

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**June 15, 2017**

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 15, 2017 in the Commission Chambers.

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

Commissioner File provided the Invocation. Commissioner Dyes 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 Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the June 15, 2017 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda with the addition of Resolution R-88-17 as item five under Other Business and the addition of a Finance Update after the Administrator's Report. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PRESENTATIONS**

CEO Bob Cochrane presented the Council on Aging Annual Report.

Linda Pruetz, County Treasurer, offered the Forfeiture Report on county properties. She recommended the county transfer no monies to the General Fund in order to reserve the available cash for pending litigation on the Diamond Lake foreclosure.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **M-81-17**

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve Claims dated June 2, 2017. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **M-82-17**

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the following agreements to implement the 2017 Survey and Remonumentation Grant:

Tom Stephenson, Grant Representative Surveyor	\$4,938.00
Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.	\$4,800.00
Stephenson Land Surveying	\$4,800.00
Kesler Land Surveying, LLC	\$4,800.00
Jones, Petrie, Rafinski	\$4,800.00
Marbach, Brady & Weaver, Inc.	\$4,800.00

The costs will be reimbursed from the Michigan State Survey and Remonumentation Act Grant for 2017.

Motion carried by voice vote.

### **M-83-17**

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the payment of invoice #001 made payable to Alcogare LLC for services provided for the Drain Imaging Project, which was approved by the Board of Commissioners as part of the SAW (Stormwater, Asset, Wastewater) Grant. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **M-84-17**

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the purchase of tax reverted properties. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (0):       None.

No (7):       Commissioners Ausra, File, Grice, Dyes, Ziliak, Marchetti and Cobb.

Motion M-84-17 failed by roll call vote.

**M-85-17**

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to make an employer voluntary payment contribution of twenty-five percent (25%) of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 audited surplus of \$446,914, equaling \$111,728.50 to MERS to be applied against our unfunded accrued liability for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the June 1, 2017 BOC Work Study Minutes and the June 1, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-86-17**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to adopt the Per Diem and Mileage Policy. Discussion followed. Commissioners agreed to approve the policy with the following three amendments:

1. Delete the sentence at the bottom of page four, item VI. A. 1.: The quarterly per diem and mileage requests shall be received no later than:
2. The sentence on page two, item V. A. 1. should read: An elected Cass County Commissioner shall receive mileage but not receive a per diem for attendance at the twice monthly regular Board of Commissioners meetings.
3. Page four, item 3. a. should read: Any meeting, event or other activity not recognized within this policy otherwise attended by the choice of a currently elected Commissioner, such Commissioner shall not receive a per diem or mileage except as otherwise allowed under this policy.

4.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-87-17**

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to reappoint Barb Cook, Andy Anderson and Gwenn Johnson to the Cass County Planning Commission for three terms ending July 31, 2020. The reappointments are at the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion carried by voice vote.

**DISCUSSION**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting: Board members agreed to move the Committee of the Whole Meeting to Thursday, July 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

**R-88-17**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CASS COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY  
APPLICATION FOR THE 2017 MSHDA BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Land Bank Authority desires to improve employment, tax base and the overall quality of lives of the residents of the City of Dowagiac and Cass County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Land Bank Authority recognizes that blighted, abandoned buildings negatively impacts tax base and quality of life for its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, competitive grant funding is available through the 2017 Michigan State Housing Authority (MSHDA) Blight Elimination Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Land Bank Authority, with assistance from the City of Dowagiac, shall submit an application for the 2017 MSHDA Blight Elimination Program for the demolition of four (4) blighted properties in the City of Dowagiac; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Board of Commissioners would like to offer this Resolution of Support to the Cass County Land Bank Authority for presentation to the MSHDA Grants Manager in support of the 2017 Blight Elimination Program grant application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of Cass, by the affirmative vote of its Board of Commissioners, does hereby offer their support to the Cass County Land Bank Authority in the effort to obtain grant funding from the 2017 MSHDA Blight Elimination Program for the demolition of four (4) blighted properties in the City of Dowagiac.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-88-17 carried by roll call vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

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

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Angie Steinman, Finance Director, provided a fully insured Estimated Health Care Plan Cost Analysis for the FY2018 rates. Administrator Folks stated that commissioners could attend a Work Study at 4:30 p.m. on July 6th in the Kincheloe Room to address questions and review rates.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chad Meyers, a Cass County Road Commission employee, addressed the board regarding information provided during employee union negotiations. Road Commission employees were told the County Board of Commissioners complained that they were not working hard enough and not doing a good job of plowing roads in the winter. He went on to state that the Road Commissioner did not allow him, as a union steward, to attend Road Commission Board Meetings as they occurred during work hours. He asked the County Board of Commissioners to urge the Road Commission Board to move those meetings to the evening so that union stewards and employees could attend.

Charlie Arnold thanked Chair Ziliak for the tire cleanup.

Porter Township resident Mike Camponella addressed the board regarding a pier permit. He stated that the Parks Department granted an individual a pier permit at the Birch Lake Public Park. The permit was issued to an individual residing at Joliet Illinois that tells others he owns the pier and property. Mr. Camponella would like the pier removed and not granted in the future.

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

Commissioner Marchetti informed the Policy Committee they should meet to amend the Cass County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure.

Commissioner Marchetti informed board members of the United Way Meet Up and Eat Up where anyone from an infant to age 18 may receive meals.

Chair Ziliak reminded commissioners to distribute flyers on Passenger Tire Collection set for August 5th in the Cass County Building Parking Lot. He asked for volunteers to help lift the heavy tires.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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

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

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