

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

November 7, 2019

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 7, 2019 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Cobb provided the Invocation. Commissioner Marchetti 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, Robert Benjamin and Terry Ausra.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Skip Dyes.

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the November 7, 2019 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda with the removal of a presentation by Treasurer Hope Anderson and the addition of a presentation on the Economic Development Corporation by Les McClelland.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

Motion to approve the amended agenda carried by roll call vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Les McClelland, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Chair, discussed the direction and funding of the Cass County EDC.

Michigan State University Extension Director Julie Pioch provided the Annual Report for the Michigan State University Extension.

Louis Csokasy provided a report on the Ad Hoc Road Commission Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, 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-203-19) A motion to approve Claims dated November 1, 2019.

(M-204-19) A motion to approve October 17, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Ausra, File, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice and Cobb furnished committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Parks Director Scott Wyman opened the Administrator's Report by sharing pictures from the Cass County Parks Trunk or Treat at Lawless Park. County Administrator Jeff Carmen then offered the Administrator's Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Benjamin noted that motion M-205-19 should be a resolution. He instructed the Clerk to update the number from M-205-19 to R-205-19.

R-205-19

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve appropriations for Problem-Solving Court Budgets for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year as follows:

Bureau of Justice Adult Treatment Court for District Court - to approve new grant line items for audit purposes and fund grant.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-000-522.315			\$125,684.00
101-282-801.315	Contractual	\$98,026.00	
101-282-727.315	Supplies	\$14,785.00	
101-282-860.315	Travel	\$6,873.00	
101-282-803.315	Civil & Housing Asst.	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	
		\$125,684.00	\$125,684.00

SCAO Adult Treatment Court/Sobriety Court Byrne/JAG Grant for the District Court - to approve new grant line items for audit purposes and fund grant.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-000-545.090			\$120,000.00
101-282-704.000	Part-time Wages	\$9,360.00	
101-282-715.000	FICA	\$6,739.20	
101-282-801.090	Contractual	\$98,895.80	
101-282-727.090	Supplies	\$3,785.00	
101-282-860.090	Travel	<u>\$1,220.00</u>	
		\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00

SCAO Mental Health Court for Circuit Court - to approve new grant line items for audit purposes and fund grant.

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-000-545.010		\$86,485.00

101-282-801.010	Contractual	\$83,485.00	
101-282-727.010	Supplies	\$3,000.00	
		\$86,485.00	\$86,485.00

Swift and Sure Grant for Circuit Court - to approve new grant line items for audit purposes and fund grant.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-000-545.020			\$170,000.00
101-282-801.020	Contractual	\$162,850.00	
101-282-727.020	Supplies	\$7,150.00	
		\$170,000.00	\$170,000.00

OJDDP Extension Grant to 12/31/19 for Family Grant to approve budget.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
216-166-519.051			\$30,276.63
216-166-801.051	Contractual	\$30,276.63	
		\$30,276.63	\$30,276.63

OJDDP 2019-2022 Grant for Family Court (Year 1 of 3)

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
216-166-591.053			\$265,493.00
216-166-801.053	Contractual	\$135,684.00	
216-166-800.053	Woodlands	\$100,000.00	
216-166-727.053	Supplies	\$9,316.00	
216-166-860.053	Travel	\$20,493.00	
		\$265,493.00	\$265,493.00

SCAO Family Treatment Court Grant for Family Court to approve funding grant.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
216-166-519.020			\$78,000.00
216-166-704.000	Contractual	\$10,400.00	
216-166-715.000	Supplies	\$7,488.00	
216-166-801.220	Travel	\$52,928.00	
216-166-729.020	Civil & Housing Asst.	\$6,269.00	
216-166-860.225	Travel	\$915.00	
		\$78,000.00	\$78,000.00

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioner Cobb, Marchetti, Benjamin, Ausra, File and Grice.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

Resolution R-205-19 carried by roll call vote.

M-206-19

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve a journal entry prepared by Becky Moore to allow updated grant line items and fund problem-solving court budgets. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-207-19

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the hiring of a Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) Grant Facilitator/Problem-Solving Court Grants' Facilitator, to start as soon as possible since funding has already been received from the MIDC & SCAO grants to fund 100% of the wages and fringes for this position for FY2020 (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020), with the position being classified as a pay grade 5, union position, as described in more detail on the attached job description submitted by Chief Judge Susan L. Dobrich. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-208-19

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to appoint Korie Blyveis to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a term ending June 1, 2021. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-209-19

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to appoint Barbara Jean Schultz to the Historical Commission for a term ending July 1, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 4-YEAR COMMISSIONER TERMS

Commissioner Cobb opened discussion on a resolution in support of moving the current two-year County Commissioner terms to four years. Discussion followed.

R-210-19

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR
TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the County Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Board of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

WHEREAS Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new County Commissioners shall be concurrent with that of State Representatives, as specified in Article IV, Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS the scope of duties of a County Commissioner has greatly increased in the last century – road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

WHEREAS Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two-year terms for County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS all other County and Township Elected Officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

WHEREAS the position of County Commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

WHEREAS legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of House Bills 4937-38 and Senate 504-505; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties supports the legislation as introduced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Cass County supports House Bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505 to enact four-year terms for County Commissioners.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (1): Commissioner Ausra

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Parks Director Scott Wyman announced the Edwardsburg Eddies and the Cassopolis Rangers played in District Championship Football matches the next day.

Sheriff Behnke reported on drug take back day. He also commented that seven of eight entities across the State of Michigan had local marijuana establishment proposals voted down at the November 5, 2019 Special Election. Finally, he announced CCSO was holding No Shave November.

Court Administrator Carol Bealor announced Adoption Day would take place November 26, 2019.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Benjamin commented on the 100 year celebration held by the Cass County Friend of the Court.

Commissioners Grice and Ausra thanked Louis Csokasy for his work on the Ad Hoc Road Commission Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Robert Benjamin, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register