CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

July 11, 2024

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 11, 2024, in Commission Chambers.

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

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael 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

Commissioner Howie removed items 3 and 8 from the Consent Agenda. Both items would appear under New Business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the July 11, 2024, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

Sheriff Behnke presented Sheriff's Deputies Thomas Wilson and Samuel Harris with Letters of Commendation and the Medal of Honor for their bravery in the line of duty.

PRESENTATIONS

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) Director Julie Pioch shared the MSUE Annual Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Barrera 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:

1. A motion to approve claims dated June 1, 2024 to July 5, 2024.

2. A motion to approve the June 6, 2024, Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes.

4. A motion to refuse the purchase of all Tax-Reverted Properties.

5. A motion to approve the FY 25 Community Corrections Plan and Grant Application.

6. A motion to approve the ESRI GIS Software 3-Year Agreement in the amount of $58,000 annually.

7. A motion to authorize two members from the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee to attend the 8th Annual National Opioid Crisis Management Conference at a cost not to exceed $5,000 and to be paid via the Opioid Settlement Fund.

9. A motion to approve the Service Weapon Replacement Program at a cost of $43,919.

10. A motion to approve squad car replacement at a cost not to exceed $146,000 and to be paid out of the Motor Pool Fund with contributions back to the MPF scheduled for a four-year term.

11. A motion to approve a proposal for a Classification & Compensation Study from Municipal Consulting Services at a cost not to exceed $60,000.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners Lawrence, Locke, Marchetti and Lee offered committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Newton shared the Administrator’s Report.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Marty Heirty, Director of the Council on Aging, shared an update from the COA.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Drain Commissioner Jeff VanBelle, Prosecutor Victor Fitz, Clerk/Register Monica McMichael and Sheriff Richard Behnke offered updates from their departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ON-CALL STIPEND

Administrator Newton stated that his office worked with Prosecutor Fitz to add an On-Call Stipend for Prosecutors. The stipend would mirror the current policy in place for court magistrates and pay $110 per day on weekends and holidays.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the on-call stipend to be paid to the Prosecutor's staff performing on-call duties on weekends and holidays at a rate of $110 per day. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

MERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to dissolve the MERS Committee. Motion carried by voice vote.

JURY FEES

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve $35,000 additional funding to line item 101-215-811.000 for Jury Fees. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISPATCH EQUIPMENT ROOM AIR CONDITIONER

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve R.W. LaPine to replace the dispatch equipment room air conditioner at a cost of $29,513. Motion carried by voice vote.

INTERIM CLEANING CONTRACT

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to approve the Interim Cleaning Contract with the Cleanest Co. to provide continued services through September 30th at $17,780 per month for all County Facilities. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Laylin announced that he would abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (3): Commissioners Locke, Jones and Marchetti.

No (4): Commissioners Howie, Barrera, Lee and Lawrence.

The motion failed by roll call vote.

P.A. 152 COMPLIANCE

Commissioner Howie opened discussion on P.A. 152 Compliance. Commissioners, elected officials and staff shared their opinions on the issue.

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to adopt the Hard Cap under Public Act 152 for Health Insurance coverage for 2024-2025. Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to amend the motion by removing “Hard Cap” and inserting “80/20”. Motion to amend carried by voice vote. Discussion followed. The amended motion to adopt the 80/20 under Public Act 152 for Health Insurance coverage for 2024-2025 carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Howie and Lawrence shared announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Approved: ____________
Date

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Chair Jeremiah Jones

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Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register