

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, January 2, 2025

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their Organizational meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2025 in the Boardroom Annex Building, 100 S. Marley St., St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Vowell at 1:00pm.

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

Roll Call: Austin Kimberling, John Kling, Mike Patrick, Daryl Schroeder, Judy St. Louis-Scott.

Agenda Approval – It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick to accept the agenda as presented. VVMC

Public Comment – none.

Nomination of Chair – Clerk Vowell called for nominations for Board Chair. Commissioner Kimberling nominated Commissioner Patrick as Chair and Commissioner St. Louis-Scott nominated Commissioner Kling as Chair. There were no other nominations made. Commissioner Patrick moved to close nominations for Chair second by Commissioner Kling. Roll Call for Patrick: Kimberling, Patrick and Schroeder. Roll Call for Kling: St. Louis-Scott and Kling. Commissioner Patrick elected as Chair. Clerk Vowell turned the meeting over to Chair Patrick.

Vice Chair – Chair Patrick nominated Commissioner Schroeder for Vice Chair. Commissioner Kling nominated Commissioner Kimberling for Vice Chair. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott nominated Commissioner Kling for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations made. Roll Call: Kimberling voted Schroeder, Kling voted Kimberling, Patrick voted Schroeder, Schroeder voted Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott voted Kling. Commissioner Schroeder was elected Vice Chair.

Committee Appointments – The list of board committees was reviewed and assigned to board members. (Committee Appointments attached).

Board Liaison Appointments – The list of board liaisons was reviewed and assigned. (Board Liaisons attached).

Rules of the Board – The Rules of the Board were reviewed. Commissioner Schroeder would like to add a meeting date that could be held on the west end of the County; so that the constituents in the west end could attend and have a voice. The location for this meeting will be discussed at a later date.

Commissioner Kimberling would like to combine committee reports with additional board member business. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to approve these amendments. Roll call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (rules attached)

Meeting Schedule – the meeting schedule was discussed. Commissioner Kimberling thinks we could possibly have one Committee of the Whole meeting where discussion is taken care of. And the second meeting of the month could be a regular meeting where action would be taken. Commissioner Kling thinks there needs to be time for discussion and debate. It was decided the Board will hold their regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Courthouse Annex unless there is a large attendance whereas the meeting would be moved to the Circuit Courtroom, 3rd Floor. The Board could discuss this in the future and this schedule could possibly change. (Meeting Schedule attached)

Bills Policy – It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Schroeder to approve the bills policy. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (Policy attached)

Additional Board Member Business - A resolution was discussed to have the Chair be a 1- or 2-year term. It was decided to keep the Chair position as a 2-year term. In light of the Commissioner terms being 4 years now; a 2-year term for Chair seems appropriate. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling for the Chair being a 2-year term. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, Schroeder, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

Public Comment

Dick Pershinske advised the board that Charles Stenson and himself are at this meeting at representatives of the Veterans Committee. And they are going to remain in that position and himself included as Chair and that comes from legal advice. The actions from the previous County Board are illegal and will be null and void. A resolution has been given to Commissioner Patrick; both Charles Stenson and Dick has indicated that they wish to be reappointed. So, such time as a new Board makes a decision to either deny or appoint, they will remain in their respective positions. The 3rd position that was appointed did fill a vacancy but is suspect as to how it was done. It did not follow the guidelines where the Veterans Committee does the vetting and makes a recommendation to the County Board. In light of that, this board has some heavy lifting to do. And he would make a recommendation that at the next meeting A) the lawsuit needs to be terminated, nothing positive will come out of that lawsuit. B) The forensic audit needs to be terminated, there is an issue there the money from the millage was made available to the Veterans. Personally, he thinks the numbers are accurate. C) Policy was created by the Board that if a Veterans

Committee member attends a County Board meeting that he will not be compensated per diem or mileage, that is illegal. The County Board cannot initiate policy for the Veterans Committee. And more importantly if it's in the Veterans budget they have no discretion over how it is spent. So that policy needs to be rescinded. And himself and a couple other members do have vouchers in now for payment and were not paid before. He can assure that the Veterans Committee is excited to move forward and anxious to have an open line of communication with the County Board. Chair Patrick said VSO Department Head Mike Redmond needs to attend the County Board meetings on behalf of the Veterans Office.

Sheriff Ed Wilk welcomed the new members. And since Commissioner Kimberling is the new Liaison for the Sheriffs Office and they are currently in middle of negotiations he would like him to attend the rest of the negotiations. And told the Board that his door is always open and if anyone ever has any issues, please come directly to him.

Adjournment – It was moved by Commissioner Schroeder second by Commissioner Kling to adjourn the meeting at 1:45pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk