

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

November 17, 2022

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 17, 2022, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Dyes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner Jones 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, Roseann Marchetti, Skip Dyes, Robert Benjamin, Mike Grice and Jeremiah Jones.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Matthew Newton and Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors present introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jefferson Township resident Taras Lyssenko invited board members and elected officials to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo on December 1st. That was the date when public television would film middle and high school students from Cassopolis Public Schools working on aircraft that Lyssenko salvaged from the Great Lakes.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Benjamin informed Chair Dyes that he would remove M-212-22 from the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the November 17, 2022, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

2022-1935 Pages: 60
FILED Cass County, Michigan
Monica McMichael, County Clerk
12/13/2022 01:19 PM
Receipt #192854 Fee \$0.00

MIN



PRESENTATIONS

Equalization Director Tami Stewart presented the revised 2022 Apportionment Report.

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-211-22) A motion to approve Claims dated November 10, 2022.

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Laylin, File, Marchetti, Dyes, Benjamin, Grice and Jones.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Marchetti, Grice and Jones shared Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Marchetti stated that the Appointments Committee had been busy.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newton shared the Administrator's Report.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was included in the packet.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Animal Control Director Ron Butts announced the Bissell Empty the Shelter event set to take place December 1 – 11, 2022. The event would include fully vaccinated and microchipped dogs and cats for adoption fees of only \$20. Director Butts went on to update commissioners on building projects.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Conservation District Coordinator Korie Blyveis invited commissioners to the Conservation District Annual Meeting from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on November 29, 2022, at the Cassopolis VFW. She also announced the district was accepting applications for a District Administrator.

Christian Lutes, Cass County Medical Care Facility Director, shared updates that included: new outpatient therapy, contracted maintenance and IT services with the county, a goal of expanding the campus, as well as being awarded a five-star rating for the sixth year in a row.

Newly appointed Cass County Transit Authority Director Gary Bundle introduced himself to the board. He stated that, although it would be a challenge, he hoped to implement the changes set forth in the new transit plan.

Road Commission Manager Bob Thompson discussed the large amount of snow already received, causing the trucks to convert to plows earlier than usual. He went on to thank the county for collaborating for maintenance services and stating he looked forward to expanding with county IT services. Finally, he shared an update on the Milton Township Roundabout. The attorney for the property owner contacted the Road Commission after the condemnation paperwork was filed with the court.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

R-213-22

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to authorize the following resolution:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED 2022 APPORTIONMENT REPORT PURSUANT TO MICHIGAN COMPILED LAW 211.37

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.36 requires each Township Clerk to submit to the County Clerk on, or before, September 30 each year a statement which sets forth the amount of money to be raised in the Township by taxation; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.37 requires the County Board of Commissioners to hold an apportionment session and approve an Apportionment Report in October of each year; and

WHEREAS, at the annual apportionment session, the County Board of Commissioners must examine documents and records submitted to the Board that show the amount of money to be raised by ad valorem levies in each Township for school, highway, Township, and all other purposes as authorized by law and authorize and require the correction of any defects or omissions with regard to those levies; and

WHEREAS, the action of the County Board of Commissioners concerning the spread of these levies is final, except in situations where a change is made to the equalization of the County through an equalization appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; and

WHEREAS, the Apportionment Report approved by the County Board of Commissioners for 2022 will be the official authorization for its 59 taxing authorities within the County to levy property taxes in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Equalization Department has prepared an Apportionment Report for consideration by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Apportionment Report, if approved, will provide final authorization for the levy of property taxes upon which taxing authorities depend to provide educational, health, economic development, public safety, and other services which are important to the well-being of the county's economy and Cass County residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Revised 2022 Apportionment Report showing the millage levies apportioned to various taxing authorities in Cass County for

the 2022 is hereby approved in accordance with Michigan Compiled Law 211.37; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners, under the authority of Michigan Compiled Law 211.37, directs that the millage rates specified in the attached Revised 2022 Apportionment Report for Township, school, highway, and all other purposes as authorized by law shall be spread against the taxable value of properties on the proper assessment rolls of the Townships, Wards, and Cities in the County.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones and Laylin.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-213-22 carried by roll call vote.

M-214-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the Civil Counsel Access Policy as recommended by the Policy Committee. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-215-22

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the Animals in County Facilities Policy as recommended by the Policy Committee. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-216-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the Security Policy on Electronic Devices in Law & Courts Building Policy as recommended by the Policy Committee. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-217-22

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

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT
APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, Cass County recognizes the critical importance of expanding broadband access for all residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, Cass County supports the submission of an application titled, "Identifying Parcel-Level Broadband Availability Gaps & Developing a Common-Sense Plan for Broadband Expansion in Cass County" to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rural Development Fund Grant program for the development of a parcel-level, GIS-based map of high-speed internet availability within the boundaries of Cass County, as well as the subsequent development of a "common sense" plan outlining practical next steps to address broadband gaps; and

WHEREAS, Cass County is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in an amount up to but not to exceed \$50,000.00 as matching funds, in cash.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Rural Development Fund Grant application for up to but not to exceed \$100,000.00, and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of up to but not to exceed \$50,000.00, which shall represent a minimum of 30% of a total project cost, which is not to exceed \$150,000.00, during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones, Laylin and File.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-217-22 carried by roll call vote.

R-218-22

Vice-Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 166-22, ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

WHEREAS, Resolution 166-22 authorized the Drain Commissioner, acting on behalf of the Barron Lake Level Special Assessment District, the authority to exceed the statutory \$10,000.00 expenditure limit to proceed with the construction of a second augmentation well; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner has sought to borrow funds through GW Jones to effectuate the necessary work to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, GW Jones has requested the Cass County Board of Commissioners grant the Drain Office the authority to borrow funds for the project and permit the Drain Commissioner to be the signatory on the note; and

WHEREAS, aside from the modifications shown in this Resolution by underlining or overstriking, Resolution 166-22 shall remain in full force and effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners that Resolution 166-22 is hereby amended to add section 4 as follows:

4. The Drain Office is hereby authorized to borrow funds necessary to complete the project, as outlined in Section 2, and the Drain Commissioner shall be authorized to be the signatory on any applicable note.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Marchetti, Dyes, Benjamin, Grice, Jones, Laylin and File.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-218-22 carried by roll call vote.

M-219-22

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve Budget Amendments as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-220-22

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint Russel See to the Sailors and Soldiers Relief Fund Board to a term ending February 22, 2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-221-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to appoint Robert Overholser to the Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network Board to an unexpired term ending March 31, 2024. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-222-22

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Ashely Radzilkowski to the Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network Board to an unexpired term ending March 31, 2024. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion – Date/Time to interview two applicants for the Road Commission Board:
Commissioner Marchetti stated that two qualified applicants applied for the open seat on the Road Commission Board. One applicant, however, was a former Road Commissioner Board Member that had served as chair of the board. Because of their knowledge and experience, Commissioner Marchetti recommended the board forego interviews and appoint the applicant Sandy Seanor to the Road Commission Board.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to appoint Sandy Seanor to the Cass County Road Commission Board for a six-year term. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-212-22

Commissioner Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the November 3, 2022, Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes with a correction to the spelling of a name on the first page. Motion carried by voice vote.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Marchetti announced Adoption Day to be held at 3:00 p.m. on November 22, 2022, in the Circuit Courtroom of the Law and Courts Building.

Commissioner Marchetti added that the Board of Commissioners would have a fantastic basket for the County Christmas Party. She also asked board members to assist in decorating the door to the board chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Approved: 12-1-2022
Date


Chair Skip Dyes


Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register