

Antrim County
District 3
Commissioner Terry VanAlstine
vanalstinet@antrimcounty.org
231-676-0563

August 2023

County Employment Opportunities

- Antrim County Transportation-Driver (PT)
- Commission On Aging-CENA (FT & PT)
- Commission On Aging- Homemaker (PT)
- Construction Code-Building Inspector (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Civil Process (PT) (2 positions)
- Sheriff's Office-Dispatcher (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Corrections (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Deputy-(FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Dispatcher- (FT)

New staff welcomed at the Sheriff's office:
Kevin Hoch will be new sheriff on Sept. 8th.
Records Clerk: Natasha Cook and Kristy Mayes
Corrections: Zack Haynes and Todd Harger

Household Hazardous Waste-

Saturday, Sept. 30th 8 a.m. - noon – Antrim County Road Commission

County Building Façade-

Progressive AE and Spence Brothers were hired as the architects and construction managers for the County Building Exterior. Temporary walls have been put in affected public hallways and every outside wall office has been moved. Interior demolition is progressing along with selective exterior removals such as the Southeast vestibule. The east door by the Clerk's office will be closed and the foundation work is expected to start soon. The 6' tall fence around the building is expected to expand in a few weeks. Parking will be limited and a new parking plan has been released as of August 1st.

Signage will direct you to the offices that have been relocated for the renovation:
County Clerk: moved to the Register of Deeds previous office (temporary)
Equalization: moving permanently to Room 120
Grass River Natural Area: now at the GRNA Center off of Alden Hwy. (temp.)
Human Resources: on top floor of the Courthouse (temp.)
Michigan State University Extension: moved to room 203 (temp.)
Register of Deeds: moving permanently to the previous Equalization Dept. office space
Building Dept.: moved to the adjacent office (temporary)

At the end of the 6-8 months long renovation project, the Building Dept. will move downstairs in previous Register of Deeds office permanently.

Health Dept. Building Renovations:

The Sheriff Departments road patrol and undersheriff offices will be relocated to half of the Health Department building in Bellaire. Renovations began on June 14th and is expected to conclude into October. The interior framing has begun with rough plumbing and electrical to start.

Public Safety Center (new jail)-

The Board of Commissioners approved one step in the direction of having the voters consider a Public Safety Center. All board members supported the Concept #2 plan out of 4 in which the Sheriff's Department recommended. The Village of Bellaire passed the initial resolution necessary to vacate Grove Street. The village will be holding a public meeting that will include the next step of the process on August 2nd at 6 p.m. A Public Safety Center webpage has been created to keep everyone informed on progress and to answer questions. It is at

https://www.antrimcounty.org/departments_services/administration_planning/public_safety_center/index.php

Courthouse exterior-

The Courthouse exterior has problems with the concrete and windows leaking air. **Moved by Hefferan, and seconded by LaVanway, that the board approve and accept the bid from Fusco, Shaffer & Pappas, Inc. for architectural services for the Courthouse exterior restoration project at a price of \$71,600 and to authorize the Board Chair to sign the contract. Motion carried as follows: Yes-Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig, LaVanway, No-None; Absent-None**

Capital Improvement Plan-

The Capital Improvement Plan is a 90 page 5 year plan. Some projects have been planned for 10 years. This plan is required and updated yearly. The plan is located at: https://cms5.revize.com/revize/antrim/CIP%202024-2028_FINAL.pdf

Moved by LaVanway, and seconded by VanAlstine that the Board approve the 2024-2028 Antrim County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Motion carried as follows: Yes-Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, LaVanway, No-None: Absent-Helwig.

Emergency Services Grant-

This grant is to allow Emergency services to put together a plan and practice that plan within Antrim County regarding hazardous materials at facilities within the County.

Moved by Hefferan, and seconded by LaVanway, that the Board accept the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant and authorize the Chair to sign the grant agreement for the FY2022-2023 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program. Motion carried as follows: Yes-Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, LaVanway, No-None; Absent-Helwig.

ALICE-

Rebecca Otto who is the Impact Director with United Way of Northwest Michigan addressed the Board to present the United Way-Asset Limited Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) database which is located at <http://unitedforalice.org>.

United For (ALICE) is a driver of innovation, research, and action to improve life across the country for all. The research quantifies and describes the number of households that are struggling financially. In Antrim County, there is 10% under the average federal wages and 29% in the ALICE bracket for a total of 39% of the population that are working under the poverty level.

Airport rentals-

Looking for a rental car company that makes it easy to rent on the go? Look no further than MMRC! Our innovative app lets you rent a car with just a few taps on your smartphone. And with our virtual key system, you don't have to worry about picking up physical keys or waiting in line at the rental counter. Simply unlock your rental car with your phone and hit the road! Antrim County airport now has two vehicles to rent on the go 24/7 through Mid-Michigan Rental Cars at <http://www.midmichrentcars.com>. 1-844-522-4081. Scan QR code and download App. Create an account and upload your driver's license with auto insurance. Book it and then download a virtual key. Finish the trip and then return the virtual key. This service is mainly for the airport but can also be used by people who need a car to rent.

Governor Whitmer case-

The 2020 conspiracy to kidnap Governor Whitmer has been a high profile matter. Four people have received trials in Federal Court (April 2022 and August 2022) and three went to trial in Jackson County's 4th Circuit Court (October 2022). The remaining five Defendants have been charged with providing material support for terrorist acts while in Antrim County. The 13th Circuit Court with Judge Charles Hamlin is scheduled to hold a 15 day trial at the end of August through the beginning of September 2023. Given the publicity of the case, a larger than normal jury pool is necessary and will require certain accommodations. Therefore, jury selection will occur at Bellaire High School Auditorium during the first two days of trial. Circuit Court has also requested two armed guards from the Antrim County Sheriff's Office be present each day of the trial.

Hands free Michigan-

A new Michigan hands free law has been passed. Beginning June 30, 2023, it will be illegal in Michigan to use a cellphone while driving, unless it's being used with a hands free technology or mounted inside cars without modern hands free technology.

Michigan becomes the 26th state in the nation that has a hands free law. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKWQ26RKwZg>

Torch Lake Township Time-of-Transfer Septic Ordinance-

Torch Lake Township passed a time of transfer septic ordinance that follows the model of Milton townships time of transfer ordinance. The township decided to go above and beyond the Milton township ordinance. They added a section to the baseline inspections of two categories of properties. One is homes that are within 500 feet of the

water and the other category is all properties that do not have a septic permit on file with the health department. The idea is to bring homes that are much older into compliance or at least check that they are not actively failing. There's language in the ordinance saying if you've had an inspection in the last five years and found to be compliant, you don't need to do another one. So if you do this baseline inspection and then you sell the house two years later, you don't have to do the inspection again. Milton Township and Elk Rapids Village are the other two municipalities in the County who have an ordinance regarding this.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT-

The health department website <https://www.nwhealth.org/boh.html> has minutes, video taped board meetings, and board packets for transparency.

Torch Lake Township time of transfer septic ordinance-

The health department inspection for the Torch Lake Township transfer ordinance is \$346 per septic.

Motion by Dawn LaVanway, second by Henry Mason to approve of the Intergovernmental agreement for administration of the Torch Lake Township Septic Inspection and Property Transfer Ordinance by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Yes-Scott Hankins, Josh Chamberlain, Dawn LaVanway, Jarris Rubingh, Rich Ginop, Don Mapes, Jonathan Turnbull and Henry Mason. No-none. Motion carried.

Statewide Sanitary Code Bills-

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan voted to oppose the current pending in the Michigan Legislature of Bills SB 299, SB300, HB 4479 & HB 4480 which would remove existing local sanitary code regulations and impose statewide regulations for the design, implementation and maintenance of all onsite wastewater treatment system.

Motion by Jonathan Turnbull, second by Jarris Rubingh to approve the resolution to oppose the statewide sanitary code. Yes-Scott Hankins, Josh Chamberlain, Dawn LaVanway, Jarris Rubingh, Rich Ginop, Don Mapes, Jonathan Turnbull and Henry Mason. No-none. Motion carried.

Lake Level for dams-

The Spicer Group has worked on the water study model as well as some specific studies around the Elk Rapids dam and the Bellaire dam. Two things were completed: the Elk Rapids dam added to the old hydrology model and Spicer also did an additional survey work around the Bellaire dam to more completely look at the ground around the dam. They are also doing a failure analysis on the two dams, looking at a 10-year, 100-year and 500-year flood events and seeing if any of those occurrences would overtop. If that is the case, potentially looking at remedies around that. At the Bellaire dam they have looked at possible improvements that could be made to the dam to increase its hydraulic capacity (such as emergency or overflow spillways).

ORV connector route-

The East Jordan Trailblazers are working on a connector route from the end of Tebo School Road to state owned land .75 miles down the road to the East. The group will work with the agencies to establish a permissible trail on state land that connects to several other area approved ORV trails.