

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**September 9, 2021**

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in special session Thursday, September 9, 2021, at the Cass County Road Commission.

Vice Chair Mike Grice called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner Laylin 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, Mike Grice, Dwight Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Robert Benjamin and Jeremiah Jones.

Commissioners Absent: Dwight Dyes.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen, Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow, Deputy County Director Matthew Newton and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

Benjamin commented and informed the public that the commissioners had no authority to mandate masks. Vice Chair Grice stated the board had received much correspondence that would be added to the official record in the County Clerk's Office. He also stated that attendees in the overflow crowd would be allowed in the meeting room as others left.

Vice Chair Grice stated that the board received written correspondence from many residents. He instructed Clerk/Register McMichael to place all correspondence on the official record.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals spoke against mask and vaccine mandates:

1. Stacy Wilder, Dowagiac
2. Jason Pompey, Penn Township. He also spoke against County changes to employee retirement benefits.
3. Nurse Practitioner Sherry File, LaGrange Township
4. John Neville, Pokagon township
5. Dr. Alex Ambrose (via Zoom), Edwardsburg
6. Mike Filbert, Ontwa Township. He added that the chip and seal on Michigan roads was horrible.
7. Kristen Williams (via Zoom), Cassopolis
8. Nina Lilley, Porter Township
9. Paul Lilley (via Zoom), Porter Township
10. Anthony Davis, Vandalia

11. Edwardsburg School Board Member Tammy Niemeier, Edwardsburg
12. Cass County TEA Party Chair Shane Nelson, Marcellus
13. Sarah Ross, Calvin Township
14. Jessica Wilder, Dowagiac
15. Roger Boyer, Porter Township
16. M. Graff (via Zoom)
17. Brittany File, LaGrange Township
18. Jeff Thompson, Ontwa Township
19. Lynn Schantz, Pokagon Township
20. Tammy Marsh, Marcellus Township
21. Robin Brenneman, Calvin Township
22. Beth Pompey, Penn Township. She also spoke against County changes to employee retirement benefits.
23. Leonard Kern, LaGrange Township
24. Jack Rika, Penn Township
25. Shane Wallace, Wayne Township
26. Riley Cass, Mason Township
27. Kathy Fick
28. Jerry Dodd, Dowagiac
29. Angie Stone, Mason Township
30. Sue Riker (via Zoom), Wayne Township
31. Crystal Liddy, Mason Township
32. Emily Tharp
33. Teresa Keller, Dowagiac
34. RN Ashleigh Karn (via Zoom), Marcellus
35. Annabelle Rogers
36. Israel Yoder, Penn Township
37. Anna Bonham, Pokagon Township
38. RN Kathy Bailey, Milton Township
39. Erin Westrate, LaGrange Township
40. Katie Harris, Mason Township
41. Roger Leach, Penn Township
42. J.D. Glaser, Dowagiac
43. Kim Adams, Pokagon Township
44. Dan Adams, Pokagon Township
45. Chad Gregory, Dowagiac
46. Wendy Glaser, Dowagiac
47. Nadine Stutsman, Penn Township
48. Tonya Leach, Penn Township
49. Phil Moonvaugh, Porter Township
50. Taras Lyssenko, Jefferson Township
51. Pat O'Keefe, Calvin Township
52. Nancy O'Brien, Jones
53. Mikah Samas, Pokagon Township
54. Nina St. Germaine, Dowagiac
55. Kathy Vick

The following individuals spoke in favor of mask and vaccine mandates:

1. Kathleen McKee, Silver Creek Township
2. Julie Dye (via Zoom), Wayne Township
3. Jim Pedersen, Village of Cassopolis Trustee
4. Chelsea Olkowski

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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

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Chair Dwight Dyes

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Clerk/Register Monica McMichael