

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**August 18, 2022**

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 18, 2022, in Commission Chambers. Due to COVID-19 concerns, public participation was offered via Zoom.

Chair Dyes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Jones 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, Skip Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Mike Grice and Jeremiah Jones.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Annie File and Robert Benjamin.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Matthew Newton and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Visitors present introduced themselves.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judge Bealor announced the retirement of Joni Patzer and thanked her for her service to Cass County. She then introduced Sharon Underwood as the new Juvenile Register/Financial Officer/Grant Specialist.

State Representative Steve Carra thanked Cass County for their support in the August Primary Election.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the August 18, 2022, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda with the addition of M-161-22 under New Business. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Chief Judge Bealor and DHHS Director Chuck Rose shared a presentation on the State Child Care Fund.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice-Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, 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-152-22) A motion to approve Claims dated July 22, 2022

(M-153-22) Motion to approve the July 21, 2022 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 22, 2022 Board of Commissioners Workshop Minutes

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (5): Commissioners Laylin, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice and Jones.

No (0): None.

Absent (2): Commissioners File and Benjamin.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioners Laylin, Marchetti and Jones shared Committee Reports.

## **APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Matthew Newton offered the Administrator's Report and provided a brief overview of the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Budget. Highlights for the upcoming budget year included the renovation of the Historic Courthouse, construction of a new CCDET operations facility, improvements to the showers in the jail, several projects at Lawless Park, upgraded GIS software, as well as expanding the use of the OnBase imaging software to offices beyond the courts.

Administrator Newton announced a Special Board Meeting to take place at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 22, 2022, in Commission Chambers.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

The Finance Report was included in the packet.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**

Sheriff Behnke shared the Public Safety Update.

Animal Control Director Ron Butts discussed a complaint in the City of Dowagiac that resulted in the removal of 107 animals. Assistance from other agencies was needed as the 107 animals consisted of dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, chickens and hens.

## **COUNTY PARTNERS**

Road Commission Director Bob Thompson informed board members that paving projects continued throughout the county. He added that safety continued to be a concern as speed and distracted driving regularly caused issues in construction zones. Finally, Director Thompson shared that the Road Commission planned to hold a tour and orientation for new commissioners after the November General Election.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE**

Treasurer Hope Anderson announced the tax sale bidding would conclude that evening. Any parcel that did not sell would move to a second-round sale.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **M-154-22**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the FY 23 Child Care Budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **M-155-22**

Vice-Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to rescind R-129-20. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-156-22**

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve Budget Amendments as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-157-22**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve Interlocal Facilities Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-158-22**

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to discontinue use of Zoom for BOC Meetings. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (3): Commissioners Jones, Dyes and Laylin.

No (2): Commissioners Grice and Marchetti.

Motion M-158-22 carried by roll call vote.

**M-159-22**

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the quote for Kennel Door Frame Replacement at Animal Control from Miller Davis of Kalamazoo in the amount of \$20,800. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-160-22**

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the recommendations from the Salary Committee. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-161-22**

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to hold a Special Meeting on August 22, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of reviewing the FY23 Proposed Budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Marchetti announced a Polish Dinner to be held at Our Lady of the Lake on Friday August 19, 2022, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. She also announced a townhall meeting regarding daycare providers to take place on September 15, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Skip Dyes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register