

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 17, 2021

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 17, 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 Jones provided the Invocation. Commissioner Grice 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, Finance Director Becky Moore, Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

Historical Commission Chair Ron McAdam informed commissioners that the Historical Commission requested that four contractors provide quotes to paint the Newton Home; however, only two provided bids. He added that the commission received \$6,000 in donations to be applied to the total project cost.

Zane Lankford urged commissioners to visit the Newton Home. She also asked board members to speak in to the microphones as it was difficult to hear via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the June 17, 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 Laylin, 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-101-21) A motion to approve Claims dated June 11, 2021.

(M-102-21) A motion to approve the June 3, 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 and Marchetti offered Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Marchetti stated that the Appointments Committee had been hard at work.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Carmen presented the Administrator's Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Judge Dobrich informed commissioners that the courts began jury trials. The courts also planned to continue using Zoom for hearings, especially for those involving parties that lived or worked a distance from Cassopolis.

Road Commission Manager Robert Thompson provided updates on the tire collection as well as primary roadside mowing. He also thanked Treasurer Hope Anderson, GIS Director Erika Espeland and Sheriff Behnke for their support with various projects/issues.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-103-21

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Jane Bergman to the Historical Commission for a three-year term ending July 1, 2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-104-21

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones to appoint Ryan Laylin as the county government representative to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a two-year term ending June 1, 2021. Commissioner Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to amend the motion to read, "... for a two-year term ending June 1, 2023." Motion to amend carried by voice vote. Motion to approve the amended motion carried by voice vote.

M-105-21

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Barbara Belland as a citizen representative to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a two-year term ending June 1, 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-106-21

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to appoint Susan Donoho as a citizen representative to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a two-year term ending June 1, 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-107-21

Commissioner Grice moved to withdraw the motion to approve a contract with Paragon Painting to paint Newton Home at a cost not to exceed \$24,578.15 and to be paid out of line item 296-803-701.000 and the process approved by the County Administrator and Funding approved by the Finance Director. Discussion followed. Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to table Motion M-107-21. Motion to table carried by voice vote.

M-108-21

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve a contract with Ayers Basement Systems for sidewalk leveling at all county buildings at a cost not to exceed \$11,623.45 to be paid out of the Capital Project fund and the process approved by the County Administrator and Funding approved by the Finance Director. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-109-21

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve a cleaning contract with The Cleanest Co., LLC from June 17, 2021, until June 17, 2023, at a cost of \$10,095.00 per month and the process approved by the County Administrator and Funding approved by the Finance Director.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice and Jones.

No (0): None.

Abstain: Commissioner Laylin (due to a conflict of interest).

M-110-21

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to appoint Ron McAdam to the Historical Commission for a three-year term ending July 1, 2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-111-21

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

2021 CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners Authorized in October 2018 a study be undertaken to review and update position descriptions and classification; and

WHEREAS, in June 2019 this effort was transferred to County Administration and Elected Officials because the Consultant originally selected lost key personnel assigned and was sold; and

WHEREAS, undertaking this work internally accrued a savings of over \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, since assuming the responsibility to complete the evaluation the working group has held multiple meetings together, and with a review team with every County Leader with employees, including elected and appointed; and

WHEREAS, This Team has completed its work and is in unanimous agreement with its recommendations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021 Classification and Compensation as submitted by the Committee including the County Administrator, Courts Administrator, Finance Director, County Treasurer, Chief Judge, County Clerk, County Prosecutor, Sheriff and the Chair of the Board of Commissioners be adopted and implemented effective June 30 2021.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Grice, Jones, Laylin and File.

No (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

Resolution R-111-21 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Zane Lankford again urged board members to visit the Newton Home. She also stated she did not understand why Motion M-107-21 was tabled but hoped it would be brought back and approved.

Judge Dobrich thanked the board for approving the compensation study. She went on to provide a background of the project.

Prosecutor Fitz thanked everyone who worked on the compensation study and thanked the board for their support.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Marchetti urged commissioners to watch the treatment court videos sent by Court Administrator Carol Bealor. She went on to share the news that a gigantic mural was planned for the Village of Edwardsburg.

Commissioner Benjamin thanked everyone for reaching out while he was in the hospital.

Chair Dyes thanked the Road Commission for loaning equipment to the Tractor Pullers Association.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Dwight Dyes, Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register