

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

May 4, 2017

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 4, 2017 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Robert Ziliak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Dyes provided the Invocation. Commissioner Grice led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Ausra, Annie File, Michael Grice, Skip Dyes, Robert Ziliak, Roseann Marchetti and E. Clark Cobb.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Karen L. Folks, Finance Director Angie Steinman and Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti moved to add the following motion to New Business: M-61-17 a motion to ask the Administrator to find a date and time that the Board of Commissioners can discuss MERS in light of the recent presentations by Mike Overly. Administrator Folks stated she did not believe that required a motion and would rather Commissioner Marchetti called with the request. Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the May 4, 2017 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Amended Agenda with the addition of Old Business item - Discussion of a second Committee of the Whole and also adding the Recognition of Commissioner Cobb for representing Cass County at the University of Michigan Graduation. Motion carried by voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS

Sheriff Richard J. Behnke shared videos and offered information on the SMART 9-1-1 software. Visit www.smart911.com to sign up.

RECOGNITIONS

4-H Program Coordinator Stephanie Consford introduced the following Citizenship Washington Focus Delegates: Danielle Lamb, Jason Morgan and Danny Young. Students introduced themselves and shared their reasons for applying to the program.

Chair Ziliak thanked Commissioner Cobb for representing Cass County at the graduation ceremony for the University of Michigan.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Ziliak informed board members that the following pieces of communication were provided in the board packet:

Cass County Planning Commission Annual Report
Memorial Day Festival Application/Edwardsburg Chamber of Commerce

INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dyes 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-56-17) A motion approving Claims dated April 21, 2017.

(M-57-17) A motion to approve the purchase of Jail Water Heater Replacement from R.W. LaPine at a cost of \$11,569.00 (including installation).

(M-58-17) A motion to approve the reclassification of the Probate Register/Adoption Specialist position to Grade 13 Step 1, effective immediately.

Approval of the April 20, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion M-59-17 was originally list as a part of the consent agenda. Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to remove motion M-59-17 from the consent agenda and place it under New Business to appear for a separate vote. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Ausra, File, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice and Ziliak furnished committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Karen L. Folks provided a written Administrator's Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Angie Steinman, Finance Director, offered the Financial Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of a second Committee of the Whole: After debate, commissioners agreed to uphold Motion M-26-17 passed at the February 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting that eliminated the second Committee of the Whole. Administrator would prepare and distribute a proposed agenda to the full board the Friday preceding the second regular board meeting of the month.

NEW BUSINESS

M-61-17

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve a motion to ask the administrator to find a date and time that the Board of Commissioners can discuss MERS in light of the recent presentations by Mike Overly. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-59-17

Chair Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve the classification of the Equalization Director position at Grade 13 and to appoint Tami Stewart as the Equalization Director effective May 1, 2017 at Grade 13 Step 7. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (1): Commissioner Grice.

Motion M-59-17 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheriff Behnke announced that the week of May 8th was Corrections Officers Week while the week of May 15th was Police Officers Week. The Sheriff's Office will hold the Memorial Ceremony for Fallen Officer Shane Britton on May 17, 2017 at noon with a luncheon to follow.

Judge Susan L. Dobrich asked Administrator Folks to provide copies of reports to meeting attendees. She also stated that departments would not always have two week notice to submit motions for meeting agendas. Finally, Judge Dobrich expressed concern over the full board emailing comments on agendas that may violate the Open Meetings Act.

County resident Tom Coughlin expressed concern over raising taxes on the elderly. The elderly should have a tax exemption.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Dyes stated that Brett J. Hart, a native of Cass County, appeared at a televised press conference as Executive Vice President and General Counsel to United Airlines.

Commissioner Marchetti reminded board members that Administrator Folks' anniversary with the county was June 6, 2017. Board members agreed to add a Closed Session to the June 1, 2017 Regular Board Meeting in order to evaluate Administrator Folks before the end of the annual contract. Commissioners also asked that Administrative Assistant Tara Myer forward the most recent performance evaluation form to the full board.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Robert Ziliak, Chairperson

Monica Kennedy, Clerk/Register