CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 15, 2024

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers on Thursday, August 15, 2024. Chair Jones offered 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: James Lawrence, Roseann Marchetti, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie and Joyce Locke.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: RJ Lee, Ryan Laylin and Samuel Barrera.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Howie added a discussion on the Board of Commissioners Workshop under New Business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to approve the August 15, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda with the addition of BOC Budget Workshop Discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the July 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Report was in the packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Revised L-4029 Report

Equalization Director Tami Stewart informed board members that, due to the renewal of the CCDET Millage at the August Primary Election, the county must revise the L-4029 Report. Because the millage renewal would increase the amount of tax levies in the county, the board must also hold a Truth-In-Taxation Hearing.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to move item 1 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

2. Materials Management Board Appointments

Administrator Newton shared that the Materials Management Planning Committee must have appointees finalized before the committee could begin work. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission handled the application process and recommended the following appointments:

MMP Recommended Appointments as recommended by the
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Role	Name	Count(ies) served
Solid Waste Facility Operator	Tyler Ganus	Berrien County
Hauler	Christopher Phillips	Berrien, Van Buren County
Materials Recovery Facility	Daniel Zelaya	All
Composting Facility	Benjamin Eldgride	Cass County
Waste Division, Reuse, Reduction Facility	John Giczewski	Cass County
Environmental Interest Group	Kalli Marshall	Van Buren County
Elected Township Official	Daywi Cook	Van Buren County
Elected City/Village Ofiicial	Annie Brown	Van Buren County
Business that generates Managed Materials	Amy Huser	Cass County
Regional Planning Agency	John Egelhaaf	All
Sovereign Nation	Jennifer Kanine	Sovereign Nation

County-Specific Appointments

Roles	Applicants
Elected County Official	Roseann Marchetti
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Dan Stutsman

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to move item 2 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. FY 25 Child Care Fund Budget

Judge Bealor explained that each year the courts submit a Child Care Fund Budget to the BOC for approval. The FY 2025 Budget represented an 8% increase from the previous year. She did note, however, that the reimbursement for many items increased from 50% to 75%.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to move item 3 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. Boards and Commissions Attendance Policy

Commissioner Marchetti explained that numerous boards and commissions had experienced challenges with member attendance. Because not all boards had defined rules for how attendance was handled, the Policy Committee updated the County Board and Commissions Attendance Policy.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to move item 4 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Duress Alarm System for Jail

Sheriff Behnke requested the board approve the installation of the new Officers Duress Alarm System for the Jail in the amount of $236,000 by Security Automation Systems. An MMRMA grant may assist with the cost of the project.

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to move item 5 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Engineering/Design Services for Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park

Parks Director Scott Wyman requested that the board approve the quote in the amount of $111,270 from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates to complete preliminary design and construction planning for the renovation project at Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park. The project would be 50% funded through a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

Commissioner Marchetti expressed concern over O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates due to issues with a previous Cass County Parks Department Project. Director Wyman addressed her concerns.

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to move item 6 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. TruNarc Drug Testing System

Undersheriff Clint Roach requested that the board approve the purchase of two TruNarc drug testing devices at a total cost of $81,333. The devices would allow officers to safely test drugs without opening packages. One device will be housed at the CCDET Office while the other will be kept at the Cass County Sheriff's Office. The device at CCSO will be available for use by all agencies within the county.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to move item 7 to the September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. BOC Budget Workshop Discussion

Commissioner Howie informed board members that she was unable to attend the BOC Budget Workshop scheduled for Friday, August 23, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Discussion followed regarding setting a new date and time for the workshop. Commissioner Howie urged board members to hold the Budget Workshop on August 23rd in her absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved: ____________
Date

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Vice-Chairperson Samuel Barrera

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Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register