

Antrim County
District 5
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February 2024

County Employment Opportunities

- Airport Field Operator (FT)
- Antrim County Transportation-Mechanic (FT)
- Juvenile Probation Officer/Case Worker (FT)
- Maintenance-Custodian (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Civil Process (PT) (2 positions)
- Sheriff's Office-Deputy (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Corrections (FT)

County Building Façade-

Progressive AE and Spence Brothers continue to work on the building. See the January 2024 Bulletin for up to date information. It's usually printed out at the township and available for residents. It's also on my website under reports.

Health Dept. Building:

The renovations are complete and the Sheriff Department road patrol and undersheriff offices have moved into this location!

Pistol Licenses-

Sheriff Hoch reported that Pistol Licenses can now be mailed in to the office. The address can be sent to Post Office Box 569 Bellaire, Mi.

Public Safety Center (new jail)-

Grand Valley State University mailed survey postcards to determine if there is support for the public funding of a new Center and to 5,000 residents. The overall response rate was 6.3%. A majority of respondents indicated they would support 1 mill for 15 years for a new public safety center. More information about the results are on the January 2024 Bulletin.

Reorganizational Meeting-

Terry VanAlstine was appointed Chair for another year and Dawn LaVanway was appointed Vice Chair. The Vice Chair is responsible for approval of all bill pays and running budget meetings as well as being the liaison to circuit and district court.

Chairman appointments for yearly boards were kept the same as last year except the Chair put himself on the Health Dept. of Northwest Michigan Board switching places with Jarris Rubingh to the 911 Board.

I plan to run for re-election for another term as County Commissioner for District 5.

Unified Trial Court-

The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of a combined District and Probate Court on Dec. 21, 2023. The State Court Administrator is not in favor of this determination but the Legislators make the final decision. Damoose, Roth and Borton and the State Legislative Service Bureau is working together to put a bill together. Once drafted, the County will be reviewing the language.

Materials Management Plan-

Municipalities in the County will be receiving this multi County plan which was previously called the solid waste plan; updates will be given as this process progresses. It will need approval by the municipalities within the County.

Adult Day Service-

The County is exploring the possibility of expanding the Commission on Aging site in Bellaire to be able to offer Adult Day Respite and Personal Care Services for County residents. To help determine if there was a need, a survey was available during the month of January and also available to fill out at COA on paper form. 179 responses were received in which 50 were on paper form and 129 were online. Final results will be coming.

Department of Health and Human Services-

The State of Michigan for many years has had an agreement with the County to lease part of the County building for DHHS. They have been renovating their space in the building as the County is. They asked to extend the lease with the County for their space until Dec. 31, 2036. Yes-Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig, LaVanway; No-None; Absent-None.

Bellaire Dam-

The Dam Operator asked to submit an application to EGLE's Dam Risk Reduction Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of engineering remedies to the Bellaire Dam's insufficient spillway capacity and embankment instability at the Dam. Yes-Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig, LaVanway; No-None; Absent-None.

Forestry-

The County purchased 20 acres of forest land contiguous property to the Mohrmann Forest Area and the Dickerson Road Forest Area and to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$70,000 for the property, commercial forest fees, and closing costs as budgeted. The sale is contingent on a conservation easement with the Grand Traverse

Regional Land Conservancy and the Eklund Family. Motion by Helwig, second by Hefferan to approve. Yes-Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig, and LaVanway; No-None; Absent-None.

Soil Erosion-

The Antrim County Conservation District has reached out and expressed an interest in returning Soil Erosion to the County and ending that portion of the County contract at the end of the year. This position would likely go under the Construction Code enforcement.

Recycling-

The Antrim County Conservation District has also reached out about needing more money to maintain the recycling areas to cover their expenses. Otherwise, they have expressed that this contract service will need to transition back to the county in July.