

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday January 23, 2025

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday January 23, 2025 in the Annex Boardroom, 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: Austin Kimberling, John Kling, Mike Patrick, Judy St. Louis-Scott.
Absent: Daryl Schroeder.

Agenda Approval: It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kimberling to approve the agenda as amended. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder.

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kling to approve the minutes of January 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder. (minutes attached)

It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the minutes of January 9, 2025 Regular meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder. (minutes attached)

It was moved by Commissioner Schroeder second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025 Special meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder. (minutes attached)

Public Comment:

None.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Temp Equalization Director Dulcee Ranta – introduced herself to the new members. She presented an equalization report and it has been uploaded and published. The department is all compliant and ahead of schedule.

Treasurer Tina Jones-Massey – presented 4th qtr financial reports. She informed the board that Deputy Treasurer Becky Paul is retiring and she will be posting the open position.

MSU Extension Education Coordinator Traci Abram – introduced herself to the new members. She discussed some new volunteers in the St. Ignace Area and MSU will soon be offering art and culinary classes.

Prosecutor Stuart Spencer – said there has been lots of appeal cases filed, numerous victim crimes in January and many new meth related cases.

He also requested years of MERS credit to retirement. Back in 2016 the County opened MERS Defined Benefits to have elected and 1 commissioner opt in. He has requested service credit from the previous board and they denied the request. Clerk Vowell said MERS does allow the county to credit employees if they decide to. This request was tabled until the board can consult with their attorney and the MERS Representative. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to table this request. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder. (request attached)

New Business:

A retirement resolution for Deputy Treasurer Becky Paul was read aloud by Chair Patrick. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to adopt the retirement resolution. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder.

Clerk Vowell presented the Mackinac Straits Health Services agreement for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the County. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder. (agreement attached)

Letter of interest for the Superior District Library Board was reviewed. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kimberling to appoint Daryl Orr to the Superior District Library Board. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder. (letter attached)

Letter of interest for the Planning Commissioner was reviewed. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to appoint Jill Eyre to the Planning Commission. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder. (letter attached)

Letter of interest for the Brownfield Authority was reviewed. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to appoint Jodi Kaiser to the Brownfield Authority. Roll Call: YES: Kling, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Kimberling, Patrick. Absent: Schroeder. Tie vote – motion failed. (letter attached)

Old Business:

RFP for a new Equalization Director was reviewed. The temporary contract with Dulcee Ranta expires end of May. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the RFP as presented. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder. (RFP attached)

RFP for legal counsel was reviewed. The current county legal counsel is selling their business and retiring. The board would like to appoint temporary counsel in the interim. It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to approve the RFP as presented. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder. (RFP attached)

It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to appoint Eric Conn as temporary legal counsel. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder.

It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to go into closed session pursuant MCL 15.268(h) to discuss legal opinion regarding the Veterans Service Grant at 5:07pm. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder.

It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to move out of closed session at 5:11pm. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder.

It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to go back into regular session at 5:12pm. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder.

It was moved by Commissioner Kling second by Commissioner Kimberling to accept recommendation of counsel to proceed course of action to get the grant back in County possession. Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Schroeder.

Committee Reports/Additional Board Member Business:

Clerk Vowell recommended scheduling a Committee of Whole meeting to review the 2 reclass applications. February 5, 2025 at 4:30 was decided on.

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said she feels that the 2 members that voted against appointing Jodi Kaiser to the Brownfield Authority might have done it for personal reasons. Jodi is a great asset to the Brownfield Authority and it would be a disservice to the County to not have her on there. She has been such a huge advocate for housing needs.

Commissioner Kling said he attended a Road Commission meeting.

Commissioner Patrick said the portage office unit will be moved over to the old EMS site by next week. And the hospital also donated the LED light for the parking lot.

Public Comment:

Traci Abram would like to see if she can put in raised gardens this summer at the new MSU Extension office. She said a water source is needed and if this could be installed.

Mike Williford, St. Ignace City Council Member – introduced himself and said he plans on attending more meetings. Also had a complaint about the Prosecutor not giving him any notification on a crime that he was a victim of; he said he felt he should be notified and that the prosecutors attitude towards him was unacceptable.

Treasurer Tina Massey – said Jodi Kaiser did well on the Brownfield and she agrees with Commissioner St. Louis-Scott that she should be kept on the committee.

Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the regular bills of January 23 for approval in the amount of \$131,529.42. It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner Kling to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of January 23 for approval in the amount of \$14,068.70. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kimberling to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: Roll Call: YES: Kimberling, Kling, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Schroeder. (bills attached)

Communications:

December banking report, December Animal Shelter report, MSU Extension News, Michilimackinac Historical Society Valentine's Day Breakfast invite.

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Kimberling second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to adjourn the meeting at 5:32pm.

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk

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