

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday October 26, 2023

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday October 26, 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, Dan Litzner, Mike Patrick, Judy St.Louis-Scott.

Agenda Approval: It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the agenda as amended. VVMC

Minutes Approval: It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the minutes of October 26, 2023 as amended. VVMC

Public Comment:

Dick Pershinske Veterans Board Chair – asked why the rent payment was denied for the Veteran Office. The Board told him the payment was not denied but was held until further discussion.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau – presented the 3rd quarter financial reports. Spoke briefly on investments the county has. Currently we are \$45,000 in the good which we have not been since 2020. Last year at this time we were \$860,000 in the red. County is in good financial shape right now.

Opening bids for new county auditors:

Rehmann – 2023: \$70,000, 2024: \$75,000, 2025: \$80,000

Gabridge & Co – 2023: \$49,900, 2024: \$51,000, 2025: \$52,000

A decision will be made at the board meeting of November 9.

Sheriff Ed Wilk – MSTC reimbursement came thru to cover corrections academy costs. ORV grant reimbursement came back at \$45,000. IT has been super busy lately. Commissioner Patrick asked Sheriff Wilk about Mackinac Island increased request for officers. 2023 budget has been set and it was at \$25,000. 2024 request is \$30,000 with costs rising. Commissioner St. Louis-Scott is going to Mackinac Island on Friday and will clarify the increased request.

Register of Deeds Mary Jo Savard – new employee started Monday October 23 and has been doing well.

New Business:

Approval of Elected Officials Salary Resolution needs to be done by November 1. The non-elected, non-union salary resolution can be done at a later date. Commissioner Litzner recommends that we approve the salary resolution at the same wages as last year for the Elected Officials until the budget process is complete and we know where we stand financially for 2024. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser that we approve the 2024 Elected Official Salary Resolution with the same figures as the 2023 Amended Salary Resolution minus the \$3000 raise and the one-time payment in lieu of raise of \$4000. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (salary resolution attached)

At 4:55pm it was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to go into closed session to discuss purchase of property. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

At 5:27pm it was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to go back into open session. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

ARPA requests - Dirk Heckman Road Commission – spoke against the \$100,000 Simmons Road ARPA request from St. Ignace Township. His reasoning was that it would not fix the road, nothing short of paving would fix the road, and specifications included in the proposal were not necessary. He stated that the maintenance sought by St. Ignace Twp after fixing the road was outside their maintenance schedule and there was plenty of gravel on Simmons road. When asked by Commissioner Kaiser if there was any way to work with the Township to utilize these funds, he stated “no it would be a waste of money”. Dirk thanked the board for increasing the road match funds. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve ARPA requests below. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none.

ARPA fund disbursement as follows:

- City of St. Ignace Board Walk - \$10,000
 - City of St. Ignace Marina Internet project - \$25,000
 - Brevort Township Community center generators - \$46,000
 - Clark Township Snows Heritage Park - \$25,000
 - Clark Township Hessel Marina Project - \$50,000
 - Mackinac Island Sewer Project - \$100,000
- (ARPA requests attached)

Zoom for Board meetings

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott spoke with some county residents about wanting to appear by zoom at board meetings. Bryce Tracy explained to the board how we could provide virtual attendance. The zoom equipment is in the Circuit Courtroom and all meetings would have to be moved to the courtroom permanently. We could purchase the equipment for the board room but would cost the county money. If we decided to go forward with zoom there would need to be a moderator that would have to attend all meetings to control it. Bryce offered to help set this started and help find a moderator. He can fill in as needed, but cannot attend all meetings. Zoom can record all the meetings, there would be no further need to record it with a tape recorder.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Kaiser – in the process of drafting a letter to the Forest Service in regards to the cost share payments coming back to the counties. Also, working with EUP Planning to try to track down how companies are getting GIS and parcel data without paying for it. She said we need to look at the Green Energy Initiative that the Governor signed to have 100% renewable energy by 2035. Look at zoning to see where solar and wind farms can be put in place so the state doesn't do it for us. Waiting on notice of intent from EGLE to put in Recycling Initiative in place. Also, a committee needs to be created to decide how to spend the Opioid settlement money.

Commissioner Clark – attending a Dam meeting next week. Will have details on that at the next meeting. The Dam Committee will be putting in a funding request for tools and equipment.

Commissioner Patrick – at the EUP Planning meeting they discussed the state wide septic code. The whole Upper Peninsula is against it, the lower part of Michigan is more in favor. Second meeting in November would fall on Thanksgiving. We will have to move the meeting to a different date. UPCAP conference went very well.

Commissioner Litzner – H.O.M.E. annual Christmas Auction will be November 17 at 6:30pm at Little Bear East Arena. Make plans to attend, it is a great fundraiser for the community.

Additional Board Member Business:

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott – interviewed one person for the part-time maintenance opening, she declined the job offer.

Also, Part-time Security Officer Chris Groty did not receive the bonus; this will be put on the November 9 agenda for further discussion.

Public Comment:

Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau - Ax the Tax petition went in front of the State Canvassers. They withdrew the petition and will revise to file again.

Dick Pershinske Veterans Board Chair - the rent payment for the Vet Service Officer should not be held. This should not be an issue; this board has no discretion with these expenses. Also, the request to move the VSO salary to \$50,000; they are firm on that and will not deviate from this. If the board decides not to approve this then the Veterans Board has no choice but to seek legal action.

Paul Wandrie Veterans Service Board member – our concern is to make sure the Veterans Service Officer is making a living wage. They do not want him to leave for another job elsewhere.

Christine Bawol District Court Magistrate –

Told the Board if they had any questions regarding the wage study for District Court not to hesitate to ask her. Also, Garfield Township has residents being approached to use their property for solar farms.

Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:

The board reviewed the regular bills of October 26 for approval in the amount of \$70,118.25 plus additional \$750 for VSO rent payment. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Clark. (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of October 13 for approval in the amount of \$8,953.11. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner 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 tabled budget amendment #2023-44 until further information is obtained. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to table the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-45. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-46. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: Litzner. (amendment attached)

Communications:

Thank you letter from Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club, September Animal Shelter report, September banking report.

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk