

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

May 6, 2021

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2021 in Commissioner Chambers. Due to COVID-19 concerns, all public participation was offered via Zoom.

Chair Dyes called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Annie File, Skip Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Robert Benjamin, Mike Grice and Jeremiah Jones.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the May 6, 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 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-75-21) A motion to approve Claims dated April 16, 2021 and April 30, 2021.

(M-76-21) A motion to approve the April 15, 2021 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Marchetti and Benjamin offered Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Marchetti had no update from the Appointments Committee.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Carmen presented the Administrator's Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

None.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Woodlands Vacancy: Commissioner Marchetti stated that the Appointments Committee would address the vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS

M-77-21

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint Cynthia Warren to the Veterans' Advisory Committee to a four-year term ending March 31, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-78-21

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to appoint Gary Gravit, Sr. to the Veterans' Advisory Committee for a four-year term ending March 31, 2025. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-79-21

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

SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century - road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

WHEREAS, Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two-year terms for county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

WHEREAS, the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

WHEREAS, legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of Senate Bills 242 and 245; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties support the legislation as introduced.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Cass County supports Senate Bills 242 and 245 to enact four-year terms for County Commissioners.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-79-21 carried by roll call vote.

R-80-21

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

JAIL SHOWER STALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, There have been ongoing issues with the inmate shower areas, with painting having been done numerous times to reduce mold and other issues; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has diligently pursued quotes and has found problems with finding vendors that specialize in this field; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office received recommendations from other customers that used the two vendors that submitted proposals and Michigan Specialty Coatings was the most economical choice as well as the most time efficient.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves Michigan Specialty Coatings as the vendor for this project, to be completed at a cost not to exceed \$20,916.89 to be paid from the Public Improvement Fund, 245-244-980.000.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0):

Resolution R-80-21 carried by roll call vote.

R-81-21

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

JAIL WATER SOFTENER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, The original soft water system located at the jail has been repaired over the years and is no longer repairable; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the system is causing thousands of dollars of in water usage and is requiring daily monitoring of the units; and

WHEREAS, the tanks are 33 years old and should be replaced as part of this critically needed project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves Flier's Quality Water Systems as the vendor for this project to be completed at a cost not to exceed \$27,589.00 and to be paid from the Public Improvement Fund, 245-244-980.000.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-81-21 carried by roll call vote.

R-82-21

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING ENGAGING BOND COUNSEL

WHEREAS, Cass County has served as the Coordinating Bonding Unit for Multiple Village, Township and Special District borrowings; and

WHEREAS, Re-financing these borrowings is advantageous at this time due to significantly lower borrowing rates; and

WHEREAS, Re-financing these borrowings will accrue future cost savings of more than \$1.9 million; and

WHEREAS, these savings are in excess of the fees incurred by Bond Counsel and Financial Advisors assisting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners authorizes engaging Miller Canfield for professional fees and costs not to exceed \$65,000.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-82-21 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Prosecutor Fitz offered his appreciation for the informative board workshop held on April 30, 2021. He went on to state the courts were hopeful to resume jury trials in June or July. He also stated he planned to update the board on Truth in Sentencing.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dyes reminded the public of the Tire Collection set for May 15th.

Commissioners Grice and Benjamin asked that the resolution supporting four-year terms for commissioners be forwarded to the local state representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Dwight Dyes, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register