

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 6, 2019

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 6, 2019 in the Commission Chambers.

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

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Annie 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Benjamin opened the Public Hearing for Truth in Taxation at 7:02 p.m. James Norris, Pokagon Township resident, posed a question that was answered by Equalization Director Tami Stewart. Chair Benjamin closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the June 6, 2019 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda with the addition of New Business item M-109-19 and the removal of R-107-19. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Approval of the agenda carried by roll call vote.

RECOGNITIONS

Historical Commission Chair Ron McAdam congratulated the Valedictorians/Salutatorians and presented each with a copy of the History of Cass County.

Commissioners recognized the following 2019 Valedictorians/Salutatorians:

Madison Suseland, Ross Beatty High School Valedictorian
Amy Steinkraus, Marcellus High School Co-Valedictorian
Jarod Siguenza - Edwardsburg High School Co-Salutatorian
Olivia Brunner, Edwardsburg High School Co-Valedictorian
Tessa Holz - Dowagiac Union High School Co-Valedictorian
Kristina Bellaire - Edwardsburg High School Co-Valedictorian

PRESENTATIONS

CEO Bob Cochrane offered the Annual Report for the Cass County Council on Aging.

County Treasurer Hope Anderson presented the 2019 Tax Forfeiture Report.

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-103-19) A motion to approve Claims dated May 17, 2019 and May 31, 2019

(R-104-19) WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners adopted the original budget for DHS Child Care line item 297-663-842.002 Institutional Care in the amount of \$162,000. And, until cases come before the courts, it is never known what the county needs for institutional care will be. In a meeting with Judge Dobrich, staff and Chuck Rose, Director of Cass & St Joseph DHS it has been determined that additional funding will be needed to complete the current fiscal year, as in the months of February, March & April of this year expenditures have exceeded \$151,000.

WHEREAS, The FY2019 Budget has already been set and an increased budget needs to be established for this line item as follows:

297-663-842.002 Institutional Care \$56,000

292-662-842-110 Institutional Care – Private (\$20,000)

Fund Balance Allocation \$36,000

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves the budget adjustments in the DHS Child Care and Family Court Child Care Funds.

(M-105-19) A motion to approve the May 20, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Jeff Carmen provided the Administrator's Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

R-106-19

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

WHEREAS, it is the statutory duty of Cass County Board of Commissioners to authorize the levy of the county's millage rate for 2019; and

WHEREAS, the county millage is affected by P.A. 5 of 1982, Truth in Taxation, and would limit the county to 6.1686 mills which could result in a tax dollar shortfall of \$472,342.

WHEREAS, the State Treasury has notified Cass County on monies to be received under the Convention Facility Liquor Tax of \$141,475 and Health and Safety Fund Act

Revenue of \$0 for a total of \$141,475 which without a resolution further reduces the county millage rate to 6.1054 mills due to P.A. 5 of 1982 and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to levy a maximum of 6.3164 mills, which includes 4.6359 allocated mills, 1.0000 mills for Council on Aging, 0.2000 mills for E911 Services and 0.4805 mills for Drug Enforcement.

WHEREAS, the county can levy the full millage rate of 6.3164 only after fulfilling the public requirements of P.A. 5 or 1982, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that after much deliberation and consideration of the county's budgetary needs for 2019, the Cass County Board of Commissioners has decided, in the best interest of the county, to levy 6.3164 mills, which is 4.6359 allocated mills, 1.0000 mills for Council on Aging, 0.2000 mills for E-911 Services and 0.4805 mills for Drug Enforcement.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None

Resolution R-106-19 carried by roll call vote.

M-108-19

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to decline the purchase of tax reverted properties as presented by Cass County Treasurer Hope Anderson.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion M-108-19 carried by voice vote.

M-109-19

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to change the start time of the June 20, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting only from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Laylin thanked the board for allowing him to serve on the SW Michigan Planning Commission for another year.

Treasurer Hope Anderson thanked the Cass County Probate Court for organizing the Training on Elder Abuse. She went on to describe a situation involving a 90-year-old widow that, had the County Treasurer, Township of Penn, and Probate Court not intervened, would have lost her property to tax foreclosure due to an error by the bank that held her mortgage and escrow.

Cynthia Gill commented on Treasurer Hope Anderson and the collaborative effort of the entities involved that assisted the taxpayer. She also thanked Administrator Carmen for his service to the County.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cobb added that the Area Agency on Aging had numerous resources to aid the senior citizens of Cass County.

Pokagon Township resident James Norris asked a question regarding utilities in Pokagon Township.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Robert Benjamin, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register