

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Tuesday November 26, 2024**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday November 26, 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 3:10pm.

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 amended. VVMC

**Minutes Approval:** It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the minutes of November 14 regular meeting 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 12 Committee of Whole meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner Clark to approve the minutes of November 19 Committee of Whole meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the minutes of November 21 Committee of Whole meeting as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

**Public Comment:**

Animal Shelter Manager Donna DesJardins – said she wasn't notified of the meeting and felt slandered in the newspaper and it was all false. And the animal shelter is a no kill shelter.

Veterans Committee Chair Dick Pershinske – said he wants to be involved in the discussion about wages when the board gets to that point.

Road Commission employee Shawn Borowicz –said he was fired last week. He feels he was let go on discrimination of age and there has been many EEOC violations.

Animal Shelter Worker Tanner North – the shelter read the article in the newspaper and is worried that his boss could be potentially let go. We are

supposed to have compassion for the animals and the resources are there. It's disheartening to think of putting animals down for no reason.

Road Commission Employee Dan Christensen – agrees with Shawn Borowicz statements. Does the County Board have the power to abolish the Road Commission? Or maybe they can appoint a member to help.

Previous Road Commission Employee Lee Kanitz – said the County Board should look into investigation of the Road Commission. My tax payer money is paying for these games. They have time to target employees and feels like they are bullying employees. And need immediate investigation into office staff and the Road Commissioners.

Seasonal Road Commission Employer Caleb Shaw – he said getting rid of older employees is a bad idea. They teach the younger employees and this would leave them with little to no training.

Commissioner Kaiser said the County Board has no jurisdictional control over the Road Commission. And do not have the authority to investigate or oversight of them. The Road Commission can be abolished by holding 2 public hearings or adjust number of members by holding 1 public hearing. She said State of Michigan statutes prevents counties from any other jurisdiction over Road Commissions. She previously tried to hold public hearings when she first came on board but nothing came of it.

Road Commissioner Chair Lester Livermore – spoke on the road commission issues. He said he likes the 2 employees that were let go, they tried to circumvent the union. And he is not sure why they think the Road Commission members have had a chance to respond and follow grievance procedures. They just have not had time to address the issues yet.

#### **Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

**Equalization Director Mike Gillett** – presented the amended Apportionment report. Deputy Treasurer Becky Paul spoke on some changes and some millages were passed and that would affect it. Commissioner Kaiser said she would like to see the previous one attached to the amended one to check the differences. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the amended Apportionment report as presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (report attached)

Deputy Treasurer Becky Paul – 60% of grant to cover Survey and Remont from the general fund. Would also like to transfer duties to Chief Deputy Register of Deeds Michelle Peters starting January 2025. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the Survey & Remont in the amount of \$37,687.20. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.**

**It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve moving the Survey & Remont duties to Michelle Peters. Clerk Vowell will draft resolution. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.**

**New Business:**

MSU Extension services agreement was reviewed. Commissioner Kaiser said since we have new office space for MSU and we are paying for all of that; should we look into adjusting the base amount that we pay to MSU.

Commissioner Clark said she is concerned that we are supplying whole building to MSU for 1 staff member 1 day a week and how cost effective is this.

**It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the 2025 MSU Extension services agreement in the amount of \$81,014. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (agreement attached)

2025 proposed budget was reviewed and some amendments were made. Clerk Vowell will send the budget to Chair Litzner before posting it to the public. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the 2025 budget for public viewing. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.**

2025 Elected Officials Salary resolution was reviewed. Salaries are as follows:

Clerk: \$68,701.38

Register of Deeds: \$64,933.01

Sheriff: \$85,000

Treasurer: \$66,453.82

Prosecutor: \$101,045.65

Board Member: \$5,500

Board Chair: \$6,750

**It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the Elected Official Salary resolution. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (resolution attached)

Commissioner Kaiser discussed the Friend of the Court wages. The formula will go by a 3-year rolling average of hearings and caseloads plus the base amount. \$87,656 includes mileage that was not included in the 2024 budget. The 4 counties want to get together every January to discuss FOC caseloads and any other court funding issues. Commissioner Kaiser also discussed the non-union salary resolution. She asked if a new contract with mandatory hours has been signed by the Equalization Director? Chair Litzner said he will try to have it ready for the next meeting for review. How many hours does this include; 28 required hours weekly was agreed upon with the members. For 2025 his salary will remain at \$62,347.37 until he agrees to new contract with the mandatory hours; then he will receive a 3.5% increase. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the Non-Union Dept Head salary as amended. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (resolution attached)

**Old Business:**

Commissioner Kaiser said after discussion with the Auditors; the county can hold the funds for the Road Match with the Townships for multiple years if they want to save for larger road projects. Clerk Vowell will send the letter to the Township Clerks. **It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to approve the Road match letter. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (letter attached)

Any of the remaining ARPA and LATCF funds will be used and designated to the courtroom remodel. And the costs for the modular office space for the Veterans Office will also come out of the LATCF funds. **It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the remaining ARPA and LATCF funds for courtroom remodel and Veterans Office space. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.**

Animal Shelter policies was discussed. Animal Shelter Manager Donna DesJardins asked if the board wanted to close the shelter. Commissioner Patrick said he never said to close the shelter. Commissioner Clark said we need to get policies set and there needs to be more guidelines. The hours of operation were discussed as well as online posting to show the public the animals that are available for adoption. The board said it is a good idea to get the animals posted more often so they can be seen. A copy of a draft policy manual was presented. Manager DesJardins will review and let the board know if she would like any changes.

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

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott said Don Wright is retiring at 41 years at Community Action Agency. She would like a retirement plaque approved by the board at the next meeting.

The regular meetings in December have been moved to Wednesday December 11 at 3:00pm and Monday December 23 at 10:00am.

**Public Comment:**

Chair Litzner spoke on the issues going on with the Road Commission. Said it was posted on Facebook and didn't feel good about how the managerial employees were acting. And not sure how he feels about stepping into his new role on the Road Commission.

Road Commission Chair Lester Livermore – thanked the board for their hard work and welcomed Chair Litzner to the Road Commission.

Sheriff Ed Wilk – thanked the board for approving the salary resolution and the raise.

Amy Christensen – said to add members to the Road Commission would have to be heard by the public with 1 hearing. Since it was turned down a current member would have to request it put back on the agenda for reconsideration.

Dick Pershinske – said to make it clear the board is not acting on Veterans Officer Mike Redmonds wages and letting the new board deal with it. And he also had not received a break down of the Boards legal counsel bills. Commissioner Kaiser offered to call the county's legal counsel and see if they can do a break down for us. This would save the Clerk time and provide it before the next meeting.

**Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of November 26 for approval in the amount of \$57,169.31. Invoice #95044 was questioned whether the board agreed to pay for the Sr Appraiser to get her level 3 license when the job description was changed to only require a level 2 license. After some discussion it was decided to pull the invoice and not pay it. **It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the regular bills minus Invoice #95044 in the amount of \$56,567.38. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of November 26 for approval in the amount of \$74,839.15. **It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-70. **It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.** (amendment attached)

**Communications:**

October banking report, Animal Shelter report and Iosco County resolution.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 4:58pm.

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk