



**Emmet County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday September 19, 2019**

Administrator's Report

CCE Radio Project:

Pam Gibson and I took part in two phone conferences with Pam Woodbury from CCE, representatives from Cheboygan and Charlevoix counties, and representatives from Motorola, the vendor chosen to provide radios in the 800 MHz radio project.

Payment schedules were discussed. Emmet County's portion of the project will be paid in full in January of 2021.

It appears Emmet County will be coming in slightly lower in costs for radios than originally projected, with a total cost of about 2.1 million for radios and equipment. This is in addition to the \$900,000.00 already paid for the infrastructure portion of the project. We anticipate some other related costs and will evaluate them as they become apparent.

Personnel Manual:

HR Director Denise White continues to work on an updated version of the County Personnel Manual. Much of the manual has been updated, and the remainder is in progress. Once the revisions are completed, we will have the revised version reviewed by the appropriate legal counsel(s) and then brought to the Board for review and discussion, and eventually adoption.

IT:

Due to a personnel shortage in IT, we have contracted with Empiric Solutions to provide temporary assistance. We are hoping to have a more defined, long-term plan for IT in place soon. We will also be evaluating the RFP's as they are submitted.

Blissfest Meeting:

County Staff attended the Blissfest meeting in Cross Village last week. The Blissfest representatives reported that they felt they had a very successful event this year. They believe the new measures put in place to deal with traffic and other nuisance issues seemed to work well. There was some discussion by neighbors related to noise complaints, illegal drug use, and fire safety issues. Blissfest reported no arrests this year and only one medical issue that required a response from first responders.

I advised the committee that the County would continue to monitor the event, and to stay in close contact with Blissfest officials to try to ensure compliance with the Consent Judgement, and that if necessary, the Consent Judgement could be reopened to deal with any serious issues.

Budget Work Session:

Finance Director Pam Gibson, Assistant Administrator Mike Reaves and I met last week to start putting together a budget package that will be delivered to the Board soon. We are working on two versions of the budget, one with EMS Millage passage, and one without. It will be challenging, but we are working hard to get the packages to the Board ASAP.

Meeting with Carlin Smith:

I met last week with Carlin Smith from the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce. We discussed issues related to the future of economic development in Emmet County, and a proposal for a State Director of Rural Development in the Whitmer Administration.

Reimbursement Task Force:

The Task Force set up by the Board to research reimbursements for commissioners met again on the 12th. Additional information was reviewed and shared, and the committee assigned tasks to staff to deal with researching additional committee assignments and to work on a draft of a proposed policy.

John Calabrese
Administrator
Emmet County