

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Monday December 23, 2024**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday December 23, 2024 in the Annex Boardroom, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Litzner at 10:00am.

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

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

**Agenda Approval:** It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the agenda as presented. VVMC

**Public Comment:**

None

**Business:** The County Board of Commissioner conducted Veteran Committee interviews to appoint 3 open seats. The following individuals were interviewed: David Coven, Bob Blevins, John Kling, Tracy Maybank, Timothy Kreuger, Anthony Baker, Charles Stenson, and Richard Pershinske.

The 3 open seats will be appointed at the regular board meeting on December 23, 2024 at 11:00am.

**Additional Board Member Business:**

None

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:53am.

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk

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**Monday December 23, 2024**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday December 23, 2024 in the Annex Board Room, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Litzner at 11:00am.

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

**Minutes Approval:**

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the minutes of November 26 regular meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the minutes of December 11 regular meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Public Comment:**

Register of Deeds Mary Jo Savard – thanked the board for their service.

**FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING:** It was moved Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to adopt the proposed budget. Road Deputy health insurance line item needs to be amended at the first meeting regular meeting in January. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

**SR Appraiser Jolene Larsen** – requested reimbursement for travel to her level 3 license for Equalization Department. It was discussed that her position does not require a level 3 and the job description was changed to reflect that. Mike Gillett said the money was put in the budget for education and Chair Litzner said it was for continuing education not to get a level 3 license. This request for reimbursement was denied at a previous meeting. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to pay the reimbursement but not pay any future training and employee must use their own vacation time. Roll Call: YES: Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner. Motion failed. (letter attached)

**Equalization Director Mike Gillett** – spoke on getting equalization into the state. He said the state delayed the deadline. And there were some errors with the BS&A upload from the state.

**Sheriff Ed Wilk** – Sheriff Office Union negotiations are still going on. Thanked the board for the last 2 years. And good luck to Commissioner Litzner who is moving onto the Road Commission Board.

**Register of Deeds Mary Jo Savard** – they had a very good 2024 and revenue is way up from previous year.

**Veterans Committee Chair Dick Pershinske** – said the Board of Commissioners cannot make up policy for the Veterans Committee and if money is in the budget; it cannot be denied. Also, the State Veterans Service Grant is not a county grant but a Veteran grant. Veterans Committee has to endorse it.

**New Business:**

**Appointment to EUP Regional Governing Board** - There are 2 people interested in being appointed to the EUP Regional Governing Board: Matt Dost and Mark Clymer. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Litzner to appoint Matt Dost. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (letters of interest attached)

**Old Business:**

**Appointments to Veterans Committee** – 3 openings: It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to appoint David Coven to 4-year term 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2028. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to appoint John Kling to 4-year term 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2028. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Litzner to appoint Bob Blevins to 3-year term 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

**Discussion of Veterans Service Grant** - Veterans Service grant is a County grant. The money will be in County's account in January 2025. It is approximately \$58,000. If County does not spend it, we have to send it back to the State. The Soldier/Sailor Relief fund is for war time Veterans. The millage money is for peace time Veterans. The grant application requires 3 signatures: County Treasurer, County Chairperson and Veterans Service Officer.

**Discussion of Animal Shelter** - The Animal Shelter Manager is asking for authorization to release an employee is needed. And the Shelter needs to post the opening and follow hiring guidelines per Union contract and the applicants need to be interviewed by the County Board. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to give authority to release part-time employee and advertise with proper procedures to hire a new employee. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Discussion of Equalization Director** - Closed session for employee matter (MCL 268 (a)) It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to move into closed session at 11:48am.VVMC

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to move back into regular session at 12.25pm. VVMC

Commissioner Litzner said there is no good timing on how equalization reports are timed during the year. Dulcee Ranta - Equalization Director with Chippewa County said she could fill in until May and in the meantime the County can look for a new Director. Or if the County likes her services, then we can decide to hire her full time. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to terminate the contract with Equalization Director Mike Gillett effective immediately. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Clark, Patrick.

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to allow Chair Litzner to negotiate contract with Dulcee Ranta to make her Equalization Director of record for Mackinac County. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Committee Reports/Additional Board Member Business:**

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott thanks the other members for their service over the last 2 years. Commissioner Clark also thanked the other members. Chair Litzner thanked the other members and said they always had the best interest of the County at heart.

**Public Comment:**

Dick Pershinske – there is an open investigation of FOIA at Attorney Generals Office. This board has left one of the worst legacies. The lawsuit has cost \$65,000 or more for no reason. Chair Litzner said this hasn't been made without cause. We didn't decide that an audit was just needed randomly. We found issues that made us question procedures of the Veterans Service Office. The By Laws are still in draft form and not completed and the procedures are not done correctly.

**Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of December 23 for approval in the amount of \$608,679.89. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser 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 budget amendment #2024-77. 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 #2024-78. 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 #2024-79. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick 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 #2024-80. It was moved by Commissioner Clark 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 #2024-81. 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)

**Communications:**

November banking report.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 12:47pm.

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk