

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 5, 2023

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 5, 2023, in Commission Chambers.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ryan Laylin, James Lawrence, Joyce Locke, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie, Samual Barrera, Roseann Marchetti and RJ Lee.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Matthew Newton and Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Clerk/Register McMichael opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board of the Commissioners for a one-year term:

Commissioner Marchetti nominated Commissioner Laylin.
Commissioner Lee nominated Commissioner Jones.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to close nominations. Motion carried by voice vote. Clerk/Register McMichael read the votes that were cast by secret ballots as follows:

Commissioner Laylin received three votes.
Commissioner Jones received five votes.

Commissioner Jones was elected Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners. Clerk/Register McMichael turned the meeting over to Chair Jones.

Chair Jones opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, a one-year term.

Commissioner Marchetti nominated Commissioner Laylin.
Commissioner Howie nominated Commissioner Lawrence.

Commissioner Laylin nominated Commissioner Marchetti.
Commissioner Barrera nominated Commissioner Lee.

Commissioners Marchetti and Lee withdrew their names from consideration.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Commissioner Laylin:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Lawrence:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Locke:	Commissioner Laylin
Chair Jones:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Howie:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Barrera:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Marchetti:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Lee:	Commissioner Lawrence

Clerk/Register McMichael stated Commissioner Lawrence received four votes and Commissioner Laylin received four votes. Commissioners could vote again or they could caucus before a second vote. Commissioners chose to vote with no caucus.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Commissioner Lawrence:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Locke:	Commissioner Laylin
Chair Jones:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Howie:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Barrera:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Marchetti:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Lee:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Laylin:	Commissioner Laylin

Commissioner Laylin was elected Vice-Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners for a one-year term.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors present introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard Township resident and Cass District Library Board President Eileen Toney addressed the board regarding recent library board appointment. Ms. Toney thanked the board for re-appointing Joseph Gross. She went on to discuss procedure irregularities, violations of the Open Meetings Act as well as other conflicts of interest. She stated that she would email all board members supporting documentation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Chair Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the January 5, 2023, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Laylin 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-1-23) A motion to approve the Claims dated December 23, 2022

(M-2-23) A motion to approve the December 15, 2022 Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8): Commissioners Locke, Jones, Howie, Barrera, Marchetti, Lee, Laylin and Lawrence.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Laylin, Jones and Marchetti shared Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newton shared the Administrator's Report.

COUNTY PARTNERS

None.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

Prosecutor Fitz congratulated all commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-3-23

Vice-Chair Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule. Discussion followed. Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to amend the motion to remove the April 6, 2023, meeting and to add a meeting on April 13, 2023. Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

BOC Meetings begin at 5:00 p.m.

January 5	July 6
January 19	July 20
February 2	FAIR WEEK
February 16	August 17
March 2	September 7
March 16	September 21
April 13	October 5
April 20	October 19
May 4	November 2
May 18	November 16
June 1	December 7
June 15	December 21

Motion to approve amended motion carried by voice vote.

M-4-23

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the Contract between Marcellus Township, the County of Cass, and the Office of Sheriff, Cass County, from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Marchetti announced the Edwardsburg Food Pantry distributed 238 bags of food that included ham, pie and blankets. Those with kids and grandkids also received toys.

Commissioner Marchetti congratulated Commissioner Lee on the birth of a baby girl earlier that day.

Chair Jones promised he would not do anything unethical or immoral and that he would be completely transparent.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Laylin, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register