CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 20, 2025

Vice-Chair James Lawrence called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers on Thursday, February 20, 2025. Commissioner Marchetti offered the Invocation. Chair Jeremiah Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Thomas Langley, James Lawrence, Alan Northrop, Michael Grice, Jeremiah Jones, Samuel Barrera, Roseann Marchetti and RJ Lee.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti added a presentation on Canine Advocate Belle and Commissioner Lawrence added a discussion on a Commissioner Workshop.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the February 20, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve January 23, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was in the packet and on the county website.

PRESENTATIONS

Executive Director Zach Morris of Market One provided a quarterly report on economic development activities.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Mary Foster introduced Amanda Smego and Canine Advocate Belle. A video was shared that aired on PBC titled “How Canine Advocates Help Victims in the Court.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Human Resources Update on Earned Sick Time**

   Human Resources Director Beth Daly informed commissioners that the Earned Sick Time legislation was set to go into place Friday, February 21, 2025. Because legislative amendments could occur that evening, she would communicate with employees on Friday, after the deadline.

2. **Emergency Home Repair (CDBG) Program**

   Administrator Rentfrow informed commissioners that because of staffing limitations at the City of Dowagiac the CDBG Emergency Home Repair Program Administration Program would move to the County Treasurer's Office. The full board must vote to move the regular administration of the program as well as the collection of administrative fees from the City of Dowagiac to the Cass County Treasurer's Office.

   Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to move item 2. to the next regular board meeting agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. **Request to approve the Computer System and Software License Sales Agreement with Fidlar Technologies for Clerk and Register of Deeds Software**

   Clerk/Register McMichael requested that board members approve the Computer System and Software License Sales Agreement with Fidlar Technologies for Clerk and Register of Deeds Software. The agreement would move the Clerk and Register's Office from their current software vendor to Fidlar, offering a more competitive price and will provide more services to the public. There should be no effect on the general fund due to restricted funds available for the purchase and maintenance of the software. McMichael shared that the IT Department also worked with Fidlar and was comfortable with the move.

   Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to move item 3. to the next regular board meeting agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. **Resolution with Michigan Department of Transportation**

   Sheriff Roach asked commissioners to approve a resolution with the Michigan Department of Transportation that would allow the installation of additional flock cameras on state highways.

   Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to move item 4. to the next regular board meeting. Motion carried by roll call vote.

5. **Purchase of three (3) patrol vehicles and three (3) non-pursuit vehicles at a total cost not to exceed $325,977, along with the necessary budget adjustments to facilitate these purchases.**

   Sheriff Roach requested the purchase of six vehicles – three patrol and three non-pursuit Ford Explorers at a cost not to exceed $325,977. The purchase would be funded partially by abandoned property proceeds in addition to the Motor Pool Fund.

   Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to move item 5. to the next regular board meeting agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. **Discussion on Commissioner Workshop**

   Interim Administrator Rentfrow asked commissioners to set a date for a board workshop. She suggested that one presentation be the Components of Extraordinary Government that was recently offered to clerks by MSU Extension. Commissioners should watch for an emailed survey with available dates. They should also submit ideas for topics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Approved: ____________________
Date

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James Lawrence, Vice-Chair

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Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register