

Antrim County
District 5
lavanwayd@antrimcounty.org
dawnlavanway.com
231-631-1840

April 2024

County Employment Opportunities

- Airport – Airport Field Operator – FT: Rick Durant began on 3/14/24.
- Antrim County Transportation-Mechanic (FT)
- Barnes Park – Park Ranger – Seasonal: Positions posted.
- COA – Mancelona Meal Site Coordinator – Irregular PT: Candidate in background.
- Juvenile Probation Officer/Case Worker (FT) Nathan Reichwage begins work 4/9/24
- Maintenance Department – Custodian – FT: Position posted.
- Sheriff's Office-Civil Process (PT) (2 positions)
- Sheriff's Office-Deputy (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Corrections (FT) (2 Positions) Warren William began 3/12/24

County Building-

It is estimated the County renovation building will be completed sometime this month. More information on the March 2024 Antrim County Bulletin which is on my website (dawnlavanway.com).

Public Safety Center (new jail)-

A public safety center advisory work group with public, department heads, Commissioner VanAlstine and Hefferan have been meeting to discuss issues on a new public safety center. More information on the March 2024 Antrim County Bulletin on my website (dawnlavanway.com)

Emergency Services-

Moved by Hefferan, and seconded by LaVanway, that the Board approve and accept a 2% Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Grant for a total of \$59,359.80 in which Antrim County received the most money for grants given out. To authorize the expenditure of \$16,480.80 from this amount for the purchase of eight radios for Emergency Services. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig, LaVanway; No – None; Absent –None.
The rest of the grant is to purchase a vehicle for emergency services.

Restore Local control for Wind and Solar Operations-

Moved by LaVanway, seconded byRubingh that the board approve a resolution expressing support for the citizens for local choice to amend the clean and renewable energy and energy waste reduction act in an effort to restore local control for wind and

solar operations for townships and municipalities. Yes –Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig and LaVanway; No – None Absent – None.

Unified Trial Court-

The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of a combined District and Probate Court which would mean only one judge for both courts in only Antrim County instead of one for each court shared with Grand Traverse as well as Leelanau Counties. State Court Administrator Thomas Boyd, sent a strong letter in opposition to the consolidation. Kalkaska, Crawford and Otsego Counties have the Probate/District Judge position combined. If this combined position gets approval by the legislature, it would save the County a judge salary position. Senator Damoose, Representatives Roth and Borton and the State Legislative Service Bureau is working to put a bill together. Since then, Circuit Court Judge Kevin Elsenheimer has since wrote a letter in support of combining both the District/Probate courts in Antrim County and sent it to the State Court Administrator in favor of combining the District/Probate Court for Antrim County.

Mancelona -

The Village of Mancelona presented a petition to the Board of Commissioners to alter the legal boundaries of the Village with support from Mancelona Township and a request to include the parcel in the description of the Village borders from the property owner Blarney Castle. The property owner and the Village would like the parcels annexed into the village as part of it is in the Village and the township. A public hearing on the matter was held by the Village and during the March 21st Board of Commissioners meeting in which there wasn't any public comment. Moved by Helwig, and seconded by LaVanway that the Board approve the resolution Yes – Hefferan, Rubingh, VanAlstine, Helwig, LaVanway; No – None; Absent – None

Broadband-

The lack of county-wide access to reliable internet access has been over eight years of discussion in rural Antrim County. With support letters last year from County, Economic Development Corp. and Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, Peninsula Fiber Network has been awarded a 61 million National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) middle mile grant to place 535 miles of new middle mile for the Infrastructure for Michigan Peninsulas and Critical Crossings project. A portion of the project will construct undersea routes between Charlevoix to Beaver Island and overland fiber routes through Ellsworth, Central Lake, Mancelona, Elmira, to Gaylord. Great Lakes Energy Truestream was awarded a 17 million Michigan's Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) grant to expand internet access to 1,212 locations in Antrim County with roughly \$5 million of the grant that was awarded. Pigeon Telephone & Agri-Valley Services are applying to the federal Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program for state of the art fiber optic broadband service to Alba and Lakes of the North area. The County will write a letter of support for this service.