

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**March 15, 2018**

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

Chair Terry Ausra 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 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, Finance Director Angie Steinman and Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Visitors introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the March 15, 2018 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote.

**PRESENTATION**

Sheriff Richard J. Behnke offered details on the Opioid Crisis in Cass County. He provided documentation detailing the following Drug Related Arrests over the last five years:

Meth: 230  
Cocaine: 28  
Pills: 17  
Heroin/Morphine: 10

He added that the Cass County Health Department states that 35 Cass County residents have died from opiate overdoses over the last five years.

## RECOGNITIONS

None.

## INTRODUCTIONS

None.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, 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-28-18)** A motion to approve Claims dated March 9, 2018

**(M-29-18)** A motion to approve payment of an invoice to Management Partners in the amount of \$8,240.00 to be paid from line item 245-244-975.098.

### **(R-30-18) PROPOSAL 9-1-1 SERVICE**

**WHEREAS,** Act 379 of 2008 made changes to the 9-1-1 law in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** the local telephone surcharge approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission is less than necessary to cover the operational costs of the 9-1-1 emergency service program; and

**WHEREAS,** it is desirable to submit a proposal to the electorate to provide for continued operation of the Cass County Central Dispatch System including the Enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone system;

**NEW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners hereby determines that the following proposition shall be submitted to the registered electors at the election to be held in Cass County on Tuesday, August 7, 2018:

### **CASS COUNTY PROPOSED FOR E-911 CENTRAL DISPATCH**

Shall the constitutional tax rate limitation in the County of Cass be renewed at 1/5 mill (\$.20) per thousand dollars against all taxable property in the County of Cass for a period of 4 years beginning with the December 1, 2018 levy and ending with the December 1, 2022 levy so as to provided funding for the operation of the "9-1-1" Central Dispatch? If approved and levied in its entirety on December 1, 2018, this millage would raise an estimated \$411,296 in the first year.

Approval of the February 23, 2018 BOC Workshop Meeting Minutes and the March 1, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

**(M-31-18)** A motion to appoint Leslie McLelland to the Economic Development Corporation Board for an unexpired term ending September 30, 2018; to appoint Ronald Niezgodski to the Board of Public Works for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2019; and, to appoint Arlandar Washington and Anna Murphy to the Kinexus Board for three year terms ending June 30, 2021. The appointments are at the recommendation of the EDC Board, the Board of Public Works and the Kinexus Board.

**(R-32-18) MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM INTEGRATION AGREEMENT**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves the Michigan Public Safety Communications System Integration Agreement with Cass County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Terry Ausra, Chairperson of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, is authorized to sign aforementioned Agreements.

Sheriff Behnke November 2016 CCSO moved to the state radio system. Part of the maintenance agreement. The resolution provides Chair Ausra the authorization to review and sign agreements. The Attorney General of the State of Michigan requires the resolution. Annual maintenance fees are approximately \$20,000.

Documents will be updated and ready for signature after approval at the March 15, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Dyes stated he spoke with a representative from Management Partners, the company preparing the Cass County Strategic Plan. The group will forward an unfiltered list of all handwritten comments submitted in both employee and public surveys.

### **M-33-18**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ziliak, to approve a motion to instruct Administrator Folks to obtain the list of unfiltered comments from Management Partners provided in both the employee and public surveys. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Prosecutor Fitz invited everyone to the Victim Remembrance Ceremony at noon on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Cass County Law and Courts Building. He also thanked the Village of Cassopolis Board for passing a resolution in opposition of medical marijuana operations in the village limits. Finally, he congratulated the Cassopolis and Dowagiac High School Basketball Teams on District Championships. Commissioners asked Administrator Folks to draft a letter of congratulations to send to each team.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners Ziliak, Marchetti and Cobb offered comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Ausra, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Kennedy, Clerk/Register