

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 21, 2021

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021 via Zoom.

Chair Dyes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Jones provided the Invocation.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ryan Laylin, Annie File, Skip Dyes, Mike Grice, Roseann Marchetti, Robert Benjamin and Jeremiah Jones.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen, Finance Director Becky Moore and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the January 21, 2021 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, 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-10-21) A motion to approve Claims dated January 8, 2021.

(M-11-21) A motion to approve the January 7, 2021 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones and Laylin.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners File, Marchetti and Dyes offered Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Marchetti stated that the committee would meet Monday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m. as they had numerous openings.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Carmen presented the Administrator's Report.

6:45 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Dyes opened the public hearing regarding a Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan at 6:45 p.m. Parks Director Scott Wyman and Southwest Michigan Planning Commissioner Senior Planner Marcy Hamilton shared plan highlights. The plan will be sent to the State DNR after approval by the Board of Commissioners.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - CONTINUED

Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting February 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Becky Moore offered the Finance Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Road Commissioner Manager Robert Thompson shared an update on Road Commission Operations.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-182-20

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

WHEREAS, Cass County is responsible for Medical Examiner services; and

WHEREAS, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker Medical School (WMED) provides these services to 12 Counties in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, WMED currently provides Forensic Pathology Services to Cass County; and

WHEREAS, WMED employees are insured for Workman's Compensation and other Liability exposures; and

WHEREAS, WMED provides a scope of services that is much broader than the County's current provider; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff Conducted a thorough and fair analysis and review; and

WHEREAS, The County Administrator and Sheriff both recommend the County enter into an agreement with WMED.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves entering into an Agreement commencing on February 1, 2021 with WMED in the amount of \$58,646.00 subject to Annual Review.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones, Laylin and File.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-182-20 carried by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

R-12-21

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to approve the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan.

WHEREAS, the Cass County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken the development of a 5-year Cass County 2021-2026 Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and an action plan to protect, maintain and enhance parks and recreation opportunity and maintain open space for agriculture, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat during the period between 2021 – 2026; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the various stakeholders, Cass County leadership and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, the Cass County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a recreation plan which identifies the need for recreation areas, open spaces and greenways in Cass County and sets forth a program to develop and maintain these areas of focus within the county park system in order to meet these needs, and;

WHEREAS, following discussion at their January 14, 2021 meeting, the Cass County Parks and Recreation Commission passed a resolution in support of the 2021-2026 Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan; and

WHEREAS, a second Public Hearing was held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. for residents to further express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, following the Public Hearing the Cass County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to adopt the 2021 – 2026 Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plan and recommend the plan be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their approval; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the 2021 – 2026 Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan as a guideline for improving recreation services for the benefit of Cass County residents and all who visit.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones, Laylin, File and Dyes.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-12-21 carried by roll call vote.

M-13-21

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer XLT from C. Wimberley at a cost of \$32,135.00, to be paid from the Motor Pool Fund. The cost is less than the state purchasing contract and the exception was verified by the County Administrator. The availability of funds was also verified by the Finance Director. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-14-21

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

WHEREAS, Cass County previously participated in the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program making loans for improvements secured by a Mortgage which must be repaid upon the sale of the subject property or failure to adhere to loan terms, and

WHEREAS, 276 East Main Street, Marcellus is an abandoned property and was foreclosed by the County to protect the interests of the original Loan, and

WHEREAS, The original mortgage and additional costs associated with its foreclosure total approximately \$32,000.00, and,

WHEREAS, Signs were posted to determine interest and asking interested parties to contact with the County Finance Director, and,

WHEREAS, 10 expressions of interest were received with none interested in purchase for the original loan and costs, and,

WHEREAS, This property is in a significant state of deterioration and will require additional investment to make useable, and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves the Sealed Bid Sale of 276 East Main Street, Marcellus, MI Parcel Number 14-051-541-003-00 with a minimum Bid required of \$14,000 and further that bids will be accepted until 12 Noon February 18, 2021 and that all possible steps be taken to notify the public, the interested parties and adjoining property owners.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Benjamin, Grice, Jones, Laylin, File, Dyes and Marchetti.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-14-21 carried by roll call vote.

R-15-21

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

Automation of Policy and Procedures for Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions

WHEREAS, Policies and Procedures for County Law Enforcement and Jail Operations pose some of the highest risk in Cass County and we need to be ever alert that we have proper ones in place and that they are updated, known, and adhered to; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has been working over the past two years on a project to make policy and procedures electronic as well as have the ability to update them as new laws are written and case law from the Courts informing these operations; and

WHEREAS, there were companies that were capable of electronically maintaining information but Lexipol is the only company that offers services to keep polices up to date; and

WHEREAS, The County Administrator verifies Lexipol as a Sole Source Vendor and the County Finance Director verifies the availability of funds,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves entering into an Agreement with Lexipol at a first-year cost of \$60,906.75 with an annual fee in year 2 for maintenance and support.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Grice, Jones, Laylin, File, Dyes, Marchetti and Benjamin.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-15-21 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Animal Control Director Ron Butts reminded everyone of the upcoming Rabies Clinics. Those interested should contact Animal Control for an appointment

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Dwight Dyes, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register