

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday January 25, 2024**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday January 25, 2024 in the Circuit Court Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 100 S. Marley Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

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 Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the agenda as amended. VVMC

**Minutes Approval:**

None.

**Public Comment:**

Portage Twp resident James Mattson voiced some concerns regarding the Dam on Big Manistique Lake. He believes the levels are lower than they should be.

Don Butkovich, Garfield Township Supervisor – spoke on behalf of Garfield Township. He said they are in support of having a 5-member Road Commissioner board and holding public hearings regarding this.

Gary Derusha, Hudson Township resident – also in support of holding public hearings regarding the Road Commission and moving to a 5-member board.

Eric Danielson, St. Ignace Township Supervisor – supports a 5-member board for the Road Commission as well.

Al Garavaglia, retired Hudson Township Supervisor – was also in attendance in support of having public hearings with the Road Commission.

**Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

**Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau** – presented the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter financial reports. The County still has revenue coming in from 2023.

**Equalization Director Mike Gillett** – reporting on the latest happenings in the Equalization Department. Recently had software installed to support the transferring of large files with local unit assessors.

**Clerk Hillary Vowell** – requested approval of resolution to implement the State mandated 9 days of early voting for federal and state elections. 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)

**Sheriff Ed Wilk** – the metals detectors are 20 years old now and are failing. They are in the process of ordering new ones. And replacing bullet proof vests for the officers. One of the patrol cars was in an accident and it was a total loss.

**New Business:**

The board opened the sealed bids for 2 new Sheriff recreational vehicles. The bids are as follows:

Mackinac Ford Sales: ½ ton \$47,990, ¾ ton \$52,090

O’Connors Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram: ½ ton \$58,495, ¾ ton \$63,415

Rodenroth Chevy Motors: ½ ton \$49,110, ¾ ton \$55,205

Soo Ford Motors: ½ ton \$53,699, ¾ ton \$56,499

A resolution to create an opioid settlement steering committee was discussed. The proposed committee had a meeting and it went very well. Needing a task force to start implementing the distribution of the settlement funds.

**Old Business:**

Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency was present to request funds for heating assistance for senior citizens in Mackinac County. The Board agreed to give \$50,000 out of ARPA funds to Community Action. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to approve the donation of \$50,000 for senior heating assistance. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (request attached)

Bois Blanc Township is requesting the payout of the ARPA funds that were approved in October 2022. No action needed as this was already approved. (request attached)

An Amended salary resolution was presented with some minor corrections. The wages for District Court Reporter were not correct and the FOC was missing on the previous one. E911 Coordinator Bryce Tracy also brought to the boards attention some of the employees on this salary resolution are receiving 1% less in retirement than the others. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the amended salary resolution for non-union non-elected. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (resolution attached)

Chris Brynes, Mackinac Economic Alliance – presented MEAs financial and January activity report.

Discussion of holding a public hearing (MCL 224.6 Sec 6) to alter the number of Road Commissioners in Mackinac County. Having a joint public hearing would give citizens a chance to be heard. Road Commissioner Tom Doty was present and said that they have done their work and they have meetings regularly that the public can attend to address any concerns. He feels public hearings are not necessary and does not understand how 2 more members would change anything. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said she feels this could cost the county significant more money to have 2 more members. She does not see a need for any public hearings. Commissioner Patrick feels this is not our

job and the County Board is over stepping. He said let the Road Commission run their own business.

Moran Twp Supervisor Sue Dionne spoke and said that Moran Township is very happy with the Road Commissions services and the way they are conducting business. Commissioner Litzner said when he was on the Brevort Township Board that they were very happy with the Road Commission. Commissioner Patrick said that Clark Township has always been pleased with the Road Commissions services as well and they are always willing to communicate and solve any issues. Garfield Twp Supervisor Don Butkovich would like to see the public hearing take place and feels it would be beneficial. Gary Derusha worked for the Road Commission for 30 years and said it's difficult to go to the meetings and feels the members don't listen to voiced concerns. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to hold public hearings with the Road Commission. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser. NO: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. Motion failed with no support.

**Closed Session:** It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to move into closed session at 5:57pm to discuss purchasing of property under MCL 15.267 8(d). VVMC

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick at 6:02pm to move out of closed session. VVMC

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Kaiser to go back into regular session. VVMC

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to authorize Chair Litzner to sign the purchase agreement now that the seller agreed to the price. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Additional Board Member Business:**

Commissioner Kaiser asked to be appointed to the Brownfield Authority. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to appoint Commissioner Kaiser to the Brownfield Authority. VVMC

Commissioner Litzner passed out a proposed wage scale spreadsheet to be reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting January 29, 2024. He also said that the County's Attorney has been taking an abnormally long time to respond to our requests. And possibly thinking we should look into hiring another attorney.

**Committee Reports:**

None.

**Public Comment:**

Dick Pershinske mentioned the Veterans Service Millage needs to be put on the ballot for the August election.

**Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of January 25 for approval in the amount of \$9,673.67. 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 manual bills of January 12 for approval in the amount of \$259,392.17. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott 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 2023/24 for approval in the amount of \$293,878.73. 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 January 19 for approval in the amount of \$13,578.40. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Patrick 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 January 24 for approval in the amount of \$54,011.08. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024.02. 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)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024.03. 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)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024.04. 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 #2024.05. 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)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024.06. 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 #2024.07. 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)

**Communications:**

December 2023 banking report, MSU Extension news

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk