

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 6, 2024

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 6, 2024, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Jeremiah Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Barrera provided the Invocation. Commissioner Howie led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Circuit Court File Room Supervisor Emily Bogue called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Lawrence, Ryan Laylin, Joyce Locke, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie, Samuel Barrera, Roseann Marchetti and RJ Lee.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

Public Comment occurred.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the June 6, 2024, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

M-80-24

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

There was no public comment.

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

RECOGNITIONS

R-082-24

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

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS INSTITUTE FOR COURT MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED COURT EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Deputy Friend of the Court Ravan Bakeman has devotedly served the Cass County community since September 2005 holding positions in the Clerk/Register's Office, District Court, and Prosecutor's Office before joining the Cass County Friend of the Court as the Deputy Friend of the Court in 2022;

WHEREAS, Deputy Friend of the Court Ravan Bakeman graduated as a National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management Certified Court Executive at a ceremony held in the Michigan Supreme Court at the Hall of Justice on May 2, 2024.

WHEREAS, she previously graduated as a Certified Court Manager in a virtual ceremony in August 2022;

WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1971 and acts as a hub of information and resources available to court systems across the country;

WHEREAS, NCSC's training courses help keep state court operations consistent across the nation and provide court professionals with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be effective court leaders;

WHEREAS, Deputy Friend of the Court Ravan Bakeman completed thirteen courses focused on accountability and court performance, caseload and workflow management, budget and fiscal management, project management, purposes and responsibilities of courts, workforce management, visioning and strategic planning, leadership, modern court governance, educational development, executive decision making, operations management, and public relations; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Friend of the Court Ravan Bakeman completed over 260 hours of study and instruction to accomplish graduating as a Certified Court Manager and a Certified Court Executive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and congratulates Deputy Friend of the Court Ravan Bakeman for her significant educational accomplishments and meritorious service to our community.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8): Commissioners Laylin, Lawrence, Locke, Jones, Howie, Barrera, Marchetti and Lee.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-082-24 carried by voice vote.

R-083-24

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING JUNE AS REUNIFICATION MONTH IN CASS COUNTY

WHEREAS, all children need the love, care, security, and stability of a family unit, including parents, siblings, grandparents, and other extended family members to provide a solid foundation for personal growth, development, and maturity;

WHEREAS, reunification with family is the preferred outcome for children removed from their homes and placed in foster care;

WHEREAS, for most children in foster care, reunification with their family is the best option for a permanent and loving home;

WHEREAS, safe reunification takes work, commitment, and investment of time and resources by parents, family members, social workers, foster parents, service providers, attorneys, courts, and the community;

WHEREAS, National Reunification Month has been observed every June since 2010 to celebrate families and communities coming together to acknowledge the hard work to safely reunify a family, and to raise awareness about the importance of family reunification to children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, during National Reunification Month this year, we recognize the vital role that families, case management teams, treatment courts, judges, attorneys, and communities play in promoting the safe and stable reunification of families who have been separated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners recognizes and designates June as Reunification Month in Cass County.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8): Commissioners Lawrence, Locke, Jones, Howie, Barrera, Marchetti, Lee and Laylin.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-083-24 carried by roll call vote.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, 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-084-24) A motion to approve Claims dated April 27, 2024 to May 31, 2024.

(M-085-24) A motion to approve the May 2, 2024, Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes.

(M-086-24) A motion to approve the May 9, 2024 Emergency Meeting Minutes.

(M-087-24) A motion to approve the Material Management Contract with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.

(M-088-24) A motion to approve the Material Management Interlocal Agreement.

(R-089-24) A resolution to approve the L-4029 2024 Tax Rate Request.

(M-090-24) A motion to approve Agreement with Communication Company in the amount of \$67,650.17, including \$6,825.00 in contingency, to be paid out of Public Improvement Fund and less reimbursement of \$30,413.08 through MMRMA Rap Grant.

(M-091-24) A motion to approve the Opioid Settlement Funding Request for Jail MAT Project in the amount of \$13,216.90.

(M-092-24) A motion to approve Commissioner Mileage Policy.

(M-093-24) A motion approve Boards & Commissioners Per Diem & Mileage Policy.

(R-094-24) A resolution to establish Boards & Commissions Per Diem Rate.

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS PER DIEM
RATE**

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners recognizes the valuable contributions made by members of various Boards and Commissions in carrying out the governance and advisory duties within the county;

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary to provide a reasonable per diem compensation to the members of these Boards and Commissions for their time, effort, and expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Boards & Commissions Per Diem & Mileage Policy requires that an annual Per Diem Rate be established and a per diem shall be paid to those parties determined to be eligible to receive it under the policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. **Per Diem Rate:** A per diem rate of \$34.00 is hereby established for all Board-appointed Boards & Commissions.
2. **Effective Date:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval and shall apply to all meetings occurring after the date of approval.
3. **Supersedes Previous Resolutions:** This resolution supersedes any previous resolutions or policies in conflict herewith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners shall adopt a Resolution annually to set the Per Diem Rate at its Organizational Meeting, which is the first Board of Commissioner Meeting each January.

(M-095-24) A motion to approve the Amendment of the MSU Memorandum of Agreement.

(M-096-24) A motion to approve FY 24 Budget Amendments.

(M-097-24) A motion to approve the Law Enforcement Agreement between the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the County of Cass and authorize the Chair and Sheriff to sign the agreement.

Yes (8): Commissioners Locke, Howie, Barrera, Marchetti, Lee, Lawrence, Laylin and Jones.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners Laylin, Lawrence, Barrera, Marchetti and Lee offered committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newton shared the Administrator's Report.

COUNTY PARTNERS

The following County Partners provided updates to commissioners: Zach Morris, Executive Director of Market One (formerly Market Van Buren); Korie Blyveis, Director of the Conservation District; Bob Thompson, Director of the Road Commission; and, Jennifer Rentfrow, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Medical Care Facility.

RECESS

The Chair declared a recess at 6:33 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Prosecutor Victor Fitz, Sheriff Richard Behnke, Treasurer Hope Anderson, and Judge Carol Bealor shared updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M-098-24

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

M-099-24

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the Elected Official and Chief Deputy Salary Policy. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-100-24

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to adopt the existing Class Comp Pay Scale and continue all applicable provisions of the MERS Transition Plan for all Chief Deputy positions for FY 25. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-101-24

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Michael Bowman to the Cass county Planning Commission for a term expiring July 31, 2026. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-102-24

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to appoint Zach Morris to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for the Workforce Development Position for a term expiring September 30, 2028. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION: PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE– APA I AND APA II
CLASSIFICATION

Prosecutor Fitz provided commissioners with information on increasing the pay grade for APA I and APA II Attorneys in the Prosecutor's Office. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Laylin made motion, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to have Administrator Newton, Finance Director Rentfrow and Human Resources Director Beth Daly schedule a meeting with Victor to crunch numbers more based off of the scale and see if he can bring the ramifications for why each number changed as presented by Prosecutor Fitz. After review, the item would return for presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Locke, Jones, Howie, Barrera, Marchetti and Laylin.

No (2): Commissioners Lawrence and Lee.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Approved: _____

Date

Chair Jeremiah Jones

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register