

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday November 14, 2024**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday November 14, 2024 in the Circuit Courtroom 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 Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the agenda as presented. VVMC

**Minutes Approval:** It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the minutes of October 23 as amended. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the minutes of November 1 as amended. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

Veterans Committee Member Charles Stenson – spoke briefly on the millage money and asked what the status of the Veterans Audit was. Commissioner Kaiser said it's not complete due to the Veterans Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Material Breach of Mediation Agreement from May 3, 2024. He also asked how the modular office unit is going. Commissioners told him it has been purchased and site plan was approved, waiting for the environmental inspection for lead and asbestos to be completed.

**Equalization Director Mike Gillett** – interviewed some good candidates and plan on hiring one of them for the Clerks position. Also spoke on how important the health insurance would be for him and his family personally. Commissioner Kaiser asked about the GIS mapping and discussed how third-party apps are getting our parcel layer and we can't seem to rein that in at a considerable loss of potential revenue; should we just open up the data layer for free? Director Gillett said it does bring in some revenue as we generally sell the county layer to two or three entities.

**New Business:**

**MIDC Administrator Chad Peltier** – presented the 2025 budget for indigent defense. The county share is still the same as last year. And the budget was right on for 2024. He is asking the board to approve it as presented. He said a new billing program has been implemented and working well. Also, some state standards have been added. Commissioner Kaiser asked if we still needed individual contracts with both Indigent Defense and Assistant Indigent Defense Counsel? Mr. Peltier answered no that we went with the State mandated hourly rates and it was not necessary. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the grant application and contract with MIDC. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (MIDC contract attached)

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to approve the MIDC Compliance Plan Cost Analysis renewal. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (renewal attached)

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to give Administrator Chad Peltier permission to sign MIDC grant application on behalf of Chair Litzner. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

EUP Regional Planning is requesting to have a township official appointed to their governing board. The board asked Clerk Vowell to reach out to the Township Clerks to see if they have anyone interested in sitting on the EUP Regional Planning Governing Board. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to reach out to the townships. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (EUP request attached)

EUP Regional Planning also submitted a list of individuals to be appointed represent Mackinac interests' committees for Materials Management Laws. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to appoint the list from EUP Regional Planning. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (list attached)

**Mackinac Economic Alliance Chris Byrnes** – presented a list of grants that MEA has received. EGLE had given them a 3 million grant to work on switching the ferry boats to electric. And since this project did not happen so EGLE took the 3 million grant back. So, they are currently working on new grant applications. The State of Michigan is currently not putting too much into marine development. Commissioner Patrick asked if Cloverland Electric is working to expand the electric grid for charging stations. Chris said Cloverland does not want to do that at this time. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott had some questions about housing development grants. Chris said that wasn't their priority that marine development was top on their to do list. He requested that their budget be raised back to \$80,000 since it was cut in half for the 2024 budget. The board said the \$80,000 was initially set to get the MEA on their feet and now they should be self sufficient and able to support themselves thru grants. *The Commissioners asked Chris to get the member list and financial reports to Clerk Vowell when they are available.*

Discussion was had on posting the available positions for the Veterans Service Committee in the paper and website. There is currently one opening and two will be open starting in January 2025. Three total appointments will be made. Because of the Veterans Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Material Breach of the Mediation Agreement, the board will not be having the Veterans Committee do the interviewing and recommendations. The County will be handling this as it is our Statutory responsibility. The Board would like to have members selected and ready to go for the first of the year. Chair Litzner said it is important that we get moving on this. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to post the vacant positions on the Veterans Committee to the public. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Old Business:**

Discussion was had on possibly moving the part time maintenance position to full time. Head Maintenance Jerry Lambert has not been able to take any time off lately. He feels part time could be moved to full time but the current person in the part time does not have to be moved to full time. The county would have to post for a full-time position. After some discussion it was decided to wait and see where the county is financially after the budget sessions are completed and go from there.

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

The next regular meeting will be moved to Tuesday November 26 at 3:00pm due to it falling on the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Commissioner Kaiser spoke about the Animal Shelter violating policy and hired a new part time worker without approval from the Board. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said she will have a draft of new shelter policies for the next meeting to review. The Board said that the Animal Shelter Manager should be sent a letter and put in her personnel file.

Commissioner Kaiser said that the employee wages and fringes are a huge portion of the County's budget. For 2022 was 5.12 million, 2023 was 5.64 million, estimated and projected 2024 is 5.9 million and 2025 is 6.27 million.

**Public Comment:**

Head Maintenance Jerry Lambert said we picked up 2 additional buildings to maintain and clean. That is part of why we might need another full-time maintenance position.

Christin Shaw – asked if there would be plowing or shoveling jobs available this winter. And her son put in for the part time position last year.

**Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of November 14 for approval in the amount of \$111,316.76. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott 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 November 1 for approval in the amount of \$88,681.60. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser 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 manual bills of November 13 for approval in the amount of \$176,470.10. 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 November 14 for approval in the amount of \$75,919.47. 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 #2024-61. 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 #2024-62. 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 #2024-63. 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 #2024-64. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott with no second. It was discussed that the Animal Shelter can move money from a different line item within her budget to pay for the euthanasia license and not do a budget amendment. Budget amendment #2024-64 was not approved. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-65. 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 #2024-66. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner S. 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 #2024-67. 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 #2024-68. 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 #2024-69. 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:**

None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 6:08pm.

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk