

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday October 12, 2023

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday October 12, 2023 in the Boardroom, Courthouse Annex, 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: Corina Clark, Jodi Kaiser, Mike Patrick, Judy St.Louis-Scott. Absent: Dan Litzner.

Agenda Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the agenda as amended. VVMC

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to approve the minutes of September 28, 2023 as amended. VVMC

Public Comment:

Joe Nolan – Director Community Action Agency inquired on how to receive the senior services millage monies. Treasurer Goudreau requested that he send a letter to the board that will be presented at the next board meeting.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Commissioner Patrick – informed the Board that Mike Kasper received an award from FEMA for the Safe Harbor Safety Exercise. The Board thanked him for his hard work and dedication. For a short time, Mackinac County is the face of FEMA; a video of the exercise is on their website.

Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau – since audit was late, our qualifying statement was denied with the State. This is not the county's fault but it will make the county ineligible to borrow money next year. Also, there is a proposed ballot initiative Ax the Tax that would end the collection of real estate taxes, this would have a very negative effect on the county.

MEA Director Chris Brynes – presented the board with an economic development strategic planning update. Introduced new MEA employee Sara Mauer to the board, she will be writing grants for MEA. Commissioner Kaiser inquired as to what housing projects the MEA is working on. There are plenty of housing grants available that need to be utilized. (handout attached)

County Clerk Hillary Vowell – the meeting to review the Wage Study final report is Monday October 23 at 2pm.

New Business:

Charles Rose – Michigan Department of Health & Human Services was present to request an increase in the social welfare budget for 2024. This money covers per diem for MDHHS board members, residents in need of services in the

county, assisting in local foster care families and food pantries. The increase will be in the amount of \$5000 additional on top of the \$9000 currently. This request will be reviewed at the budget meetings at a later date. (letter attached)

Christine Bawol District Court Magistrate – requesting to have her pay step increase corrected. This resulted from a reclass request in 2019, and her hire date was incorrectly changed. This wording needs to be corrected in the Economic Manual also. Treasurer Goudreau answered some questions. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve the correction to the pay step and pay the retro amount of \$3,100.58 and to address this in the Economic Manual to create uniformity in the pay scale. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: None. Absent: Litzner. (letter attached)

County Clerk Hillary Vowell – requested to have the part-time maintenance pay increased from step 1 to step to step 3 to offer the higher wage to potential applicants. Starting wage would be moved from \$16.61 to \$18.13. This would help filling the position. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to move the pay for part-time maintenance position from step 1 to step 3 to offer to potential applicants. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner.

Old Business:

Mike Gillett Equalization Director – requesting the board approve and sign the L4029. Commissioner Kaiser said there is no fair way to do this collection of taxes and with it not being collected in a timely manner and the uncapping of taxes. The local treasurers would be responsible for the billing; which would cause more work and more costs to the cities and townships. The initial L4029 was done incorrectly and the appropriate taxes were not collected for the Senior Services Millage. Commissioner Kaiser asked what would the repercussions be if the County covered this expense instead of approving the L4029 for the tax payers. Treasurer Goudreau was concerned that a millage was passed but the money was never collected from tax payers. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to pay this from the 516 delinquent tax fund instead of collecting it from the tax payers. This money will be sent to Community Action Agency in replacement of the senior services millage that was not collected and owed to them. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner.

Director Gillett – also requested that his staff be allowed to work up to 40 hours a week now that Stephanie LaTour Data Assessment Coordinator is moving to a different office. Commissioner Kaiser and Commissioner Patrick said that he needs to be in the office more and especially now that they will be short staffed. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to do a budget transfer to move money into Equalization Dept employees line items to allow for up to 40 hours a week. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner.

Additional Board Member Business:

Commissioner Patrick presented the Veterans Office Vehicle Use Policy and their By Laws. And they are waiting to have the County Attorney look it over to make sure it is legal. (Policy/By Laws attached)

Commissioner Kaiser – EUP Regional Planning said there is funding available for housing development. She is also attending a meeting in Emmet County to create a land bank. She also informed the board that the airport needs a new mower and plow truck soon.

Committee Reports:

None

Public Comment:

Erin Daines MSU Extension - gave a brief report on current activities.

Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the regular bills of October 12 for approval in the amount of \$130,896.06. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of September 29 for approval in the amount of \$77,206.22. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Litzner. Absent: Litzner (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of October 6 for approval in the amount of \$165,997.98. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of October 12 for approval in the amount of \$64,122.48. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-43. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Litzner (amendment attached)

Communications:

MSU Extension news letters

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to adjourn the meeting at 5:48pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk