

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, in the Board Room of the County Building, on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.

Roll was called by the Clerk. Present: Mr. Hardy, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Christians, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk; Mr. Cavanaugh, Ms. Dodge and Ms. Golat, Oceana's Herald Journal.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried

Mr. Cavanaugh introduced Ms. Amanda Dodge, managing editor, White Lake Beacon and Oceana's Herald Journal and McKenna Golat, summer intern. They may be attending meetings in the future.

Mr. Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare a conflict of interest on the agenda items. No conflict of interest was declared.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1 – ESTABLISHING AN IRREGULARLY SCHEDULED PART-TIME CUSTODIAN**

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Ms. Meyette to authorize the County Administrator to establish and fund from the General Fund one (1) irregularly scheduled part time custodial position in the Courthouse and Grounds Department. The county currently employs two (2) regularly scheduled part time custodians. During both scheduled and unscheduled absences, the remaining staff member is unable to adequately complete each evening's required custodial services in the County Building, County Services Building, and District Health Department #10 Building, even when over time is scheduled.

Additionally, during normal work schedules when both custodial employees are working, special cleaning projects are difficult to schedule and complete without a tradeoff of regularly scheduled cleaning tasks. The irregularly scheduled part time custodial position will be assigned to cover during absences as well as monthly special cleaning projects.

Upon approval, the irregularly scheduled part time custodial position will have a planned annual cost of \$4,600 in wages and taxes (and fringe benefits available to such a position), excluding health and dental insurance.

Roll call vote: Mr. Christians – yes; Mr. Meyette – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 – SUPPORTING FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Hardy to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today’s Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS** the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

**WHEREAS** Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

**WHEREAS** the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century including such county affairs as road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

**WHEREAS** Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two- year terms for county commissioners; and

**WHEREAS** all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

**WHEREAS** the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

**WHEREAS** legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of Senate Bills 242 and 245; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Association of Counties supports the legislation as introduced.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners supports Senate Bills 242 and 245 to enact four-year terms for county commissioners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Oceana County Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader for the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and Oceana County’s State Legislative delegation.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson - yes; Mr. Hardy - yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; and Mr. Walker - yes. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 – DONATING AN UNUSED COUNTY ASSET TO GRANT TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Meyette to authorize the County Administrator to transfer an enclosed trailer previously used by emergency management to Grant Township Fire Department; and to remove the asset from the county’s insured property once the trailer has been turned over to the township. Transfer of the asset is recommended because it is rarely used and with a new emergency management trailer under development, the new trailer can be used in any necessary expanded role where such an asset is needed for incidents related to emergency management.

Roll call vote: Mr. Hardy – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 – APPROVING AN AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the following resolution regarding a Contract for a Federal/State/Local Airport Project, Contract No. 2021-0684 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and Oceana County Board of Commissioners:

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners has the authority to contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for State and/or Federal funds for airport related services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County airport’s current Airport Improvement Program identifies projects eligible for federal funding, such as runway, taxiway, and taxilane rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Transportation has received a block grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for airport development projects.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve Contract No. 2021-0684 and authorizes the County Administrator to sign all necessary documents.

Roll call vote: Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Motion carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 5 – RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for May 27, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

<b>AMBULANCE FUND</b>	<b>\$227,957.86</b>
<b>FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND</b>	<b>1,849.87</b>
<b>GIS FUND</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>18,659.31</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>9,126.35</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>360.00</b>
<b>K-9 UNIT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>	<b>4,545.51</b>
<b>MEDICAL RESERVE</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.</b>	<b>134.98</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND</b>	<b>26,393.95</b>
<b>LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND</b>	<b>59.94</b>
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG</b>	<b>369.34</b>
<b>VICTIMS SERVICES</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>270,666.92</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$560,373.54</b>

Ms. Meyette asked Mr. Sobie to explain the process by which the County receives reimbursement from the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC). Mr. Sobie indicated that he provides both quarterly and annual reports to the MIDC and they distribute funds based on the County’s fund balance. Typically, there is a reimbursement made at the State’s fiscal year beginning in October and another reimbursement following that. The program requires the County provide 25% of the grant funding and as those funds are expensed, the reimbursements are made from the MIDC.

Roll call vote: Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Ms. Meyette - yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Motion carried.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

Mr. Hardy reported that the Mason-Oceana 911 Dispatch Center began a conferencing trial with Life EMS on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The trial will help determine if medical dispatching can be accomplished more efficiently if calls are initially taken by Mason-Oceana 911 and then conferenced with Life EMS. The current dispatching systems used by Mason-Oceana 911 and

Life EMS are not compatible and so direct dispatching isn't available.

Mr. Christians attend the last 911 Board meeting and his thoughts on the trial were that there is built in redundancy that will ensure adequate service even if there is a line drop. Dispatchers from both centers will remain on the line. He also noted there will be customer service calls following 911 service to determine if the process is working effectively.

Mr. Walker noted that the service in the east side of the county has already improved because Life EMS can dispatch out of that side of the county, including Gerber Hospital, and Mason-Oceana 911 cannot.

Mr. Christians attended a West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) meeting with Mr. Morse and he reported that Oceana County has been asked to host the July 26 meeting with the location to be determined.

Mr. Erickson reported that at the last District Health #10 meeting there was a resolution presented to reimburse area restaurants their 2020 licensing fees due to the Covid-19 restrictions that prevented them from opening for much of the year using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that Oceana County expects to receive. The resolution failed due to the challenge associated in properly accounting for the fees to be returned and the actual reimbursements themselves. Mr. Erickson suggested that this matter could go before the advisory committee that has been seated to determine the distribution of the ARPA funds. Mr. Sobie stated he will add this topic to the next advisory committee meeting agenda for June 15.

Mr. Erickson noted that the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners has passed a resolution regarding the Covid Passport. He asked that if this issue presents itself to the board that there be adequate research done to hopefully prevent unnecessarily inflaming the public.

Mr. Sobie listened to a MIOSHA briefing that stated that fully vaccinated people are not required to wear a mask. The County is allowed to verify vaccination during the health screen conducted at the entrance by asking if the patron is vaccinated and/or asking them to produce a Covid Passport. He is concerned that asking patrons to produce a Covid Passport may cause disturbances and he is suggesting that be omitted from the health screening at this time. The County has a responsibility to maintain a safe and healthy workplace.

Ms. Coon reported that Mr. Joshua Draper, Ferry Township resident, was appointed to the vacancy on the Canvass Board.

Mr. Sobie reminded everyone that the Employee Appreciation Picnic will be June 23. He encouraged the commissioners to attend.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Melanie A. Coon

Melanie A. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk

06/24/2021  
Date

  
Mr. Walker, Chairperson