

**MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday September 28, 2023**

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday September 28, 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: Corina Clark, Dan Litzner, Mike Patrick, Judy St.Louis-Scott. Absent: Jodi Kaiser.

**Agenda Approval:** It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott 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 14, 2023 as amended. VVMC

**Public Comment:**

None

**Elected Officials/Staff Reports:**

**Register of Deeds Mary Jo Savard** – hired a new Deputy Register of Deeds starting October 23. Also received money from Deketo for services.

**MEA Director Chris Brynes** – presented the board with an economic development strategy plan. He is initiating projects that have been planned, and applying for additional grants.

**Sheriff Ed Wilk** – The Sheriffs Office has been exceptionally busy for this time of year. Still looking for Correction Officers and a Road Deputy. Recently had a Road Deputy leave for a job in Marquette due to better pay and benefits.

**Treasurer Jennifer Goudreau** – gave a brief update on the 2 lawsuits we are currently involved in.

**New Business:**

Great Lakes Boat Building School presented a slide show on current activities and future plans for the school. They are requesting \$200,000 from ARPA funds for a property purchase to build housing for the students. There is a very large shortage of housing available to new students in the area. They answered some questions the board had. (handout attached)

**Health Insurance Committee Chair Bryce Tracy** – presented the Board with the 2024 health insurance renewal and the resolution exempting the county from PA152. The renewal would be the same coverage for employees and removing the UP Blue Rider this year instead of next year when the rider becomes inactive. The renewal plan would be more affordable for county

retirees and will cost the county an estimated 6.98% increase on current premiums. Discussion was also had on exempting from PA152 hard cap requirements. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the health insurance renewal presented. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser. (insurance proposal attached)

It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to approve the resolution exempting Mackinac County from PA152. Treasurer Goudreau, Sheriff Wilk and Health Insurance Committee Chair Bryce Tracy thanked the board for approving the health insurance renewal and thanked them for listening and being easy to work with. (resolution attached)

**City of St. Ignace Manager Scott Marshall and Marina Director Joe Stearns**

Requested \$30,000 from ARPA funds to help with the costs of getting high speed internet installed at the City Marina. This ARPA request will be reviewed at a later date with the other ARPA requests.

**Commissioner St. Louis-Scott** – requested funding for a Housing Assessment to get a group study done. She is requested up to \$10,000 from the LATC ARPA funds. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Litzner to approve up to \$10,000 from the LATC ARPA funds. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser.

**Old Business:**

**Clerk Hillary Vowell** - presented the MIDC Attorney George Tschirhart and Fred Feleppas contracts to the Board for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Clark to approve the MIDC Attorney contracts. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser.

**Clerk Hillary Vowell** – requested the Board to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting to go over all the ARPA Funds requests. This meeting is scheduled for Monday October 23 at 3:30pm. The Board also scheduled budget meetings for Wednesday November 1 at 3:30pm and Thursday November 2 at 2:00pm.

**Clerk Hillary Vowell** – also informed the board that the snowplow contract has expired. And that she will be putting an RFP out for new contracts.

The RFP for the Veterans Office audit was presented for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Clark to approve the RFP wording. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser. (RFP attached)

**Additional Board Member Business:**

The cement work on the west side of the building to extend the steps for ADA compliance will be completed on Monday & Tuesday October 2 & 3.

**Commissioner Litzner** - recommended we keep some of the ARPA Funds for county use. The county is in need of new metal detectors and other needed projects.

**Commissioner St. Louis-Scott** – reached out to Senator DaMoose regarding ending the tax on diaper purchases to help out parents with the high costs. He really liked the idea and is going to propose it to the State for approval.

**Committee Reports:**

None

**Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments:**

The board reviewed the regular bills of September 28 for approval in the amount of \$14,093.69. It was moved by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott second by Commissioner Clark to approve the regular bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser (bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills of September 22 for approval in the amount of \$8,850.71. It was moved by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Litzner to approve the manual bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser (bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills of September 28 for approval in the amount of \$74,086.48. It was noticed by Commissioner Clark that there was a duplicate bill and it was removed from the list to be approved. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Clark to approve the additional bills. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser (bills attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-40. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-41. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Clark to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser (amendment attached)

The board reviewed budget amendment #2023-42. It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner St. Louis-Scott to approve the budget amendment. Roll Call: YES: Clark, Litzner, Patrick, St. Louis-Scott. NO: none. Absent: Kaiser (amendment attached)

**Communications:**

August banking report, letter from Planning Commission.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Litzner second by Commissioner Clark to adjourn the meeting at 6:11pm. VVMC

Hillary Vowell  
County Clerk