

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday April 10, 2025

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday April 10, 2025 in the Circuit Courtroom, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick at 4:30pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

Roll Call: Austin Kimberling, John Kling, Mike Patrick, Daryl Schroeder, Judy St. Louis-Scott.

Agenda Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to approve the agenda-as-amended. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Schroeder to approve the minutes of March 27, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (minutes attached)

Public Comment:

None

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Equalization Director Dulcee Ranta – 2026 is balanced for the Equalization Roll and is ready for sale studies.

Emergency Manager Mike Kasper – we bounced back from the power outages due to the ice storm. The National Guard is heading to Mackinac Island to help with clean up. Now the process begins for paperwork to get reimbursed for all the expenses related to the ice storm.

E911 Coordinator Bryce Tracy – said the emergency response was amazing in the area after the storm.

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott – thanked Bryce and Mike for their hard work and Mackinac County is blessed to have them working for us. We rebounded and the cooperation with all the emergency response teams was amazing.

Sheriff Ed Wilk – ran cameras again thru the pipes and it did find an issue. We cannot currently pinpoint where it is coming from. But the drains are working at this time.

Also, he requested to have a potential new hire moved from pay grade 7 step 1 to step 2. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to move the new hire to pay grade 7 step 2. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Commissioner Kling asked the Sheriff if he would be interested in meeting with him to work on the capital improvement plan for the county. The Sheriff agreed.

Sheriff Deputy John Cottenham Jr. - requested to have his longevity paid out at pro-rated of \$750 since he resigned and is no longer employed with the County. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kimberling to pay the pro-rated longevity in the amount of \$750. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Old Business:

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott - presented the Animal Advisory Committee draft By-Laws for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling and second by Commissioner Kling to approve the by-laws pending approval by our legal counsel. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

There were 3 bids presented to the board for new legal counsel: Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, Cohl Stoker Toskey PC, Fahey Shultz Burzych Rhodes PC. After some discussion it was decided to select the top 2 and request, they come to the next meeting to discuss their bids and interview them. The top 2 selected were: Cohl Stoker Toskey PC, and Fahey Shultz Burzych Rhodes PC. Clerk Vowell will reach out to them to schedule. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Schroeder to post pone the decision and request they come interview with the board. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bids attached)

Temporary Equalization Director Dulcee Ranta - presented a bid for contractual services for full time Equalization Director After reviewing the contract, it was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to approve her contract. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (contract attached)

New Business:

Allocating funds for the ice storm clean up was discussed. Most of these funds if approved will be reimbursable either thru state or federal funds. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to allocation \$25,000 to a special line item for storm clean up. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling at 4:57pm to go into Closed Session (MCL 15.268) to review a legal opinion regarding moving the Road Commission members to 5. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kimberling to move out of closed session at 5:08pm. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Schroeder at 5:09pm to go into Closed Session (MCL 15.268) to review a legal opinion regarding the Veterans Committee. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Schroeder to move out of closed session at 5:24pm. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to move back into regular session at 5:25pm. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to freeze Veterans Committee funding if their By-Laws, Policies and job descriptions are not presented to the Board of Commissioners by April 24 at noon. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Committee Reports/Additional Board Member Business:

Thursday, May 8 regular meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 7.

Chair Patrick discussed spring clean up lawn care. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to post an ad for one time spring clean-up lawn care.

Public Comment:

Dave Coven is very frustrated with the things that are happening on the Veterans Committee. He blames the board for lettering the relationship between the Board of Commissioners and Veterans Committee fall apart. He is begging the board to get this under control.

Bills/Budget Amendments:

The Board reviewed the regular bills of April 10 for approval in the amount of \$130,211.65. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Schroeder to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Schroeder, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The Board reviewed the manual bills of April 10 for approval in the amount of \$47,428.69. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The Board reviewed budget amendment #2025-07. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

The Board reviewed budget amendment #2025-08. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Schroeder to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

Communications:

March Animal Shelter report

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Schroeder second by Commissioner Kimberling to adjourn the meeting at 5:35pm.

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk

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