

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING**

December 13, 2024

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, December 13, 2024, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Jeremiah Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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)

None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Jones added a second closed session to the agenda. He stated that Administrator Newton would not be included in either closed session. Chair Jones also added New Business item 1 – Board Decision from Closed Session.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to approve the December 13, 2024, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

CLOSED SESSION #1

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to enter Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) and to include Clerk/Register McMichael, Finance Director Rentfrow, and Human Resources/Payroll Director Daly.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion to enter Closed Session carried by roll call vote. The meeting entered Closed Session at 4:04 p.m.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 4:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION #2

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to enter Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) and to include Clerk/Register McMichael, Finance Director Rentfrow, and Human Resources/Payroll Director Daly.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion to enter Closed Session carried by roll vote. The meeting entered Closed Session at 4:26 p.m.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 4:26 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve Document 2 as discussed in Closed Session. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECESS

Chair Jones declared a ten-minute recess at 4:39 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:53 p.m.

Chair Jones read a correction to New Business item 1: a motion to authorize the Chair of the Board to enter the Retention and Separation Agreement for Administrator Newton effective December 24, 2024, which is marked as Document 2. All commissioners agreed to correct the language of the motion.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to amend the agenda to add a Closed Session as well as New Business item 2.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion to amend the agenda carried by roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION #3

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Locke, to enter Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) and to include Clerk/Register McMichael, Finance Director Rentfrow, and Human Resources/Payroll Director Daly.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion to enter Closed Session carried by roll call vote. The meeting entered Closed Session at 4:58 p.m.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 5:12 p.m.

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the Employment Agreement for Interim Administrator of Cass County with the following amendments:

Section 4. Salary

\$125,000 changed to \$150,000

\$150,000 changed to \$175,000

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to amend the motion to the original contract language as follows:

Section 4. Salary

\$150,000 changed to \$125,000

\$175,000 changed to \$150,000

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (3): Commissioners Lawrence, Howie (amended to yes after original no) and Barrera.

No (5): Commissioners Jones, Locke, Lee, Marchetti and Laylin.

Motion to amend failed by roll call vote.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll on the original motion:

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

No (2): Commissioners Lawrence and Howie.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Jeremiah Jones

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register