

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday April 25, 2024

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday April 25, 2024 in the Circuit Courtroom, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

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

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

Roll Call: Corina Clark, Jodi Kaiser, Dan Litzner, Mike Patrick, Judy St. Louis-Scott.

Agenda Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the agenda as amended. VVMC

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the minutes of the Equalization Public Hearing held on April 9, 2024. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick. NO: None. Abstain: St. Louis-Scott.

Public Comment:

Darcy Long, Mackinac Economic Alliance – spoke briefly on the small business Hub program and available grants for small business owners.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Treasurers Office presented 1st quarter financial reports.

Veterans Committee Chair Dick Pershinske – still lacking agreement between the County and the Veterans Committee. The event Coffee with a Veteran went ok, will plan another event in the future.

Circuit Court Judge Rahilly – submitted a letter outlining the changes that need to be made in the court room to better accommodate jury trials and ADA compliant. (letter attached)

Sheriff Ed Wilk – wiring of the circuit court room will be done next week.

Commissioner Judy St. Louis-Scott – said the Opioid Committee is looking at adding a link to the county website to be transparent with the public as to how the opioid settlement funds are being used.

District Court Administrator Christine Bawol – spoke briefly on the sunset legislation and the state pushing back the start date. Judge Gibson thinks that eventually court costs will be transitioned to the state and court employees will become state employees.

New Business:

A letter regarding the County's Designated Assessor was discussed. It was decided to take no action on this as the current contract with Tina Fuller does not expire until 2025. Opting out of this keeps it local and out of the States control.

Attorney meet and greet – Peter Wendling the new Board of Commissioners Attorney introduced himself and went over his background in law. Said the board should be adjourning the meetings to the call of the chair and not by motion. And a consent judgement with the Veterans Committee lawsuit against the Board of Commissioners is ready to be signed. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approval the signing of the consent judgement and closing the case. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (proposed consent judgement attached)

District Court reclassification request for Court Recorder/ADR Clerk Kelly Moran. This position is split between District and Circuit Court. There has been a new job description created as well. Judge Gibson answered some questions the board had. Kelly Moran also answered some questions. The request is to move the position to a pay grade 10 step 2. They also discussed holding a Judicial Council meeting to discuss the other counties reimbursing for some of Kelly's wages. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to approve moving this position to pay grade 10 step 2. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (letter and job description attached)

Paul Fullerton, Airport Manager – presented the board with the bids he received to purchase a new tractor for the airport. The airport received a \$22,000 grant from the Covid Cares Act that will fully cover the cost. The tractor has already been ordered and is on its way. (bids attached)

Sheriff Ed Wilk – requested step increase for a new hire. The employee he is requesting this for has over 20 years' experience. Also, there will be cost savings by not having to send this new employee to the corrections academy. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the step increase to grade 7 step 3. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Veterans Committee is looking for more office space. The EMS building will be available soon. Straits EMS will be moving out and into their new building next week. It was brought up that Equalization office has extra space as well. The Veterans Committee will look into grants that will help furnish and convert the EMS garage into suitable office space. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to have Commissioners Litzner, Patrick and Dick Pershinske go look at the EMS garage to see if there is sufficient space for the Veterans Office. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Veterans Committee is requesting that the Veterans Service Officers salary be increased to \$60,000. Commissioner Patrick did some research on other counties VSO and Mackinac County is substantially lower for VSO salaries. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott would like to see more transparency with the Veterans Office such as credit card bills and the audit. Commissioner Kaiser said the Veterans Audit still is not complete. Attorney Wendling spoke about the laws regarding mediation. It was discussed scheduling mediation with the Board of Commissioners and the Veterans Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to schedule mediation and to have Commissioners Litzner and Kaiser attend the mediation on behalf of the County Board. Commissioner Patrick said he feels Commissioner Kaiser should not be involved with the mediation. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick. (request letters attached)

Veterans Millage was discussed. Can we combine the Sailor & Soldiers relief and the Veterans Office funding on the same millage and would this restrict revenue for the Veterans Office? The wording needs to be reviewed again and have ready for next meeting.

Old Business:

Clerk Hillary Vowell requested to have the reclassification requests brought back in front of the board. Commissioner Patrick submitted a letter of request to reconsider these reclassifications. This will be scheduled for the May 9 board meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to schedule the reconsideration of reclassifications at the next board meeting. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (letter attached)

Wage study review of pay scale tables. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said our benefits should count for something that they are the best out there. Commissioners Kaiser and Litzner redid the wage study tables and created their own version. It was discussed when to implement the new wage scales and which one. Commissioner Litzners wage scales will be implemented on June 1 and not be eligible to retroactive pay. The unions will need to be notified and do a letter of agreement on the new wage scales. Clerk Hillary Vowell will contact AFSCME Union and Sheriff Ed Wilk will contact the POLC Union for letters of agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to implement the new wage scales effective June 1. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (wage scales attached)

The discussion of County Administrator was brought up again. Commissioner Litzner said he feels this would not be a good idea to put this on the new board. But rather do some research on this and have it ready for the new Board of Commissioners coming in January.

There needs to be a notice of intent set up and a Commissioner from each county for the Interlocal Agreement of the Materials Management Plan.

District Court reclass of the Court Administrator and Court Clerk that was passed on April 9 needs to be retroactive back to April 1. This was neglected in the original motion. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Patrick to make these reclassifications retroactive back to April 1. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Additional Board Member Business:

None.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Clark – the Manistique Lakes Dam Committee held their first meeting. They are going over applications for committee members. Interviews will be held in the next week. This will be a 7-member board.

Commissioner Kaiser – the housing project is moving forward. Will be doing the zoning soon and phase 1 environmental next week.

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott – Opioid Committee met with MSU. They are going to do some surveys to promote getting the settlements funds expended.

Public Comment:

Kelly Moran and Christine Bawol thanked the board for approving their reclass requests.

Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the regular bills of April 25 for approval in the amount of \$19,677.78. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of April 17 for approval in the amount of \$40,679.72. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the Circuit Court Jury payments for the Trial held on April 5 for approval in the amount of \$4011.64. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the jury payments. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of April 25 for approval in the amount of \$83,505.70. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed a legal bill for the Dam Committee for approval in the amount of \$3636. This bill will be split 50% by Luce County. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to approve 50% of the legal bill in the amount of \$1818. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bill attached)

Communications:

March banking report, Dickinson Co resolutions, Letter from Schoolcraft Co, letter regarding waste management, letter from Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, EUPISD proposed budget.

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk