

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

March 2, 2023

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 2, 2023, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Jeremiah Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner Howie 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, Samuel Barrera, Roseann Marchetti and RJ Lee.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chair Jones announced there would be no introduction of visitors with the large crowd in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the March 2, 2023, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to remove motion M-30-23. Motion to amend carried by voice vote. Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, 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-31-23) A motion to approve the Claims dated February 17, 2023

(M-32-23) A motion to approve the February 16, 2023 Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 17, 2023 Board of Commissioners Workshop Minutes

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Lawrence, Marchetti and Lee shared Committee Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newton shared the Administrator's Report.

VETERANS REPORT

Veteran's Services Officer Karee Krause relayed the Veteran's Report.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Conservation District SESC Administrator Korie Blyveis and Transit Director Gerry Bundle shared updates.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

Sheriff Richard Behnke, Treasurer Hope Anderson and Chief Judge Carol Bealor offered updates.

Chair Jones declared a five-minute recess at 6:45 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-33-23

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to adopt the revised Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-34-23

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Laylin, to approve the revised Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-35-23

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to appoint Susan Cleaver to the Cass District Library Board for an unexpired term ending 12/31/2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-36-23

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Laylin, to reappoint Lyndon Parrish to the Parks Commission for a three-year term expiring 12/31/2026. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-37-23

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to reappoint Bruce Campbell to the Parks Commission for a three-year term expiring 12/31/2026.

M-38-23

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Laylin, to reappoint Fritz Kucklick to the Parks Commission for a three-year term ending 12/31/2026. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-39-23

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to reappoint Robert Parrish to the Parks Commission for a three-year term expiring 12/31/2026. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-40-23

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Jeremy Carlisle to the Community Corrections Advisory Board representing Public Safety for an unexpired term ending 9/30/2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-41-23

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Ambrosia Neldon to the Community Corrections Advisory Board representing Communications/Media for a four-year term ending 9/30/2027. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-42-23

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to reappoint Chris Bergen to the Veteran's Advisory Board for a four-year term expiring 3/31/2027. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-43-23

Vice-Chair Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE STATE OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 0076-0086, ANY TRAILER BILL, OR ANY SIMILAR BILL, WHERE THE STATE DESIRES TO RESTRICT THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT OF US CITIZENS AS PROTECTED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, The right of the people to keep and bear arms is guaranteed as an individual right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and under the Constitution of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the right of the people to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty, and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people of Cass County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the people have a God-given obligation to provide for the common defense; and

WHEREAS, a well-armed citizenry is the best protection against tyrannical government; and

WHEREAS, the people of Cass County, Michigan, derive economic benefit from all safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting, and shooting conducted within Cass County using all types of firearms allowable under the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners, being elected to represent the people of Cass County and being duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate, being elected by the people of the State of Michigan and being duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of Michigan, being elected to represent the people of the State of Michigan and being duly sworn by her oath of office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation of any bills similar to, or under consideration by the Michigan State Legislature, would infringe upon the right to keep and bear arms of commonly owned firearms by the individual citizens of Cass County, Michigan, and is a direct violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners to hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the Right of the People to keep and bear arms and consider such laws to be unconstitutional and beyond lawful Legislative Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby orders that Cass County shall not support the enforcement of any new amendments or new legislation coming from Senate Bills 0076-0086, using county funds, appropriations, personnel, or property. The use of these limited resources is hereby banned from enforcing new amendments or new legislation coming from Senate Bills 0076-0086.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners expects all elected officers of Cass County to support and enforce this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners demands that the Michigan Legislature cease further actions restricting the Rights of the People to keep and bear arms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of Cass County is hereby directed to prepare and deliver certified copies of this Resolution to all 82 County Clerks, Representative Brad Paquette, Representative Steve Carra, Senator Jonathon Lindsey, and the Office of the Governor.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to change “expect” to “encourages” in the third to last paragraph. Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-43-23 carried by roll call vote.

R-44-23

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

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS' APPLICATION TO THE ROBIN GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Cass County recognizes the importance of expanding internet access to every home within its jurisdiction as a means to promote access to digital employment, education, and healthcare opportunities for its residents; and,

WHEREAS, Cass County recognizes that fiber-based broadband internet infrastructure is an investment that supports the long-term economic vitality of our community; and,

WHEREAS, Cass County supports Midwest Energy & Communication's submission of an application to the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office's Realizing Opportunity for the Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) Grant Program to serve the 552 parcels contained within Cass County's jurisdiction addressed by Midwest Energy & Communication's ROBIN application; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its support for Midwest Energy and Communication's ROBIN grant application and will be proud to partner with Midwest Energy and Communications in support its vision to create vibrant, relevant, sustainable rural communities.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-44-23 carried by roll call vote.

M-45-23

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve Memorandum of Understanding for Matching Fund Commitment for the MEC ROBIN Grant. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Jeremiah Jones

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register