

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 20, 2019

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Thursday, June 20, 2019 in the Cass County Commission Chambers.

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

Commissioner Marchetti thanked Farm Bureau for the ice cream that was served between meetings.

Chief Deputy Clerk/Register Heather Harding called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Annie File, Michael Grice, Clark Cobb, Roseann Marchetti and Dwight Dyes.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Benjamin and Terry Ausra.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeffrey Carmen and Chief Deputy Clerk/Register Heather Harding.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to approve the June 20, 2019 Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to add motion M-118-19 under New Business to read as follows:

“Motion to request Administrator Carmen prepare a written report of the Woodlands purchase of the Midwest Energy building on M 60 as soon as possible to be delivered to Commissioners Grice and Dyes.”

There was no discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

R-111-19

CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECLARING JULY 2019 AS CASS COUNTY AGRICULTURE MONTH

WHEREAS, Cass County is home to nearly 800 farms totaling more than 190,000 acres – well over half of the county’s entire land area; and

WHEREAS, The local families who run those farm businesses produce a great assortment of wholesome commodities and food products, including grains and beans, berries and fruit, hay, milk, beef, swine, sheep and others; and

WHEREAS, The ancestors of those local farm families were among the true pioneers of our community, in the wake of the 19th century lumbering boom turning the bare soil into productive ground, establishing orderly farmsteads out of the wilderness and providing long-term stability to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, To this day, Cass County’s agricultural community helps support scores of closely related businesses, further enriching the local economy through truck and equipment sales and the transportation, packaging and processing of locally grown and raised farm commodities; and

WHEREAS, As part of the local business community, Cass County farmers collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and other groups to help bring the farm into the city, giving town residents opportunities to interact with real farmers and the equipment they use to produce food, fuel and fiber we all benefit from; and

WHEREAS, Cass County agriculture is a subset of one of the state’s largest industries. Michigan’s food and farm sector contributes more than \$100 billion annually to the state’s economy and provides jobs for nearly a quarter of residents and seasonal workers every year; and

WHEREAS, The Cass County Farm Bureau, with more than 720 farmers members and nearly 2,000 total members across the county, strives to promote local agriculture and inform the greater community about the importance of the local farm sector; and

WHEREAS, Cass County Farm Bureau members volunteer in area classrooms to teach young people about how local farmers are a small part of an industry responsible for producing the most safe, abundant, diverse and affordable food supply in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, The Cass County Farm Bureau this year partners with the state-level Michigan Farm Bureau, formed February 4, 1919, in celebrating its first century of service to the state’s farmers; and

WHEREAS, The month of July is a timely opportunity to recognize the significance of our local farming community, being home to the Cass County Fair.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Cass County Board of Commissioners declare July 2019 as Cass County Agriculture Month. We hereby encourage all our residents, municipalities, businesses and other institutions to recognize and celebrate this worthy occasion.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to adopt resolution R-111-19. The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes(5): Commissioners: File, Grice, Cobb, Marchetti and Dyes.

No(0): Commissioners: None.

Absent(2): Commissioners: Benjamin and Ausra.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

PRESENTATIONS

The Area Agency on Aging gave their annual report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Grice 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-112-19 - Motion to approve Claims dated June 14, 2019.

M-113-19 – Motion to approve the following agreements to implement the 2019 Survey Remonumentation Grant:

Tom Stephenson, Grant Representative Surveyor	\$4,000.00
Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.	\$7,380.00
Stephenson Land Surveying	\$7,380.00
Kesler Land Surveying	\$7,380.00
Jones, Petrie, Rafinski	\$7,380.00
Marbach, Brady & Weaver, Inc.	<u>\$7,380.00</u>
Total	\$40,900.00

The costs will be reimbursed from the Michigan State Survey and Remonumentation Act Grant for 2019.

M-114-19 – Motion to approve purchase of vehicle equipment for two patrol vehicles in the amount of \$15,996.00 from Tele-Rad, to be paid out of Motor Pool Fund, line item 661-000-148.000 over the next four years.

R-115-19 – Resolution to approve the Drone Policy.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF CASS**

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Policy

WHEREAS, The Cass County Board of Commissioners establishes the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Policy for county department and agency utilization.

WHEREAS, The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Policy is intended to promote the safe and efficient operation of unmanned aircraft. Safety, above all else, is the primary concern in each and every operation, regardless of the nature of the mission. An operational and training manual will be developed and implemented before operations commence.

WHEREAS, A Cass County Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit shall support the elements of the county departments, by providing a safe and efficient aerial observation perspective on county operations. Operations will be accomplished efficiently and safely while respecting the law and privacy of the citizens we serve.

WHEREAS, A Cass County Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit shall be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration as a governmental commercial system. The UAS system will be insured by the county's insurance carrier before operations commence.

WHEREAS, All operators shall be at least 18 years old, and shall meet all operator and aircraft requirements and obligations applicable to the aircraft and its specific use as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and all the requirements of the UAS operation and training manual.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners recognizes the Unmanned Aircraft System as an important tool for the County operations and approves the policy which governs its use.

M-116-19 - Motion to approve the June 6, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular meeting minutes.

Motion to approve Claims dated January 11, 2019.

There was no discussion.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes(5): Commissioners: Cobb, Marchetti, Dyes, File and Grice.

No(0): Commissioners: None.

Absent(2): Commissioners: Benjamin and Ausra.

The consent agenda passed by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice and Cobb offered committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Jeffrey Carmen offered the Administrator's Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There was no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M-117-19

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve changing the July 5, 2019 board meeting to July 2, 2019. There was no discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

M-118-19

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to request Administrator Carmen prepare a written report of the Woodlands purchase of the Midwest Energy building on M 60 as soon as possible to be delivered to Commissioners Grice and Dyes. There was no discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

59th District State Representative Aaron Miller gave a brief update of news from Lansing. The big topics highlighted were no fault insurance reform, roads, firefighter training and M 40 update.

CLOSED SESSION

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Dyes, File, Grice and Marchetti made board member comments/announcements. During Commissioner File's announcement Jim Rifenberg Newberg Township Trustee spoke briefly about a mass gathering ordinance. There was a brief discussion regarding the ordinance.

Treasurer Hope Anderson gave her Annual Report of Foreclosure Funds to the board. She gave them a handout and explained the handout.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Roseann Marchetti, Vice Chair

Heather Harding, Chief Deputy Clerk