

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

November 21, 2019

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 21, 2019 in the Commission Chambers.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

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 Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the November 21, 2019 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Sandra Seanor, member of the Cass County Census Committee, offered a presentation on the upcoming 2020 Census. Questions followed.

Historical Commission Chair Ron McAdam presented the Annual Report. On behalf of the Historical Commission, he also presented each County Commissioner and Elected Official with a book bag filled with Cass County History Books.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, 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-211-19) A motion to approve Claims dated November 15, 2019.

(M-212-19) A motion to approve November 7, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners File, Grice, Cobb, Marchetti, Benjamin, Ausra and Dyes.

No (0): None.

Discussion followed.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Marchetti updated board members on the Appointments Committee.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Jeff Carmen offered the Administrator's Report. County Administrator Carmen and Deputy County Administrator Kerry Collins then presented content: a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Patty Dohm and Kerry Collins of the Edwardsburg Schools Lego Robotics Team who will compete at the State Competition.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report was included in the agenda packet.

Chair Benjamin asked, and Administrator Carmen verified, that the three issues cited in the last audit were rectified.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-192-19 amended

Equalization Director Tami Stewart asked Commissioners to amend the 2019 Apportionment Report. The amendment was necessary due to the passage of November 5, 2019 Special Election millage proposals for Three Rivers Community Schools and the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District, which effect Cass County.

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

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 Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Grice, Cobb, Marchetti, Benjamin, Ausra, Dyes and File.

No (0): None.

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

NEW BUSINESS

M-213-19

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Minnie Warren to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for a term ending September 30, 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-214-19

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to eliminate the liaison position on the Cass District Library Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-215-19

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the Animal Control software maintenance renewal with RoseRush Services in the amount of \$9,063.00, to be paid out of line item 101-258-987.040.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll.

Yes (7): Commissioners Cobb, Marchetti, Benjamin, Ausra, Dyes, File and Grice.

No (0): None.

Motion M-215-19 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Korie Blyveis invited Commissioners to the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Cass County Conservation District.

Judge Dobrich invited Commissioners to Adoption Day on Tuesday, November 26th at 2:00 p.m. in the Law and Courts Building. She also thanked the Historical Commission for the books.

Ron McAdam urged Commissioners to visit the Decatur Branch of the Van Buren Library before December 7, 2020 to see the Smithsonian sponsored exhibit Changes in Rural America Smithsonian.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Robert Benjamin, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register