

Board Conference Room
April 14, 2020
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Powers in the Board Conference Room on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

Roll was called by the Clerk. Present: Mr. Sebolt, Mr. Gustafson, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Byl, Mr. Brown, Mr. Walker and Mr. Powers. Absent: Ms. Meyette.

Mr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; and Mr. Ed VanderVries, Oceana County Equalization Director, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Byl and seconded by Mr. Gustafson to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 minutes as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public participation was provided via teleconference using Zoom. The online meeting ID was 688 102 830. No public comment on agenda items.

Mr. Walker stated that a letter was received from Paul Bullock, Mecosta County Administrator. The letter states that the administration of the West Michigan Forensic Pathology Services Authority building will be the responsibility of Mecosta County. The Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMED) would be responsible for any billing that is autopsy related. Mr. Walker indicated that stability would be created by joining with WMED.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – RECIND MEMBERSHIP WITH WEST MICHIGAN FORENSICPATHOLOGY SERVICES AUTHORITY

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Byl to withdraw Oceana County's membership with the West Michigan Forensic Pathology Services Authority ("Authority"). The Authority is dissolving its multi-county membership board in order to establish a new pathology services agreement with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.

Oceana County's membership with the Authority is terminated effective immediately.

Roll call vote: Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Byl - yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; Mr. Brown - yes; Mr. Gustafson - yes; and Mr. Powers – yes. Absent: Ms. Meyette.

Motion carried.

Mr. Powers thanked Mr. Walker for his involvement with this board.

Mr. Byl began a brief discussion regarding the 2020 equalization report in which he commented that there was a 3% decrease in Grant Township, however, there was an increase of 5.39% overall. Also, a contributing factor to the overall increase could be due to adjustments made by a new assessor in one township. Mr. VanderVries explained the analysis

process of the equalization report. Mr. VanderVries requested that the Chairperson of the Board and the County Clerk sign and then forward to the city/township clerks.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF 2020 EQUALIZATION REPORT

Moved by Mr. Byl and seconded by Mr. Gustafson to approve the 2020 Oceana County Equalized Valuation of \$1,800,968,872 with an equalized value of real property of \$1,735,572,372 and equalized value of personal property of \$65,396,500 as shown by the 2020 Analysis for Equalization in compliance with Section 211.34 M.C.L. 1948, as amended.

Furthermore, the County Clerk and Chairperson of the Board are authorized to execute the "L-4024 as Assessed and Equalized Valuations Report" for the political subdivisions of the County and the State Tax Commission. The 2020 County Equalization Value reflects a 5.0% increase in total real property and an 8.3% increase in total personal property with an overall 5.39% increase from the total 2019 State Equalized Valuation of \$1,708,841,250.

Roll call vote: Mr. Byl - yes; Mr. Gustafson - yes; Mr. Brown - yes; Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; and Mr. Powers – yes. Absent: Ms. Meyette.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – APPROVAL OF COVID-19 SICK LEAVE POLICY

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve a COVID-19 Sick Leave Policy in accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.

Roll call vote: Mr. Gustafson – yes; Mr. Brown - yes; Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Byl – yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; and Mr. Powers - yes. Absent: Ms. Meyette.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – APPROVAL OF FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE EXPANSION ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and seconded by Mr. Sebolt to approve a Family Medical Leave Expansion Eligibility Policy in accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.

Roll call vote: Mr. Gustafson - yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Brown – yes; Mr. Byl - yes; and Mr. Powers – yes. Absent: Ms. Meyette.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Byl and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the payment of claims for March 26 and April 14, 2020 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$6,511.86
FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND	4,708.71
GIS FUND	100.00

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	18,844.62
TECHNOLOGY	12,197.60
FORECLOSURE	12,674.74
K-9 UNIT	43.98
VETERANS AFFAIRS	10,683.69
MEDICAL RESERVE	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.	4,268.53
INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	46,884.79
LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND	1,386.00
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
VICTIMS SERVICES	-0-
CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT	-0-
GENERAL FUND	757,205.99
TOTAL	\$875,510.51

Roll call vote: Mr. Byl – yes; Mr. Walker – yes; Mr. Brown – yes; Mr. Gustafson – yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; and Mr. Powers – yes. Absent: Ms. Meyette.

Motion carried.

Administrator’s Report:

Administration

Millage ballots will be presented to you on April 30.

I continue to send periodic memos to the Board of Commissioners and other parties regarding COVID-19 and its impact on our business operations.

Courts

Chief Judge Springstead was informed that Governor Whitmer signed a bill saving the 78th District Court judgeship in Mason County that would have been eliminated at the end of this year upon retirement of the current judge. Judges in Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, and Lake Counties will now go to work to determine if new circuit and district alignments should be established to create a more equitable balance between the Judges caseloads.

Transfer Station

Operations are continuing but the transfer station has been overwhelmed with usage on Saturday’s so I’ve directed our operator to return to normal hours of operation by adding Thursday back to the schedule.

Employees were given a large supply of hand cleaning and sanitizing solution and they were directed to purchase large containers of water as well because running water is not available at the facility.

Economic Development/Housing

On April 2, I submitted a reimbursement request to the MEDC for \$1,000,000 in CDBG grant funds that supported the Peterson Farms expansion project. Once funds arrive at the county via EFT, I’ll then process a voucher to get the funds to Peterson Farms.

I spoke briefly with Mr. Ed Vandervries regarding having the board establish a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to redevelop and revitalize environmentally distressed properties.

I spoke recently with Ms. Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC, regarding \$1.5 billion in grant funds, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Development Administration, for "*economic adjustment assistance for development of public facilities, public services, business development,...to alleviate long-term economic deterioration...*" According to Ms. Kuhn, funds available to Michigan and local regional entities is pending but she is soliciting project ideas at this time. I'm following up with Ms. Kuhn on several ideas that Commissioner Byl suggested: equipment for fire services, EMS, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Department, local hospital, county buildings, parks and recreation, and local schools. Regarding parks and recreation, I proposed to Ms. Kuhn a nature center linked to not just educational programming via the Conservation District delivered to schools, groups, etc., but also a direct connection to local tourism. You may recall that the nature center is a project idea of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Conservation District

According to Mr. Jack Eskin, Delta Institute, the project timeline for tree planting (i.e. near the bike trail at the Shelby EMS Station) to aid in storm water runoff may be influenced by future Executive Order(s) issued by the Governor. Presently, April will focus on securing quotes from vendors with anticipated planting to begin sometime in May.

Airport

The fee assessment study performed by Jacobsen Daniels, reviewing Prein & Newhof's, was completed. The study revealed the Prein & Newhof's fees are below market rates.

Commissioner's Reports

Mr. Sebolt mentioned that the parks are still open, but Black Lake Campground has been closed. He also mentioned that the revenues have decreased at the Road Commission simply due to the decrease in gas tax collection as people currently are not driving as much. The decrease is approximately 30%.

Mr. Gustafson commented that the erosion issues continue in Pentwater Township and Village.

Mr. Powers expressed his gratitude with all of the department heads and his fellow commissioners regarding the decisions that have had to be made regarding Covid-19. The cooperation has been appreciated throughout this time.

Public Comment

Mr. Sobie gave an updated copy of the infectious diseases preparedness and responses plan to the commissioners for their review. If there is anything that needs attention, please let him know. He also sent it to MMRMA for their review.

Mr. VanderVries commended the County Board's and County Administrator's efforts regarding the handling of the pandemic in Oceana County.

Mr. Walker thanked the County Administrator and the Emergency Manager for their pro-active efforts regarding Covid-19.

Mr. Powers asked Mr. VanderVries if he received communication from Dr. Roseman regarding the aerial photography. Mr. Vandervries stated that aerial photography is available.

Mr. Gustafson mentioned that MAC has made available a variety of online educational opportunities that are worth checking out.

Chairperson Powers asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:06.

Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

Mr. Powers, Chairperson