

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

May 20, 2021

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 20, 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 File provided the Invocation. Commissioner Marchetti 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 Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the May 20, 2021 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Cass County Historical Commission Chair Ron McAdam provided the Annual Report that included drone and video footage of the Newton House.

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-83-21) A motion to approve Claims dated May 14, 2021.

(M-84-21) A motion to approve the April 30, 2021 Board of Commissioner Workshop Minutes and the May 6, 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 Laylin, Marchetti and Benjamin offered Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Marchetti stated that the Appointments Committee would meet the first week in June.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Carmen presented the Administrator's Report.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was included in the board packet.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Michigan State University Extension 4-H Coordinator Hailey Harman offered information on county 4-H.

Road Commission Manager Robert Thompson shared updates on the upcoming paving season and road projects in Milton Township. He also stated that the Road Commission was honored to be recognized as a county partner.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

R-85-21

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

WHEREAS, Resolution R-81-21 was approved at the May 6, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting; and

WHEREAS, after the approval of the resolution new information was received that affected the exclusion of Installation costs of the vendor approved; and

WHEREAS, a less expensive vendor who responded at the time of soliciting proposals includes installation costs and is therefore the lowest cost option.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that R-81-21 is hereby rescinded and replaced with R-85-21 which reads as follows:

R-85-21

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 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 rescinds R-81-21 and approves Culligan as the vendor for this project to be completed at a cost not to exceed \$33,795.00 and to be paid from the Public Improvement Fund, 245-244-980.000.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-85-21 carried by roll call vote.

M-86-21

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint June Blackwell to the Jury Commission for a six-year term ending March 30, 2027. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-87-21

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the Agreement between Marcellus Township, the County of Cass and the Office of Cass County Sheriff for a period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-88-21

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to approve the Contract between Howard Township, Office of the Cass County Sheriff and the County of Cass for a period beginning March 31, 2021 and ending March 31, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-89-21

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

**REQUESTING STATE OF MICHIGAN FULFILLS ITS
STATUTORY OBLIGATION WITH REGARD TO STATE
REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, in 2004 an agreement was made between the State of Michigan and the counties that eliminated county revenue sharing payments for a period of time during which counties were allowed to pay themselves an equivalent amount to their statutory revenue sharing payments. Each proceeding year the Michigan Department of Treasury authorized each county an inflationary increase over the base amount established in 2004; and

WHEREAS, this agreement saved the State of Michigan from allocating general fund dollars by funding the County Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund (CRSRF) through a property tax collection shift. However, once a county exhausted their reserve fund, they were to re-enter the state revenue sharing system. By statute, the State was required to allocate the county their full revenue sharing amount when they re-entered the system. Full-funding is defined as the 2004 base amount plus inflation until the county re-entered the system; and

WHEREAS, counties that re-entered the state revenue sharing system prior to 2014 endured cuts to their base revenue sharing payments that were never restored. Counties that re-entered the system after 2014 did not endure the same cuts to their base revenue sharing payments; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties has identified 61 counties that endured cuts to their base revenue sharing payments, which together accounts for a cumulative shortfall in revenue sharing payments to the counties of \$117,617,804; and

WHEREAS, Cass County re-entered the state revenue sharing system in 2011 and is owed \$717,466 from the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan may question the necessity of making these payments to the counties now in light of the counties slated to receive COVID-19 funding from the American Rescue Plan; however, those funds are tied to a number of restrictions on how the money can be used. County revenue sharing payments is unrestricted and can be used as necessary.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners calls upon the State of Michigan to fulfill its statutory obligation to the counties that were shorted on their county revenue sharing payments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Representative Steve Carra, State Representative Brad Paquette, Senator Kim LaSata, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan Association of Counties, and to each county in the State of Michigan.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-89-21 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dyes thanked everyone that volunteered at the May 15th Tire and Hazardous Waste Collection. Collaboration between the board, Administrator's Office and County Road Commission led to a busy but successful event. The next collection was set for August 21, 2021.

Commissioner Marchetti informed the board that the Village of Edwardsburg railway cleanup and landscaping project was complete.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Dwight Dyes, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register