

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday December 14, 2023

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday December 14, 2023 in the Circuit Courtroom, 3rd Floor, 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: Corina Clark, Jodi Kaiser, Dan Litzner, Mike Patrick, Judy St. Louis-Scott.

Agenda Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the agenda as amended. VVMC

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023 as amended. VVMC

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023 as presented. VVMC

Public Comment:

Dick Pershinske – told the board he’s disappointed with the time it’s taken to get the opioid committee up and running. Also wanted to know the status of the recycling initiative.

MSU Extension Traci Abram – job skill fairs scheduled in 2024 and they are going to be in the schools for 9-12th grades.

Mary Hobson – county retiree is not happy about the insurance changes for the post 65 group. She asked if she could be an exception and would like to remain on the current health insurance plan. Bryce Tracy - Health Insurance Committee Chair answered her questions and addressed her concerns. And reminded her of the conference call with 44North and Benistar to address the retiree insurance questions and educate them on the policy. Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau also had some information regarding the insurance policy.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau – swampland pilt tax came in on December 14. We are currently \$32,000 or 33,000 in hole but we still have another \$335,000 revenue coming in and we still have additional months of bills and payrolls.

Sheriff Ed Wilk – had meeting with MDOC to look at local resources. Some of the issues are housing for Soo Locks and the Line 5 Tunnel project. There is some temporary housing available but not enough. He also got some answers from Astrea regarding the phone and internet bills. We do not believe the Portage Twp address was an issue. We are holding the bills until this is sorted

out. Also recently received Stone garden reimbursement \$41,232. New water heater installed in the jail today. For 2023 budget he asked for \$15,000 for bullet proof vests. Was not able to get them but would like to purchase them in the new year. He would like to request that the \$15,000 be put in the 2024 budget. Commissioner Litzner asked the Sheriff if he had an employee on FMLA. The Sheriff said he did not have an employee currently on FMLA. The Sheriff suggested that if they would like to go continue to discuss an employee then they should go into closed session.

MEA Chris Brynes – more developing marine projects, they are encouraging larger projects and funding. Hoping to see some of the port projects come together. Commissioner Kaiser asked him to send quarterly reports to the board. She also had some questions for him on grant applications.

E911 Coordinator Bryce Tracy – Thanked people for attending his annual symposium dinner. And said just in 2023 over 55,000 calls came in to dispatch.

Equalization Director Mike Gillett – going to advertise soon for the Data Assessment Coordinator position. Might cost more to post on Michigan's Assessors but a good way to advertise. Commissioner Kaiser about the apportionment and some errors. She said in the future if we are going to approve the reports that the board needs to get an original copy and a proposed copy to check for errors before it's approved.

Clerk Hillary Vowell – requested Maintenance Jerry Lambert get his remaining personal time paid out instead of taking the time off. He has been unable to take any time off without a part-time person to fill in. He has 28 hours in the amount of \$588.56. Commissioner Kaiser wanted to review the AFSCME contract regarding this. She would like to table this request until we get an answer from the contract. This will be on the December 28 agenda.

New Business:

Polly Paquin – Historical Society and Culture Center wanted to thank the board for allowing her to speak at the meeting, also thanked the board for their letter of support last month and the financial help. She introduced Society Treasurer Jim Graves and he gave an update and a handout on the progress of the historical building. They have received a federal grant and are still looking for additional funding. The board thanked them for coming in and that it was great to have an update. (handout attached)

Josh Freed - Friend of the Court requesting to have his office positions reorganized/reclassified. He would like his staff to all be cross-trained and he will be supervising more closely and having more office hours. The employees revised their job descriptions to fit these changes he is proposing. With all employees being fairly new, he feels it will be best to make these changes and not wait. Commissioner Kaiser had some questions regarding the reimbursements for the FOC from the state. Josh Freed will put together a formal request for the 1st regular board meeting in 2024. (handout attached)

CLMCAA Transportation Coordinator Troy Earls – requested to have the annual resolution approved to contract with MDOT for transportation. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve this resolution. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (resolution attached)

Old Business:

Request to post the FY2024 Budget for public viewing for 14 days. Veterans Board Chair Dick Pershinske thinks the budget should be simple but is very complicated. He asked why he has not been informed as to the reason the Veterans Officer has not received the raise they are requesting. He also discussed holding rent payments and not paying them. And he is not happy about changes being made to the VA Office budget without the VA Board being notified. Commissioner Patrick asked why the Veterans Budget was changed without full board approval. Commissioner Kaiser said this was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting and was agreed on. Commissioner Litzner said the board is budgeting the amount that the millage collects and it's not fiscally responsible to spend more than is collected. He thinks the state grant that the VA Office receives should be utilized prior to the County's fund balance being spent. Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau said the board should read thru the Budget Resolution before the next meeting. That many of the topics in the resolution can answer some questions the board has. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the FY2024 Budget for public view. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (budget attached)

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to move into Closed Session to discuss a property purchase and a legal opinion that the board received. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Closed Session: It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to move into closed session at 6:00pm to discuss purchasing of property and written legal opinion. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott at 6:27pm to move out of closed session. VVMC

Old Business cont'd:

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to authorize Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau to proceed with the property purchase negotiations. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser and second by Commissioner Clark to move forward with the Veterans Office forensic audit. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

Additional Board Member Business:

Commissioner Litzner – requested to move the next regular board meeting on December 28, 2023 to 2:00pm rather than 4:30pm. This was agreed upon by all members.

Commissioner Litzner - requested to schedule the Organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 3:00pm. This was agreed upon by all members.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Clark – gave an update on the Dam Committee.

Commissioner Litzner – H.O.M.E. auction raised approximately \$9500.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the regular bills of December 14 for approval in the amount of \$117,308.89. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott 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 December 1 for approval in the amount of \$304,663.86 It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of December 8 for approval in the amount of \$56,859.41. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of December 13 for approval in the amount of \$628,948.01. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to remove bill #91003 in the amount of \$750. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Litzner, Patrick. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the additional bills in the amount of \$628,198.01. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-54. 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)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-55. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-56. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-57. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-58. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

Communications:

October Animal Shelter report, MSU Extension News

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk