

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Wednesday September 11, 2024**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Wednesday September 11, 2024 in the Circuit Courtroom, 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, Judy St. Louis-Scott. Absent: Mike Patrick

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

**Minutes Approval:** It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the minutes of August 22 as presented. VVMC. Absent: Patrick

**Public Comment:**

A moment of silence was held for the victims of September 11.

Dick Pershinske, Veterans Committee Chair – he wanted the total amount the county has spent on litigation over the Veterans.

**Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

**Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau** – presented the board with the tax proceeds form and 5840 Foreclosing Governmental Unit Report.

**Sheriff Ed Wilk** – the mental health program received reimbursement for inmate mental health needs. The Sheriff Office also received a new polycom system from the money. Also, the Stonegarden FY2024 grant was approved for \$60,000. The Sheriff found a candidate that he would like to hire for the open road deputy position. He requested the board approve to hire him at pay grade 8 step 2 based on his past work experience. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the hire at pay grade 8 step 2. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick.

**Register of Deeds Mary Jo Savard** – let the board know that a grant thru Workmans Comp was approved to purchase stand up desks for employees. And the desks have been ordered.

**Dick Pershinske, Veterans Committee Chair** – asked the board what the status was with filling the vacant seat on the Veterans Committee. Commissioner Kaiser thought it was a good idea to wait to replace the member until the litigation is over with the Veterans Committee. Dick informed the board that they will be returning a substantial amount; approximately \$41,000 of the grant money back to the State that they were unable to use.

**New Business:**

Closed Session – It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to move into closed session (MCL 15.268(e) at 4:50pm to discuss ongoing litigation regarding Mackinac County V. Mackinac County Department of Veterans Affairs case #24-8983-CK. If discussed in open session, it would pose a financial detriment to trial or settlement strategy. VVMC. Absent: Patrick. Attorneys from Fahey, Schultz & Rhodes was present to discuss the ongoing litigation. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to move out of closed session at 5:18pm. VVMC. Absent: Patrick. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to accept the attorney's advice. VVMC. Absent: Patrick.

Brownfield Authority member Jim North submitted a letter of resignation. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to accept his resignation from the Brownfield Authority. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (letter attached)

A new voucher policy was presented to the board. Commissioner Kaiser and Clerk Vowell drafted the policy. After some discussion it was decided to accept the new voucher policy with a couple additions. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to adopt the policy. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (policy attached)

Clerk Vowell presented a resolution in recognition of Conflict Resolution Day. After some discussion it was decided not to adopt the resolution. The resolution was specifying one conflict resolution company rather than it being a generic resolution. The board did not want to make it look like the County was promoting a specific conflict resolution program. (resolution attached)

**Old Business:**

L4029 Tax Rate request form was presented as amended. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to accept the amended L4029. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (L4029 attached)

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

Commissioner Kaiser requested the board advance payment to EUP Regional Planning for work that has already been done for the FY2024 Materials Management Planning. The state will be sending out the grant money and the county will reimburse the amount that was advanced back to the general fund. Commissioner Kaiser will contact Jeff Hagen at EUP Regional Planning to have him send an invoice for payment. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the request to advance payment to EUP Regional Planning. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick.

Commissioner St. Louis-Scott attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new hospital building. She said it was well attended and it's a beautiful addition to the community. She had some questions for Bryce Tracy regarding the retiree health insurance for 2025. Bryce said there will be no changes regarding coverage for the new year but the rates could change.

She also toured the modular units at the hospital to see if we would be interested in purchasing one for additional office space at the county complex. She took some pictures of the units and gave those to the other members. Commissioner Patrick is also getting a bid from Barr Construction to see about putting a new building for office space to see if that would be another cost-effective option.

Commissioner Clark discussed the EMS building and getting MSU Extension moved out of the LMAS building. Clerk Vowell said she has been working with Head Maintenance Jerry Lambert and Sheriff Wilk to get the carpet purchased and to paint the office space.

Commissioner Kaiser presented the Housing Research report to the board. She said this is one more piece that we need for the housing project.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of September 11 for approval in the amount of \$128,149.34. There was a question regarding a Veterans Committee member meeting voucher. Clerk Vowell will reach out to him about it. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the regular bills minus the Veterans Committee member voucher. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of September 3 for approval in the amount of \$37,344.03. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of September 11 for approval in the amount of \$96,338.38. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Patrick (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-42. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-43. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-44. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-45. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: Kaiser. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-46. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-47. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2024-48. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Kaiser, Litzner, St. Louis-Scott NO: none. Absent: Patrick. (amendment attached)

**Communications:**

City of St. Ignace zoning appeal, MSU Extension News.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 6:20pm.

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk