

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**June 1, 2017**

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 1, 2017 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Robert Ziliak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Ziliak opened the hearing for the truth in taxation. There were no public comments. Chair Ziliak closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Cobb provided the Invocation. Commissioner Ausra 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, Robert Ziliak, Roseann Marchetti 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 Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the June 1, 2017 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## RECOGNITIONS

Commissioners recognized the following Valedictorians/Salutatorians of the Class of 2017 and presented each with a county pin:

Kayla Cromer – Dowagiac Union High School  
Samantha Beck – Edwardsburg High School  
Matthew Bangtson – Edwardsburg High School  
Catherine Wimberley – Edwardsburg High School  
Samantha Ekanayake – Edwardsburg High School  
Mary Wright – Ross Beatty High School  
Katherine Bellaire – Edwardsburg High School  
Brittany Bowman - Edwardsburg High School  
Emilee Ludwick - Edwardsburg High School  
Joelly Baldwin - Edwardsburg High School  
Noelle Kraus - Edwardsburg High School

### R-79-17

Chair Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the following resolution:

- WHEREAS**, Johnie Rodebush, a long time resident of Cass County, was born in Arkansas, established and owned Johnies Body Shop and later worked as an ironworker until his retirement in 1984; and
- WHEREAS**, Johnie Rodebush, a dedicated and active public servant of Cass County, was first sworn in as a Cass County Commissioner on January 2, 1969; and
- WHEREAS**, Johnie served as a Cass County Commissioner for many different terms of office over forty years through 2012; and
- WHEREAS**, Johnie was Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and served on the Special Building Committee from 1973 – 1976 and was, therefore instrumental for the planning and erection of the Cass County Governmental Complex, also known as “the Annex”; and
- WHEREAS**, In 1976, while serving as Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners Johnie researched information he obtained from the Federal Register, Department of Commerce for funding being offered to state and local governments for projects that might be beneficial to Cass County; and
- WHEREAS**, As a result of his diligence and perseverance Johnie was instrumental in securing funding allowing Cass County to receive financing to design and construct a new County library, allowing the County to break ground in 1978; and
- WHEREAS**, During his service to Cass County Johnie was a key visionary in helping to launch and establish the regional Southwest Michigan Planning Commission in June of 1974, and has remained a dedicated and active member to this day; and
- WHEREAS**, One of Johnie’s greatest passions has been and continues to be for the outstanding County parks and has, therefore, been an active member of the Cass County Parks and Parks Board for over thirty years; and

**WHEREAS,** Johnie’s commitment, dedication and public stewardship has also extended to his service as Chairperson of the County Board of Public Works, President of the Michigan Association of Counties from 1992-1993, and as a member of the Building Authority and countless other boards and commissions.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cass County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the endless time and dedication Johnie Rodebush has devoted to Cass County, and he did so with the utmost dignity and respect that will be a lasting legacy to Cass County.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-79-17 carried by roll call vote.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Dyes 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-73-17)** A motion to approve Claims dated May 19, 2017.

**(M-74-17)** A motion to approve a budget amendment for the Enbridge Grant, as received per the Grant:

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>General Ledger</u></b>	<b><u>Current Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Change In Budget</u></b>
Revenue:				
Grant Proceeds	261-301-513.000	\$ -	\$3,250	\$3,250
Expense:				
New Equipment	261-301-980.000	\$133,174	\$136,424	\$3,250

**(M-75-17)** A motion to approve the FY2018 Community Corrections Plan.

**(M-76-17)** A motion to approve the FY2018 allocation/payment of \$5,400.00 to Area Agency in Aging, Inc.

**(R-77-17)** TRUTH IN TAXATION

**WHEREAS**, it is the statutory duty of Cass County Board of Commissioners to authorize the levy of the county's millage rate for 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the county millage is affected by P.A. 5 of 1982, Truth in Taxation, and would limit the county to 6.2032 mills which could result in a tax dollar shortfall of \$377,118.

**WHEREAS**, the State Treasury has notified Cass County on monies to be received under the Convention Facility Liquor Tax of \$143,952 which without a resolution further reduces the county millage rate to 6.1333 mills due to P.A. 5 of 1982 and;

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to levy a maximum of 6.3164 mills, which includes 4.6359 allocated mills, 1.0000 mills for Council on Aging, 0.2000 mills for E-911 Services and 0.4805 mills for Drug Enforcement.

**WHEREAS**, the county can levy the full millage rate of 6.3164 only after fulfilling the public requirements of P.A. 5 of 1986, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Board of Commissioners held a public Truth in Taxation hearing on June 01, 2017 for the purposes of receiving testimony, this fulfilling the requirements of P.A. 5 of 1986, and;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that after much deliberation and consideration of the county's budgetary needs for 2017, the Cass County Board of Commissioners has decided, in the best interest of the county, to levy 6.3161 mills, which is 4.6359 allocated mills, 1.0000 mills for Council on Aging, 0.2000 mills for E-911 Services, and 0.4805 mills for Drug Enforcement.

**(M-78-17)** A motion to reappoint Allen Butchbaker, Sherry Hilden and Albert Smouse to the Historical Commission for three year terms ending July 1, 2020. The reappointments were at the recommendation of the Historical Commission.

Approval of the May 18, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The proposed consent agenda carried by roll call vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

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

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Steinman offered the Financial Report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner File offered a comment.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **M-80-17**

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to enter Closed Session in order to consider periodic personnel evaluation pursuant to MCL 15.268 (a) of the Open Meetings Act. In addition to the full board, Administrator Folks and Clerk/Register Kennedy would enter. Motion carried by voice vote. Chair Ziliak announced the board may take action after the closed session. The meeting moved to Closed Session at 7:52 p.m.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:32 p.m.

## **MOTION**

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve a 2.25% cost of living raise for Administrator Folks effective June 6, 2017 through December 31, 2017. She will then receive regular raises January 1st of each year – at the same time as most other employees. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (4): Commissioners Ziliak, Cobb, Ausra and File.

No (3): Commissioners Grice, Dyes and Marchetti.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Ziliak, Chairperson

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