

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

December 2, 2021

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2021, in Commissioner Chambers.

Chair Dyes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner File led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ryan Laylin, Annie File, Skip Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Mike Grice and Jeremiah Jones.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Benjamin.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen, Deputy County Administrator Matthew Newton and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors present introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CCIEA Union President Fern Smith stated that negotiations with the CCIEA Union continued. She went on to add that, in addition to the several grievances and an Unfair Labor Practice Charge, the CCIEA had a contractual issue concerning pay raises promised January 1, 2022. She informed commissioners that additional grievances would be filed if the issue was not remedied. She also notified commissioners that a county employee was sharing inappropriate information involving the union on Facebook.

Mason Township resident Charlie Arnold informed board members that he supported a change in the pension plan. He reminded commissioners that they represent over 50,000 residents.

Roseann Marchetti read a statement regarding the recent public comments from employees. She stated that the board directed Administrator Carmen to find a solution to address the unfunded liability in 2019. Administrator Carmen and Finance Director Moore were doing their job as instructed by the Board of Commissioners. She asked for the viciousness to stop.

Friend of the Court employee and Silver Creek Township resident Chelsea Olkowski shared that she was disappointed and frustrated with the treatment of County employees. She was unhappy to hear they may not receive raises on January 1st. She was also concerned over the County not paying employees if they contracted Covid as she may not have enough ETO or vacation time to use in order to be paid.

Penn Township resident Beth Pompey thanked Commissioner Marchetti for her statement. She asked the board to consider an alternative agreement by allowing current employees to remain in the defined benefit retirement plan while placing new hires in a defined contribution plan.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the December 2, 2021 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Director Danielle Persky shared information on the recent surge in Covid cases.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, 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-203-21) A motion to approve Claims dated November 26, 2021.

(M-204-21) A motion to approve the November 18, 2021 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Laylin, File, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice and Jones.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Laylin, Marchetti and Jones offered Committee Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Jeff Carmen presented the Administrator's Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Road Commission Manager Robert Thompson offered an update on Road Commission projects.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

County Treasurer Hope Anderson informed commissioners that her office recently added measures to prevent fraud that would ensure the safety of public funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-205-21

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint Jamie Stafne to the Road Commission Board for a six-year term ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-206-21

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the following resolution:

FY2021 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT ARPA AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant American Rescue Plan Agreement between the Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division and County of Cass has been submitted to the Cass County Board of Commissioners for approval.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the County of Cass hereby accepts and binds the County of Cass to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and authorizes Dwight W. Dyes and Jeff Carmen to execute the Agreement.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice, Jones and Laylin.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

Resolution R-206-21 carried by roll call vote.

R-207-21

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR
CASS COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Managing Director Robert Thompson recommended an increase in the annual compensation for the Chair and Commissioners of the Cass County Road Commission; and

WHEREAS, the annual salary was last adjusted in 1973; and

WHEREAS, the increased compensation is paid by the Cass County Road Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners must approve a change in the proposed annual compensation for the Cass County Road Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners to approve an increase to the annual compensation of the Cass County Road Commission to \$6,500.00 for the Chair and \$6,000 for the other Commissioners.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Grice, Jones, Laylin and File.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

Resolution R-207-21 carried by roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Dyes informed the public that the board would take no action after the Closed Session.

M-208-21

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to enter a Closed Session to discuss a confidential written legal opinion that is subject to attorney-client privilege and also to review the current status of Negotiations, Grievances and other Contractual disputes with the bargaining units of CCIEA and to include Monica McMichael, Jeff Carmen, Matt Newton, Judge Susan Dobrich, Courts Administrator Carol Bealor, Attorney Karl Butterer and Attorney Mike Blum.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Marchetti, Grice, Jones, Laylin, File and Dyes.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

Motion to enter closed session carried by roll call vote. The meeting moved to closed session at 7:34 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Dwight Dyes, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register