

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

November 1, 2018

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 1, 2018 in the Commission Chambers.

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

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the November 1, 2018 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Amended Agenda. Motion to approve the amended agenda carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy LaPointe, Sue Dunlap, Andy Anderson, Leslie McClellan, Stacy Langford, Mike Moroz, Ron McAdam, Zane Langford, Sue Heinrich, Jane Bergman, Janine Godfrey and Tom Rose spoke regarding the Historic Courthouse.

Sheriff Behnke updated commissioners on the Drug Take Back Day. He also commented on the Historic Courthouse.

Robert Benjamin posed a question on motion M-157-18, a motion to approve the Appropriation for the Health Department. Mr. Benjamin also spoke regarding the Historic Courthouse.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

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-156-18) A motion to approve Claims dated October 19, 2018.

(M-157-18) A motion to approve an increase in the appropriation request for the Van Buren Cass Health Department in the amount of \$30,000.00

(M-158-18) A motion to approve the online Employee Benefit Technology Agreement and Electronic Data Interchange Agreement with Maxwell Health with the cost not to exceed \$1,900.00 the first year and \$2,500.00 the second year.

(M-159-18) A motion to approve a budget amendment for the Medical Marijuana Grant.

(M-160-18) A motion to approve the Internet Access Renewal Contract with Merit Network, Inc. for FY2019 in the amount of \$11,970.00 to be paid out of budgeted line item 101-258-987.130.

(M-161-18) A motion to approve the payment of \$7,546.80 to Rose Pest Control for FY2019.

Approval of the October 16, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, the October 16, 2018 Work Study Minutes, the October 17, 2018 Work Study Minutes, the October 18, 2018 Work Study Minutes and the October 18, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

(M-162-18) A motion to appoint Jane Bergman to the Cass County Historical Commission for an unexpired term ending July 1, 2021 and to reappoint Leslie McClelland to the Cass County Economic Development Corporation Board for a term ending September 30, 2024.

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 Marchetti and Cobb furnished committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Folks offered the Administrator's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

M-116-17

Background: The Historic Courthouse structure in downtown Cassopolis has served as the signature landmark for the Cass County seat of government. Almost five years ago the Cass County Board of Commissioners made a decision to involve the residents of Cass County around re-imagining use of the building.

A series of Town Hall Meetings were held starting in October of 2016. These meetings allowed experts and professionals to educate us regarding the type of funding mechanisms available. The meetings culminated in a community discussion in May of 2017.

At the June 28, 2017 Board of Commissioners Work Study, the board requested that two motions appear on a regular BOC agenda for a vote. However, both motions were removed so the Board could consider the Economic Development Corporation's proposal, as presented by Economic Development Corporation Chair, Troy Clay

The Board of Commissioners have engaged in meaningful discussions regarding options for the historic courthouse in various work studies, Committee of the Whole and other meetings; the most recent Work Study being held on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at the Council on Aging. The Board has requested that the two motions be placed back on their agenda for consideration.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the following question: Shall Cass County retain ownership of the 1897 Historic Courthouse for the purpose of rehabilitation?

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (3): Commissioners File, Ausra and Dyes.

No (4): Commissioners Grice, Cobb, Marchetti and Ziliak.

Motion M-116-17 failed by roll call vote.

M-117-17

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to approve the following: Shall Cass County sell or otherwise transfer ownership or lease the 1897 Historic Courthouse to Cass County Economic Development Corporation or another legal entity created by the Cass County Economic Development Corporation?

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Ziliak, to amend the motion to read:

Shall Cass County pursue the sale, transfer of ownership or lease of the 1897 Historic Courthouse to the Cass County or another legal entity created by the Cass County Economic Development Corporation?

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (2): Commissioners Cobb and Ziliak.

No (5): Commissioners Grice, Ausra, Marchetti, Dyes and File.

Motion to amend M-117-17 failed by roll call vote.

Chair Ausra instructed the Clerk to call roll on the original motion:

Yes (2): Commissioners Cobb and Ziliak.

No (5): Commissioners Ausra, Marchetti, Dyes, File and Grice.

Motion M-117-17 failed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Terry Ausra, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register