

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**September 5, 2019**

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 5, 2019 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner File 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 and Terry Ausra.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Skip Dyes.

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

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Visitors introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve the September 5, 2019 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda with the addition of a motion to hold a Budget Workshop.

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.

The approval of the agenda carried by roll call vote.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

None.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chair Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner File, 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-158-19)** A motion to approve Claims dated August 23, 2019.

**(M-159-19)** A motion to approve the August 15, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The 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 and Cobb furnished committee reports.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Carmen offered the Administrator's Report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **M-165-19**

Chair Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to appoint Terry Proctor to the Woodlands Board for an unexpired term ending March 31, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-166-19**

Chair Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to appoint Tara Smith to the Woodlands Board for an unexpired term ending March 31, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**M-160-19**

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the contract between Howard Township, the Office of the Sheriff, Cass County, and the County of Cass from the date of signing until March 31, 2020. Motion carried by voice vote.

**R-161-19**

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

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan FY2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division and County of Cass has been submitted to the Cass County Board of Commissioners for approval,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the County of Cass hereby accepts and binds the County of Cass to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and authorizes Robert Benjamin and Jeff Carmen to execute the Agreement.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

Resolution R-161-19 carried by roll call vote.

**R-162-19**

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

**WHEREAS**, Cass County was advised that they have an additional \$11,975 available in Secondary Road Patrol grant funding, Sheriff Behnke would like to make the attached purchase for the traffic crash investigation unit.

**WHEREAS**, The FY2019 Budget has already been set and a budget line is already established and funded:

101-304-980.000      Equipment                      \$0

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves the traffic crash investigation equipment purchase.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0):            None.

Absent (1):        Commissioner Dyes.

Resolution R-162-19 carried by roll call vote.

**R-163-19**

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

**WHEREAS**, the single most important responsibility of the County Board of Commissioners is the appointment of more than 160 positions on over 30 Boards, Commissions and related agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, these Boards, Commissions and related agencies spend almost \$100 million every year and have a financial impact significantly greater; and

**WHEREAS**, these appointments include general board members, board members that meet some statutory criteria, as well as Board of Commissioner member observers and liaisons; and

**WHEREAS**, it is of paramount importance that there is an ongoing talent search for residents of the county who are interested in contributing expertise and energy in service by participating on one of these Boards and related agencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Cass County Board of Commissioners that: All board vacancies will be published on the County web site and sent via USPS or email when available, to every Township, City and Village, County School District, Southwestern Michigan College, as well as every Board and Agency the County makes appointments to. In addition, all vacancies will be the subject every month of a press release to all media covering County matters. These notices will include a description of the Agency/Organization/Board as well as the date and times of its regular meetings. If there is a statutory qualification requirement it will also be included in the posting. Applications will be solicited from interested parties and will be maintained by the County Administrator for one year from the date of the receipt of the application; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Board of Commissioners 3-member standing Appointments Committee is created whose members shall be selected by the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and shall serve 1-year terms. This standing committee shall be responsible to screen applicants for all vacancies and shall be responsible to recommend to the entire Board of Commissioners candidates deemed qualified. However, nothing shall preclude a supermajority of the Board of Commissioners from considering candidates at any regular meeting, particularly when vacancies may negatively impact the ability of the Board of Commissioners or the related agency to conduct its normal operations.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

Resolution R-163-19 carried by roll call vote.

### **R-164-19**

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

**WHEREAS**, during routine maintenance it was found that the Law and Courts generator was leaking oil and the turbos are in need of replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY2019 Budget has already been set and a budget needs to be established for this purchase as follows:

245-244-975.109	L & C Generator Repair	\$5,891.87
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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves the Law and Courts generator repair.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Dyes.

Resolution R-164-19 carried by roll call vote.

### **M-167-19**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to select a day and time for a four to five hour workshop on the budget during the week of September 23, 2019 with availability to be sent to the Administrator's Office. Discussion followed. Chair Benjamin struck the motion as invalid.

Discussion followed to set a date and time to hold the workshop.

Chair Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to begin the September 19, 2019 Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Prosecutor Fitz spoke regarding the budget.

Circuit Court Administrator Carol Bealor asked commissioners to watch for the Friend of the Court 100 Year Celebration.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Cobb replied to the budget comment from Prosecutor Fitz. Commissioners Ausra, Grice and Benjamin discussed the procedure for the Consent Agenda. Chair Benjamin commented on recommended resolutions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Robert Benjamin, Chair

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Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register