

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Monday February 26, 2024

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday February 26, 2024 in the Circuit Courtroom, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

This meeting was rescheduled from Thursday February 22, 2024.

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 Kaiser to approve the agenda as presented. VVMC

Minutes Approval:

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to make amendments to the January 25 minutes and bring to next meeting for approval. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the minutes of January 29 as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to make amendments to the February 8 minutes and bring to next meeting for approval. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Public Comment:

Diane Keighley, Cedarville Resident – addressed concerns on how the animal shelter staff treated her and how they told her the shelter was too full and was not accepting anymore cats.

Dick Pershinske, Veterans Board member – requested that the amended Opioid Resolution be put on the next agenda for approval. The Veteran's Office is looking for additional office space. 1 position open on the Veterans Board. How is the board proceeding with the recent opinions from legal counsel? He said the Veterans Officers raise should go through and veterans' assistance that was denied previously should go through.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Sheriff Ed Wilk – the new metal detectors have shipped. Currently they have 4 corrections officers in the academy graduating soon. New Sheriff app is up and running.

Clerk Hillary Vowell – asked for compensation for the additional duties that were put on her and her staff for the early vote to be implemented. The State of Michigan is reimbursing all costs related to the 9 days of early vote for the Presidential Primary. She also said that she worked as an election inspector for the 9 days including the 2 weekends. The board questioned if this was legal to compensate the County Clerk. They asked Clerk Vowell to look into this further and talk to Michigan Association of Counties about it. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to table this until the next meeting. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (request attached)

New Business:

Letter of resignation was received from Erin Evashevski from the Brownfield Authority. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Kaiser to accept the resignation. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (letter attached)

LMAS Director Nick Derusha – presented the annual 2023 report. 2023 ended positive. They focused on getting the word out on what services the health department offers. 2023 revenues were over the expenditures. The board had some questions regarding the state wide septic codes. (report attached)

44North is recommending prescription changes from international to domestic pharmacy. There are 2 options; it was decided option 2 would be the best. This will not increase costs to the county or employees. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve option 2. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Discussion was had on the recycling plan. We have until July to decide which route we will go with recycling. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to select EUP Regional Planning as our designated planning agency for the recycling project. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Discussion of hiring a county administrator was had. Commissioner Kaiser said she has had negative feedback. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said she looked into this and 70 out of 83 counties have administrators. Commissioner Patrick said we previously had county administrators on 2 different occasions and it was a failure. He also said Clerk Vowell is listed in the MAC Directory as our administrator. Probate Judge Graham said he was a county employee during both the administrators and it was a disaster and recommends not hiring another one. This topic was tabled and may be brought up at a later date.

New legal counsel proposals were discussed. Commissioner Patrick said we could offer Bonnie Toskey a retainer and that would move us to the top of the list when we needed representation. The board will review these and will make a decision at a later date. (proposals attached)

Application from Mackinac Animal Aid Association for 2% tribal money was presented for approval. This is pass through money that the tribe awards to applicants. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the 2% application for Mackinac Animal Aid Association. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (application attached)

District Court requested fund to correct a deficit that was causing an imbalance in funds since 2005. It was approved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the request for funds. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Old Business:

Reclassification requests that were reviewed at a Committee of the Whole meeting in February.

Reclass as follows:

The following 2 positions were temporarily reclassified in spring 2023 when they were combined as 2 jobs in 1. Circuit Court Clerk/Court Administrator position requested pay grade 9, was approved for pay grade 8. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve this position to pay grade 8. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

Court Recorder/ADR Clerk/Judicial Secretary requested pay grade 9, was approved for pay grade 8. This will freeze the pay for this position since it is currently at a pay grade 9. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to move this position back to a pay grade 8. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

Prosecutors Crime Victim Advocate/FOIA Coordinator/Office Manager requested pay grade 10, was approved for pay grade 9. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve this position to pay grade 9. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick.

Prosecutors Criminal Registrar/Assistant Office Manager requested pay grade 7, was approved for pay grade 7. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve this position to pay grade 7. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

The requests from the Friend of the Court Office are no longer being considered. Friend of the Court Josh Freed is re-organizing the office and does not need the reclass done at this time.

The Sheriffs Department reclass requests will be acted on at a later date.

Old business continued: Letter of re-appointment to the Hiawatha Behavioral Health Board was received. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the re-appointment of Dr. John Shoberg to the Hiawatha Behavioral Health Board. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (letter attached)

Paul Krause, Mackinac Ford Sales – discussed the Sheriff Department bids for 2 recreation vehicles. He was disappointed that the Sheriff Department selected Soo Ford Motors for the purchase. He asked who has the authority to approve the bid selection and purchase of the vehicles. Commissioner Kaiser said the purchase policy was revised. After the purchase policy was revised by removing the \$500 cap for budgeted purchases but felt that the Fixed Assets automatically gave that a ceiling of \$1000. The board's understanding was that the bids, once opened would come back for board approval. Mr. Krause's bid should have been rejected outright for not meeting the bids specs and should not have been given an opportunity to rebid. Then the board should have taken the recommendation of the Sheriff from the remaining bids. As the trucks have been ordered, the board chose not to revoke the bids. Further clarification on the purchasing policy is needed to strengthen/clarify this area.

Additional Board Member Business:

A joint meeting with Luce County regarding the Big Manistique Lake Dam is scheduled for Monday March 4, 2024 at 4pm at the Luce County Courthouse.

Commissioner Patrick will contact the Animal Shelter to address the concerns from a citizen at public comment.

Commissioner Kaiser discussed forest service letter.

Commissioner Litzner said businesses affected by the lack of snow this winter can apply for small business disaster loans.

Committee Reports:

None.

Public Comment:

Dick Pershinske said Michigan Farm Bureau and MTA are collecting signatures to get a ballot initiative to rescind the states position on energy.

Register of Deeds Mary Jo Savard – asked the board when they are going to act on the wage study.

Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the manual bills of February 15 for approval in the amount of \$50,059.95. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark 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 February 21 for approval in the amount of \$63,312.37. It was moved by Commissioner Clark 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 regular bills of February 23 for approval in the amount of \$56,198.66. 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 February 22 for approval in the amount of \$85,553.70. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-08. 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 #2024-09. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser 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)

Communications:

MDHHS thank you letter

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk