONOR OF JAMES COTANT
OTSEGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 25, 2011

WHEREAS, James (Jim) Charles Cotant, Sr. was born on January 2, 1943 in Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Jim graduated from Xavier University in 1966 and earned his Juris Doctorate from the Detroit College of Law in 1970, being admitted to the State Bar of Michigan that same year; and

WHEREAS, Jim was married in 1966 to his loving wife, Janice Mary; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Janice moved to Gaylord in 1974 so that Jim could take a position as the Assistant Otsego County Prosecutor, later being elected as County Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, Jim practiced law for over 37 years, spending most of his career as a partner in the law firm Bensinger & Cotant PC; and

WHEREAS, Jim enjoyed serving his community for many years including on the board of the Otsego Memorial Hospital, the Gaylord Industrial Development Commission, Chairman of directors for the Alpine Regional Education Center (later University Center), and on the boards of directors of the Otsego County United Way and Big Brothers-Big Sisters; and

WHEREAS, Jim was a member of the Rotary Club of Gaylord for over 25 years, being named a Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Jim was the recipient of the Roberts P. Hudson Award, the State Bar of Michigan's highest award, given to the attorney that best exemplifies unselfishness and generosity in a spirit of self-sacrifice and with honor, esteem and respect; and

WHEREAS, Jim was very active as an arbitrator and mediator, being known for fairness, honesty, and diplomacy; and

WHEREAS; Jim died on Monday, October 17, 2011, and will be greatly missed by his many friends and family, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Jim Cotant shall be remembered by his friends and the public for the giving of his time and talents to make Otsego County a better place to live and work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Otsego County Board of Commissioners honor and thank Jim's family for his outstanding service to our community and offer their condolences.

RESOLUTION NO. OCR 11-32

Resolution of Opposition to Closure of the Gaylord Processing and Distribution Facility

OTSEGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 25, 2011

WHEREAS, United States Postal Service officials have proposed shutting down the Gaylord, MI Processing and Distribution Facility; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service preliminary plan includes consolidating the Gaylord Processing and Distribution Facility services with that of the Traverse City, MI Processing and Distribution Facility; and

WHEREAS, the result of closing the Gaylord facility would be a loss of up to 50 jobs in the Gaylord region, a loss that would be devastating to our local economy which has already experienced the closure of several manufacturing companies, along with over 430 associated jobs, in the last six years; and

WHEREAS, the central location of Gaylord with its direct access to the I-75 and M-32 highways make it a better choice for consolidation than the Traverse City facility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed consolidation would have the effect of delaying mail delivery for much of the northern Michigan by moving the processing facility to a remote location; and

WHEREAS, it is our understanding that it is the United States Postal Service policy to close the smaller facility when considering consolidation, which appears to be contrary to the best interest of the general public by not equally considering all of the involved factors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Otsego County Board of Commissioners is strongly opposed to the closure of the Gaylord, MI Processing and Distribution Facility and entreats the United States Postal Service to reconsider its closure; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that the Otsego County Board of Commissioners encourages the United States Postal Service to look at other options that better save money while preserving the quality of the service it provides; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to United States Senator Debbie Stabenow, United States Senator Carl Levin, United States Congressman Dan Benishek, the United States Postmaster General, and to the Manager of Consumer Affairs, Greater Michigan District.