

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 5, 2025

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 5, 2025, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Lee provided the Invocation. Commissioner Lawrence led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barrera added New Business item 3. – Historical Commission appointments.

Commissioner Marchetti added New Business item 4. – discussion on start time of the June 26 Committee of the Whole. Also, New Business item 5. – acknowledgment of staff achievements.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Northrop, to approve the June 5, 2025, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to open the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Motion carried by voice vote.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to close the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Barbara Gordon, Cass District Library Director, shared the 2024 Annual Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, that the following items be voted on at one time by roll call vote and be considered as a consent agenda by the Board of Commissioners:

(M-74-2025) A motion to approve claims dated 05/01/2025 – 05/30/2025

(M-75-2025) A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated May 1, 2025 – Administrator Interviews

(M-76-2025) A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 1, 2025

(M-77-2025) A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated May 15, 2025 – Administrator Interviews

(M-78-2025) A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated May 15, 2025

(M-79-2025) A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated May 22, 2025

(R-13-2025) A resolution to approve the L-4029 2025 Tax Rate Request

WHEREAS, it is the statutory duty of Cass County Board of Commissioners to authorize the levy of the county's millage rate for 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County millage is affected by M.C.L. Section 211.34d, Headlee Rollback, that has limited the County to 6.4007 mills for 2025 and;

WHEREAS, the County millage is affected by P.A. 5 of 1982, Truth in Taxation and would further limit the county to 6.2090 mills which could result in a tax dollar shortfall of \$802,113 and;

WHEREAS, the State Treasury has notified Cass County on monies to be received under the Convention Facility Liquor Tax of \$197,889 and Health and Safety Fund Act Revenue of \$0 for a total of \$197,889 which further reduces the

County millage rate to 6.1462 mills due to M.C.L. Section 211.34d and P.A. 5 of 1982 and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to levy a maximum of 6.4007 mills, which includes 4.5172 County Allocated mills, 0.9733 mill for Council on Aging, 0.1974 mill for E911 Services, 0.2468 mill for Transportation Authority and 0.4705 mill for Drug Enforcement and:

WHEREAS, the County can levy the full millage rate of 6.4007 only after fulfilling the public requirements of M.C.L. Section 211.34d and P.A. 5 of 1982 and;

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners has fulfilled the requirements of M.C.L. 211.34d and P.A. 5 of 1982.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that after much deliberation and consideration of the County's budgetary needs for 2025, the Cass County Board of Commissioners has decided, in the best interest of the county, to levy 6.4007 mills, which is 4.5127 County Allocated mills, 0.9733 mill for Council on Aging, 0.1974 mill for E-911 Services, 0.2468 mill for Transportation Authority and 0.4705 mill for Drug Enforcement.

(M-80-2025) A motion to approve a request for \$250,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds over five years to partially fund Cass Family Clinic's Mobile Unit

(M-81-2025) A motion to approve \$81,333 in Opioid Settlement Funds for the purchase of two TruNarc testing devices

(M-82-2025) A motion approve the purchase of two drones out of the CCDET equipment line item for use by all law enforcement agencies in the County and to approve a budget adjustment necessary to facilitate the purchase

(M-83-2025) A motion to approve the purchase of a truck for the Parks Department from C. Wimberly Ford, at a cost not to exceed \$51,000, to be paid from the Motor Pool Fund and charged back to the Parks Department in payments.

(M-84-2025) A motion to approve the furnace and condenser upgrade at the Animal Control facility by R.W. LaPine in the amount of \$59,614 to be paid from the Public Improvement Fund.

(M-85-2025) A motion to approve a \$100,000 expense from the Public Improvement Fund for parking lot repaving at the Cass County Sheriff's Office, to be performed by the Cass County Road Commission.

(M-86-2025) A motion to approve a \$38,850.87 expense from the Public Improvement Fund to replace carpet at the Law & Courts Building.

(M-87-2025) A motion to approve budget adjustments.

(M-88-2025) A motion to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Michigan Works!

(M-89-2025) A motion to approve proposed changes to MERS DC Plan for non-union employees hired on or after July 1, 2025

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Langley, Lawrence, Northrop, Jones, Barrera and Lee.

No (2): Commissioners Grice and Marchetti.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners Jones, Grice, Marchetti and Lee offered committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim Administrator Jennifer Rentfrow provided the Administrator's Report.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Cass County Conservation District Director Korie Blyveis shared information with the board.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Drain Commissioner Jeff VanBelle, Treasurer Hope Anderson and Sheriff Roach offered updates.

NEW BUSINESS

M-90-2025

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to amend page 8 of the contract for County Administrator to increase moving expenses from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the contract for County Administrator with Patrick Jordan to begin June 11, 2025, as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-91-2025

After discussion, commissioners agreed to hold a Budget Meeting at 3:00 p.m. on July 17, 2025.

MOTION

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to appoint Derek Carr and Dianna McGrew to the Historical Commission for terms ending 7/1/2028. Motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to start the June 26, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting at 4:00 p.m. so that commissioners could attend a Market One event. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Marchetti asked the board to set aside time to acknowledge staff who have gone above and beyond. Discussion followed. Commissioner Marchetti will share her list of employees with Administration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Jeremiah Jones

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register