

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Wednesday December 11, 2024

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Wednesday December 11, 2024 in the Circuit Courtroom 3rd floor, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Litzner at 3:00pm.

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 Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the agenda as amended. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Minutes Approval: none

Public Comment:

Veterans Committee Chair Dick Pershinske – spoke on the costs the county has spent on legal fees for veteran matters.

Jackie Peterson asked board not to put a specific time on euthanasia of the shelter animals.

Garfield Twp Supervisor Don Butkovich – thanked the board for the road match monies. He also thinks there should be public hearings to speak on the Road Commission number of members and he is in favor of holding the hearings.

Lee Kanitz - asked the board to seriously consider having the public hearings on the Road Commission. Needs to be more than 3 sets of eyes and he encourages them to push this.

Todd Joseph - agreed with Lee Kanitz and said the Road Commission needs to have more accountability with 5 members instead of just 3.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Sheriff Ed Wilk – presented proposed contract for Bois Blanc Island Deputy. Everything is the same as last year on the contract. He also congratulated the new officials that were sworn in. **It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to authorize the Chair to sign Bois Blanc Island Deputy contract. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (contract attached)

Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau – requested to have her longevity paid pro-rated since she did not seek re-election and will be done December 31, 2024. **It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the pro-rated longevity to be paid in January 2025. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (request attached)

Animal Shelter Manager Donna DesJardins – spoke about the shelter and asked to have shelter put on the agenda. There was a misunderstanding as to why it was not on this agenda. She would like some changes to the draft policies. She said we can't make citizens pay for vet care when they adopt. But we could possibly raise adoption fees beginning January 2025. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said she feels the adoption fees are ok as is. Donna also said that foster care; the county still pays for the vet care and food for the animals. It was decided that Donna, Commissioner St. Louis-Scott, ROD Mary Jo Savard and Clerk Vowell to make some changes to the Animal Shelter policies.

Veterans Committee Chair Dick Pershinske – said the County Board has no discretion to turn down pay vouchers for Veterans Committee. He does not agree to this. He spoke about the grant money and waiting to see how much unused grant money needs to be sent back to the State. He advised the board not to pay the unused funds back until we get answers. He also said the Veterans Committee has chosen not to accept the Veterans Service state grant for 2025. They are already short staffed and cannot keep up as it is. Commissioner Kaiser has the CVSF reports from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency; with the correct numbers. The unused grant funds report from the county is not correct; VSO Mike Redmond missed a voucher in the amount of \$1370 to the state in his reporting. While researching this Commissioner Kaiser found discrepancy; a new vendor Hiawatha Associates that was paid almost \$5000 and was supposed to be a non-profit foundation. And it turns out it is a DBA that belongs to the Veterans Committee Chair Dick Pershinske. Dick said spending all this frivolous money will not accomplish zip. Chair Litzner said the audit that was requested last year was not followed. Audit started due to some concerns such as some credit card bills were being paid without proper receipts attached. It appeared that several payments were paid to non-county residents as well. The Veterans Service Grant is a county grant, not a Veterans Committee grant. This will be on the next agenda as to if the County is going to accept this grant. Dick asked who will administer these grant funds if the county accepts it. Chair Litzner said the Veterans Service Office will.

New Business:

A retirement resolution was presented for Don Wright retiring after 41 years at Community Action Agency. Chair Litzner read it aloud. Retirement party is December 20 and Commissioner St. Louis-Scott will be presenting the retirement resolution to him. (resolution attached)

Request from Circuit Court Judge Rahilly to be put on Mackinac County's health insurance plan. Commissioner Kaiser stated the best time to discuss this was at the end of January when the counties will be meeting to talk all things relating to the circuit. (letter attached)

Closed session for union negotiations. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to move into closed session at 3:41pm. **Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** Discussion of Sheriff Office union negotiations was had. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Kaiser to move back into regular session at 4:13pm. VVMC

Old Business:

Reconsideration of public hearing for the Road Commission. Commissioner Kaiser submitted a letter for discussion to reconsider scheduling public hearings. **It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to open discussion on Road Commission public hearings. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.** Commissioner Clark said she has no idea what's going on with the Road Commission and she is not opposed to having a hearing. She thinks 2 extra members should be elected not appointed. If a hearing is agreed upon there has to be a minimum 28-day notice posted. Commissioner Patrick thinks this decision should be left to the new board coming in. Commissioner Kaiser said she tried to have public hearings when she first took office but no one else agreed. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to request a public hearing and leave the scheduling of this hearing to the new board. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.**

Discussion of pay step increase for District Court Magistrate position. This employee has been here for 1 year. Court Administrator Christine Bawol answered some questions. She said there is continuing education required with 12 credits per year. Commissioner Kaiser said that is standard with most jobs now and she thinks a pay grade 8 is appropriate. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott agreed. The board agreed to moving this position from a pay grade 6 to 8 effective February 2025 after all of the training is completed. Administrator Bawol will let the Clerks Office know when the training is completed to change it in payroll at that time. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to move to pay grade 8. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.**
(letter attached)

Discussion of Veteran Committee appointments. The 2 terms are staggered. Deadline in the paper for interested persons is Friday December 13. We need to make sure the people that applied previously are still interested in the position. The County Board vets and interviews the applicants and then appoints them. In the past the County Board let the Veterans Committee interview and recommend, but County Board does not have to do that. It was a courtesy. There are 3 positions open, 2 outgoing and one filling the position of Paul Wandrie when he resigned. Interviews need to be scheduled prior to next regular board meeting. It was decided interviews will be Monday December 23 at 10am and the regular meeting afterwards at 11am.

Committee Reports/Additional Board Member Business:

Chair Litzner said the UP State Fair went really well this summer even with the weather not cooperating. And if anyone gets a chance to attend it next summer, he highly recommends it.

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said the assessment was done on the Veterans modular office space. No lead or asbestos detected and a very small spot of mold found and Clark Contracting will get that cleaned and repaired.

Public Comment:

Ben Christensen – thanked Commissioner Kaiser for bringing up the Road Commission again and looking into things. And wish Chair Litzner good luck on his new role of Road Commissioner.

Don Butkovich – thanked the board for reconsideration of having the public hearings.

Shawn Borowicz – thanked Commissioner Kaiser for bringing attention to the Road Commission.

Todd Joseph – said this Board of Commissioners needs to deal with the Road Commission and not pass it onto the new board coming in.

Christina Shaw- asked how the county can afford to pay for 2 new Road Commissioners when her road is not being maintained.

Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the regular bills of December 11 for approval in the amount of \$360,524.27. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of December 11 for approval in the amount of \$95,873.30. **It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-71. **It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-72. **It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-73. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-74. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-75. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-76. **It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

Communications:

MSU Extension News, November Animal Shelter report.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 4:57pm.

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk