

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

February 15, 2018

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Terry Ausra 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.

Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy called roll:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Karen L. Folks and Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the February 15, 2018 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Amended Agenda. Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Ziliak, to place R-25-18 before Prosecutor Fitz's Opioid Presentation. Motion to approve the amended agenda carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

R-25-18

Commissioner Mike Grice presented Ruth Gardner with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner is a 1972 graduate of Marcellus High School; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner studied at Southwestern Michigan College, Western Michigan University and Florida State University; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner began her career with Cass County as a part-time employee in the Register of Deeds Office; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner returned to the county full time in 1988 after staying home with her children; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner has worked for Sally Foust, Ann Simmons, Barbara Wilson-Runyon and Monica Kennedy in the Clerk/Register of Deeds Office; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner married Joseph Gardner in 1977 and had three children and nine grandchildren before Joseph's passing in November of 2015: Luke (Elizabeth) Gardner, Peter (Nicole) Gardner, and Amy (Ryan) Fedore; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner will marry her new love, Steve Nauman, on March 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner will miss her co-workers, especially Marla Binns; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gardner looks forward to serving her Lord Jesus, gardening, quilting, and spending more time with her family.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is with a strong sense of admiration and gratitude for the sacrifices she made on behalf of the people of Cass County that we salute Ruth Gardner on her retirement from the Cass County Clerk/Register's Office on March 31, 2018.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-25-18 carried by roll call vote.

PRESENTATION

Prosecutor Victor Fitz offered information on the Opioid Crisis.

INTRODUCTIONS

Sheriff Richard Behnke introduced Dispatch Coordinator Jennifer Robinson.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, 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-19-18) A motion to approve Claims dated February 9, 2018.

(M-20-18) A motion to reclassify the Circuit Court File Room Clerk Positions to grade 4 on the CCIEA Union wage scale effective February 4, 2018 and allow the Finance Director to make any budgetary adjustments for the change from the general fund balance.

(M-21-18) A motion to approve a one-time transaction totaling \$3,230.00 to cover the costs of time, labor and mileage for SESC enforcement permits.

(M-22-18) In a letter dated February 6, 2018, from Chief Judge Susan Dobrich, a request was made for an appropriation to the District Court Bond Account. This appropriation would cover the missing \$2,200 that had not been receipted in from the Cass County Sheriff's Office. These missing funds were discovered through a review of the accounts by both the 4th District Court Administrator and an auditor of the Michigan Supreme Court. The matter has been referred for criminal investigation and possible recoupment. The County would appropriate the \$2,200 from the general fund balance to the District Court Bond Account. Upon a recoupment order through the courts the appropriation would be paid back to the general fund.

A motion to appropriate \$2,200 from the General Fund Balance to the District Court Bond Account.

Approval of the February 1, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

(M-23-18) A motion to reappoint Chris Bergen and Robert Short to the Veterans Advisory Committee for four year terms ending March 31, 2022. The reappointments are at the recommendation of the Cass County Veteran's Director.

(M-24-18) A motion to appoint Linda Preston, Leon Laylin and Don DeLong to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for one year terms ending December 31, 2018. The appointments were at the recommendation of the SWMPC.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Amended M-13-18

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the HVAC Upgrade solution at the Cass County Sheriff's Office/Jail by Trane Company with the cost not to exceed \$96,925 and network cabling by Midwest Cable not to exceed \$2,000. Total project cost of \$98,925. This motion also approves the payment upon completion of the project from the Public Improvement Fund (Fund 245). Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Dobrich and Judge Rentfrow expressed their disappointment in the passing of M-20-18. Discussion continued regarding conducting a classification/compensation study. Administrator Folks stated she had information on conducting a new study as it was overdue.

Sheriff Behnke stated a second rabies clinic would take place next weekend. He also informed the board that Animal Control sent fifteen cats and two dogs to the Upper Peninsula for adoption.

Commissioner Marchetti announced the Minority Coalition Breakfast will take place at the Village of Vandalia Hall on February 20, 2018.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners File, Cobb and Marchetti offered comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Terry Ausra, Chair

Monica Kennedy, Clerk/Register