

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**September 20, 2018**

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 20, 2018 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Terry Ausra called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Cobb 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: Terry Ausra, Annie File, Michael Grice, Roseann Marchetti, E. Clark Cobb, Skip Dyes and Robert Ziliak.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: 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 File, to approve the September 20, 2018 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Amended Agenda. Chair Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to amend M-133-18 to remove the nomination of Patty Dohm to the Parks Board. He also moved to add the payment of invoices submitted by the Information Systems Department under New Business. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Presentation of painting by Mr. Poehlman.

Carol Keim, Volunteer Coordinator, offered information on the Cass County Council on Aging Volunteer Program.

Veterans Affairs Director Tom Green provided the Annual Report.

Christian Lutes, Interim Director of the Cass County Medical Care Facility, relayed the Annual Report.

### 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-127-18)** A motion to approve Claims dated September 7, 2018.

**(M-92-18)** A motion to approve the replacement of the carpet in the Probate/Circuit Court File Room area of the Law & Courts Building and award the project to Floor Services, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$12,878.82. Fund balance allocation will increase the budget in 101-265-978.080 (Equipment/Improvements L&C) to cover the project.

**(M-128-18)** A motion to approve the upgrade of the terminal control units throughout the Cass County Sheriff's Office (Phase II). The second phase will provide zone control of the entire building at a cost not to exceed \$129,995 and will be paid from the Public Improvement Fund (Fund 245).

**(M-129-18)** A motion to establish a budget for the MIDC Grant. The grant, effective October 1, 2018, provides funding so that attorneys may be present at arraignments.

**(R-130-18)**

**WHEREAS**, Administrative Assistant Tara Myer would like to purchase one year of generic service credit in the MERS retirement program at her cost, and

**WHEREAS**, such purchase is subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cass County Board of Commissioners grant the one year of generic service credit to Tara Myer provided that she pay the total actuarial cost of \$10,712.

**(M-135-18)** A motion to approve the purchase of five tablets for CCSO road deputies.

Approval of the September 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes, the September 4, 2018 Work Study Minutes and the September 6, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**(M-133-18)** A motion to appoint David Toxopeus to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending September 30, 2020

**(R-134-18)**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill (SB) 1031 seeks to amend the General Property Tax Act to exempt qualified utility personal property from the collection of taxes under the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, “Qualified utility personal property” under the Act would include both of the following utility personal property: electric transmission and distribution systems, substation equipment, spare parts, gas distribution systems, water transmission and distribution systems, gas storage equipment, and transmission lines of gas or oil transporting companies; that was initially installed in the State after December 31, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1031 in its present form as introduced on May 29, 2018, will impose a financial burden on Cass County and its local units, as it will not only reduce personal property tax revenues in 2019, but every year thereafter those annual losses will continue to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1031 was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Finance without amendment for immediate effect to the Committee of the Whole on June 6, 2018.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby oppose SB 1031.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will be forwarded to Michigan House Representatives David Pagel and Aaron Miller, Senator John Proos and Governor Rick Snyder.

**(M-136-18)** A motion to appoint Commissioners Terry Ausra, Michael Grice and Clark Cobb to the Salary Committee.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners File, Cobb, Ausra, Marchetti, Dyes and Ziliak.

No (1): Grice.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Dyes, Marchetti, Cobb and Ausra furnished committee reports.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Administrator Karen L. Folks provided the Administrator's Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**M-137-18**

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the payment of the following invoices from Merit Network:

Invoice 77188 \$16,650 from 101-258-987.130  
Invoice 77195 \$5,040.00 from 261-301-852.006  
Invoice 77189 \$2,065.69 from 101-258-987.103  
Invoice 77193 \$150.00 from 261-301-852.006

Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathy LaPointe spoke on behalf of Friends of the Cass County Courthouse. She urged the commissioners to transfer the Historic Courthouse to the Economic Development Corporation so that the building will be restored and repurposed.

Sheriff Behnke reminded commissioners of the Bissell Pet Adoption Day set for Saturday, October 6, 2018, at Cass County Animal Control.

Chief Judge Dobrich announced the courts received numerous grants from the State of Michigan.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Cobb offered an announcement.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ausra adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register