

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

October 17, 2019

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 17, 2019 in the Commission Chambers.

Vice Chair Marchetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner File led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dixie Ann File, Michael Grice, E. Clark Cobb, Roseann Marchetti, Terry Ausra and Skip Dyes.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Benjamin.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the October 17, 2019 Cass County Board of Commissioner's "Fresh" Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

None.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Equalization Director Tami Stewart presented the 2019 Apportionment Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, 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-190-19) A motion to approve Claims dated October 4, 2019.

(M-191-19) A motion to approve the September 27, 2019 Work Study Minutes; the October 3, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes and the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners File, Grice, Cobb, Marchetti, Ausra and Dyes.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Dyes, Grice, Cobb and Marchetti furnished committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Jeff Carmen offered the Administrator's Report that included the presentation of a 2004 Cass County Parks Department video.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There was no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

R-192-19

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to adopt the 2019 Apportionment Report:

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2019 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 2019 will be the official authorization for its 59 taxing authorities within the County to levy property taxes in 2019; 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 2019 Apportionment Report showing the millage levies apportioned to various taxing authorities in Cass County for the year 2019 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 2019 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 Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Grice, Cobb, Marchetti, Ausra, Dyes and File.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

Resolution R-192-19 carried by roll call vote.

M-193-19

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to appoint Sue Mikel to the Economic Development Corporation Board for a six-year term ending June 30, 2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-194-19

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to appoint Terry Proctor to the Economic Development Board for a six-year term ending June 30, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-195-19

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to appoint Robert Benjamin to the Economic Development Corporation Board for a six-year term ending June 30, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-196-19

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to appoint Roseann Marchetti to the Board of Public Works for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2019. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-197-19

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to appoint Dianna McGrew to the Historical Commission Board for a term ending July 1, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-198-19

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to appoint Annie File to the Historical Commission Board for a term ending July 1, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-199-19

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to appoint Clark Cobb to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a two-year term ending June 1, 2021. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-200-19

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the removal of the liaison position from the Board of Public Works Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-201-19

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the removal of the liaison position from the Historical Commission Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-202-19

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to designate Kreis Enderle as Civil Counsel for Cass County. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Surplus Property Disposition

Administrator Carmen asked commissioners for direction on the sale or disposal of items in the first floor lobby leftover from the Administrator's Office/MSU Extension move. The Sheriff suggested they contact Biddergy, a company that sells items online for 5% of the profit.

Woodlands Local Match Report

Woodlands CEO Kathy Sheffield spoke regarding the County appropriation to Woodlands. The 2019 contribution was \$114,000 while years past amounted to \$195,000. She went on to discuss the various forms of revenue and expenditures which resulted in a deficit of \$22,513 for the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget. She requested that the County reconsider and increase their appropriation to Woodlands.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy LaPointe asked if the clock in the Historic Courthouse had been fixed. She then asked if the public would receive updates on the Historic Courthouse. Ms. LaPointe also commented that she enjoyed the parks video and suggested the County put together a new video.

Stacy Langford commented on the sale of the Diamond Lake property at a price of over \$1 million and asked how the proceeds were used?

Zane Langford stated she enjoyed the parks video. She then urged commissioners to consider the proposal for economic development services as offered to the board by Jim Finan at a Regular Board Meeting.

Treasurer Hope Anderson announced the tax auction for parcels not sold at the first tax auction was active for online bidding through 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2019. She provided a printed list of parcels for sale. She also explained the difference between the first auction and the leftover auction. Treasurer Anderson informed commissioners that the Step Forward Michigan portal will close on December 1, 2019. Finally, she explained new legislation that protected buyers of subdivided land.

Parks Director Scott Wyman invited everyone to the 2019 Harvest Fest from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at Lawless Park. He also thanked Sarah Culton of Leader Publications for her coverage and support of the Parks Department.

Louis Csokasy asked the board to consider appropriating the additional funding requested by Woodlands. He also commented on the financial outlook on the Transportation Authority and the important role they played for Woodlands. Mr. Coskasy also suggested the board implement a millage to support the parks.

Kathy Sheffield urged the board to respond to the letter she sent on September 10, 2019.

Sheriff Behnke stated the Sheriff's Office would have a trunk at the Harvest Fest Trunk or Treat. He also asked for support for the 199 animals in the care of Animal Control. The Sheriff also commented on the line item vetoes from Governor Whitmer and how they affect the services provided by the Sheriff's Office. Finally, Sheriff Behnke asked board members to consider moving the start time of Regular Board Meetings from 6:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Zane Langford spoke in defense of Governor Whitmer.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Marchetti asked Treasurer Hope Anderson to speak with Mr. Langford about the sale of the Diamond Lake property. She requested that Administrator Carmen talk to Cathy about updates on the Historic Courthouse. Commissioner Marchetti offered to speak with Zane Langford after the meeting regarding economic development.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Robert Benjamin, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register