

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday September 14, 2023**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday September 14, 2023 in the Circuit Courtroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 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: Jodi Kaiser, Dan Litzner, Mike Patrick, Judy St.Louis-Scott. Absent: Corina Clark

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

**Minutes Approval:** It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve the minutes of August 31, 2023 as amended. VVMC

**Public Comment:**

Joe Nolan, CLMCAA Director – brought to the boards attention that they are short \$150,000 to close out the year end due to the L4029 being incorrect and not having enough taxes levied. Would like to look at options of receiving the \$150,000 from the county until the L4029 can be amended to reflect the proper millage amount.

**Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

**Clerk Hillary Vowell** – would like the appointments of Canvassers at the Sept. 14, 2023 meeting to be rescinded to follow state law on nominations and voting of Canvassers. It was moved by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Kaiser to rescind the appointment of the previously appointed Canvassers and hold a new vote on the nominations presented. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark

Clerk Hillary Vowell read the nominations from the political parties - Republicans: Kathy Perry, Lewis Hitts, Michael Gerow. Democratic: Suzanne Stewart, Lisa Knight. The republican nominees introduced themselves to the board. Ballots were given to each Commissioner to vote. Results are as follows:

Kathy Perry – 4	Suzanne Stewart.– 4
Lewis Hitts – 0	Lisa Knight – 4
Michael Gerow – 0	

It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to elect Kathy Perry as the Republican Canvasser. Suzanne Stewart and Lisa Knight as the Democratic Canvassers. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark.

Clerk Hillary Vowell requested that DeWayne Evans be re-appointed to the MDHHS Board on the request from the State. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to re-appoint DeWayne Evans to another term on the MDHHS Board. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark. (letter of appointment attached)

Clerk Hillary Vowell also presented retirement resolutions for Corrections Officer Ed Tremble and District Court Magistrate Mary Ann Mullins. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the retirement resolutions. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark. (resolutions attached)

**Emergency Manager Mike Kasper** – Operation Safe Harbor is completed and was a success. There were numerous news reporters on site. This exercise was recognized by FEMA as well.

**E911 Coordinator Bryce Tracy** – Senator John Damoose submitted a request for a 25-million-dollar appropriation for the new CAD project.

**MIDC Administrator Chad Peltier** – presented the 2024 Compliance Cost renewal plan and grant for approval. He requested the board approve this and authorize Chair Patrick to sign. He answered questions the board had. And they will have the 2024 Attorney and Administrator contracts ready for approval at the next board meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner Litzner to approve MIDC Cost Plan and Grant request and to authorize Chair Patrick to sign. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (Cost Plan/grant attached)

**New Business:** Commissioner Kaiser attended the Veterans Board meeting on Tuesday Sept. 12. She would like to see a forensic audit done on the Veterans budget. Veterans Board Chair Dick Pershinske said they were not in support of having an audit or investigation done. But initially the Veterans Board said they were in agreement with the audit. Chair Patrick recommended waiting until the County receives their 2022 audit back. He would also like it to be called a financial or exploratory audit rather than forensic. He said there has been no criminal activity and sees no reason to have an audit. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to move forward with creating an RFP to have an audit done. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, St.Louis-Scott. NO: Patrick. Absent: Clark.

Commissioner St.Louis-Scott would like to have the vehicle usage concerns addressed as well. Commissioner Litzner questioned why the VA Officer has been getting his rent paid out of the veteran's assistance millage. The board would like to create a committee to draft an RFP for an audit. Commissioners Clark and Kaiser were chosen to be on this committee. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to create an RFP Committee to look into having an audit done on the Veterans Office budget. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark.

Brevort and Clark Township submitted ARPA funding requests. Clark Twp Supervisor Mark Clymer was present to discuss their ARPA request and answer any questions. The board asked Clerk Vowell to add these to the file of ARPA requests that the board will meeting on in October to discuss ARPA donations.

**Old Business:** Clark Contracting presented a slide show on the building expansion feasibility study. They answered questions the board had. Bonds and millage options for funding were discussed as well.

Commissioner St.Louis-Scott presented a proposal for new windows at the airport from Straits Area Glass. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the bid up to \$5000. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark. (bid attached)

Commissioner St.Louis-Scott also informed the board that she is working with Clark Contracting to revise their previous bid for concrete step repairs. Hoping to have the revised bid for the next board meeting.

Commissioner Kaiser informed the board that there is a resolution for the recent union grievance. The pay step increase will be at the employees' original hire date so there's no more confusion. And the union agreed to move the probation period for current employees moving to other offices to 140 hours rather than 630 hours. It was moved by Commissioner Kaiser second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve these changes to the union contract resolving the grievance. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark.

**Additional Board Member Business:**

The board will set a meeting date to review the ARPA requests at the next regular board meeting. This meeting will be sometime in October.

Commissioner Litzner discussed looking into some issues with the Equalization Director. He feels there might be lack of direction and failure to make deadlines. The Treasurer also has concerns that this could prompt the state to want to take over our tax rolls. The board decided to move forward and look into these issues to come up with a solution.

The board was informed that Stephanie LaTour in the Equalization Office went back to her previous position of Assessment Data Coordinator.

**Committee Reports:**

Commissioner Kaiser reported that the Housing Committee is moving forward and there are many grants available for affordable housing projects. And there is a meeting scheduled with the City Manager to go over some plans.

Commissioner Litzner – HOME is getting ready for their annual auction; this is a great fundraiser to support residents with housing needs in Mackinac County.

**Public Comment:**

Erin Daines – MSU Extension gave a committee report and discussed recent 4-H activities and programs offered.

**Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of September 14 for approval in the amount of \$27,824.47. 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: none. Absent: Clark (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of September 1 for approval in the amount of \$76,494.21. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of September 8 for approval in the amount of \$110,711.88. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of September 14 for approval in the amount of \$92,131.90. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-37. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-38. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-39. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St.Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Kaiser, Litzner, Patrick, St.Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Clark (amendment attached)

**Communications:**

Animal Shelter July report, CLMCAA grand re-opening, UPEDA Cyber Security Meeting, MSU Extension reports.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Kaiser to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk