

Board Conference Room
August 12, 2021
Board of Commissioners Minutes

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, August 12, 2021, at 11:59 a.m.

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

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Chairperson Walker asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Christians to amend the agenda to include the Resolution #21-88, regarding Winter Taxes.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

There was no public comment at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – REAPPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Erickson to reappoint the following individuals to the Oceana County Construction Board of Appeals for five year terms effective August 1, 2021 and expiring July 31, 2026:

- Jeremy Horton, Harbor Design, PO Box 823, Pentwater, MI
- Mike Motcheck, 328 Kelly Street, Shelby, MI

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – APPROVING AN AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the following resolution regarding a Contract for a Federal/State/Local Airport Project, Contract No. 2021-0835 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. 2021-0835 to reconstruct apron lighting in the terminal area, including design requirements, and authorizes the County Administrator to sign all necessary documents.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – APPOINTING AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Ms. Meyette to appoint Mr. Timothy Pluger as Oceana County Animal Control Officer for the period of June 14, 2021 through December 31, 2022, in accordance with Public Act 339 of 1919. Mr. Pluger replaces Mr. Mike Nielson who has retired from the department. Said appointment of Mr. Pluger retains the at-will employment status of the employee during his appointment.

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

Motion carried

Mr. Morse requested clarification as to why an animal control officer was being appointed rather than just hired as a normal county employee. Mr. Sobie noted that appointment was necessary due to the statutes in the “Dog Law” of 1919, but that Mr. Pluger would be considered a regular employee.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – APPROVE REALIGNMENT OF 27TH/78TH COURT SYSTEMS WITH THE 51ST/79TH COURT SYSTEMS

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

WHEREAS, the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 establishes the Circuit and District Court systems for the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, Section 258 (MCL 600.528) as amended by 2012 PA 18 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 created the Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit Court as a circuit court for the counties of Newaygo and Oceana with one judge, and

WHEREAS, Section 549c (MCL 600.549c) of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 created the Fifty-First Judicial Circuit Court as a circuit court for the counties of Lake and Mason with one judge, and

WHEREAS, Section 8143 (MCL 600.8143) as amended by 2002 PA 92 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 created the Seventy-Eighth District Court as a first-class district court for the counties of Newaygo and Oceana, and

WHEREAS, Section 8144 (MCL 600.8144) as amended by 2020 PA 82 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 created the Seventy-Ninth District Court as a first-class district court for the counties of Lake and Mason, and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation has been drafted and is under consideration in Lansing to modify circuits and districts for Lake, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana counties from Newaygo/Oceana and Lake/Mason to Lake/Newaygo and Mason/Oceana, and

WHEREAS, all judges of Lake, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana Counties have determined that realignment of the circuit and district courts would better serve the counties' populations by increasing efficiency and equalizing judicial caseloads and recommends realignment to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, Section 550a (MCL 600.550a) of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 requires that, "if a new judicial circuit is proposed by law, the new circuit shall not be created and any circuit judgeship proposed for the circuit shall not be authorized or filled by election unless each county in the proposed circuit, by resolution adopted by the county board of commissioners, approves the creation of the new circuit," and

WHEREAS, Section 8176 (MCL 600.8176) of the Revised Judicature Act requires that, "if a new district is proposed by law, that new district shall not be created and any district judgeship proposed for that district shall not be authorized or filled by election unless each district control unit in the proposed district, by resolution adopted by the governing body of the district control unit, approves the creation of the new district,": and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners and the Mason County Board of Commissioners are the governing bodies of the counties for which the changes in circuits and districts are proposed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners does hereby give its approval to the proposed court realignment upon passage of state law and approval by the Mason County Board of Commissioners to modify the 51st Circuit Court to include Mason and Oceana Counties and the 79th District Court to include Mason and Oceana Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption of this resolution that the Chief Judge of the courts be directed to forward this resolution to Senator John Bumstead, Representative Scott VanSingel, and the State Court Administrator's Office.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 COUNTY AUDIT REPORT

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Meyette to accept and approve the annual audit report for the year ending December 31, 2020 prepared by Gabridge & Co. The audit report and any recommendations contained within the report were presented to, and discussed with, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners and the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the report.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 – SETTING A BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING SCHEDULE

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Beggs to establish the following meeting schedule for the purpose of developing a fiscal year 2022 budget, wage schedule, and capital improvement plan.

- Annual Special Finance Committee Budget Workshop Meeting: Tuesday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room;
- Contingent Workshop Meeting: If an additional Special Finance Committee Budget Workshop Meeting is necessary, it shall be held on Tuesday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 – SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to conduct a Public Hearing on a proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget and property tax millage rates to be levied to support the revenue projections and expenditure commitments for Fiscal Year 2022, on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room, Hart, Michigan.

The Oceana County Board of Commissioners may not adopt its proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget and authorized Oceana County operating property tax millage rate and voted property tax millage rates for Oceana County Ambulance Services, Oceana County Medical Care Facility, Oceana County Veterans Affairs, Oceana County Council on Aging, and Mason-Oceana 911

will be available for public inspection beginning Monday, October 18, 2021 in the County Administrator's Office during normal business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as well as on the Oceana County web site.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 8 – FUNDING TO ENHANCE THE COUNTY’S GIS

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve a drain district mapping proposal from the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission to enhance the county’s geographic information system (GIS) at a cost of \$13,360 for the purpose of updating 111 existing drain districts and 118 linear drains. Funding for the project shall come from the GIS Fund (#211). The County Administrator is authorized to sign all necessary agreements related to the project.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 9 – APPROVAL OF 2021 WINTER TAX LEVY

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

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners has considered the budgetary needs of the county for FY 2022, and

WHEREAS, the millage rates shown in the following table are the maximum millage rates allowed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Oceana County’s 2021 Millage Levies shall be as follows:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>July 1, 2021 Millage Levy</u>	<u>December 1, 2021 Millage Levy</u>
Allocated	County Operating	5.6999	0.0000
Voted	MCF Operating	.0000	1.9880
Voted	Ambulance Operating	.0000	0.9000
Voted	Council on Aging Operating	.0000	0.9913
Voted	9-1-1	.0000	0.1385
Voted	Veterans	.0000	0.0994
Debt	MCF Building	.0000	0.2000
2021 Oceana County Summer & Winter Millage Rates		5.6999	4.3172
2021 Oceana County Total Millage Rate		= 10.0171	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize the Chairperson of the Board and the Oceana County Clerk to sign the 2021 L-4029 Tax Rate Request certifying compliance with Section 31 of Article 9 of the State Constitution of 1963, and that the requested levy rates have also been reduced, if necessary to comply with MCL Sections 211.24e, and 211.34.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 – RELEASE OF FUNDS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Meyette to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for August 12, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$33,010.20
FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND	2,492.25
GIS FUND	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	25,783.05
CDBG	-0-
TECHNOLOGY	1,164.75
FORECLOSURE	21,379.14
K-9 UNIT	424.45
VETERANS AFFAIRS	10,720.42
MEDICAL RESERVE	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.	134.98
INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	19,444.23
LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND	550.00-
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
VICTIMS SERVICES	-0-
CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT	29,044.00
GENERAL FUND	494,375.12
TOTAL	\$638,522.59

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner's Reports

Mr. Morse indicated that the work group met on July 29th, at the County Services Building Classroom, and that between video conference and in person attendance, there were approximately 20 people. He was pleased with the progress made and is looking forward to working with Ms. Nichols, Economic Alliance, and representatives from West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), to continue making progress.

Mr. Christians noted that he attended the retirement party for Lieutenant White, Michigan State Police and 911 Dispatch Center Committee. Mr. Christians also reminded everyone that Pentwater would be celebrating their Homecoming over the weekend.

Mr. Erickson attended the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting last week. Picnic tables have now been placed at all County Parks. He believes that Mr. McKeen is doing a wonderful job and was elated with the upcoming projects for the Parks & Rec Commission. Mr. Erickson also attended the DHD# 10 meeting, in Cadillac, and noted that everything has been quiet and that people are returning back to normal lives within District# 10.

Mr. Beggs complimented the Road Commission workers on their road repairs and on their response time from the storms. He noted that many projects from the Road Commission have been completed and that many more are still on track to be completed before the end of the year.

Mr. Hardy mentioned that due to the retirement of Lieutenant White, an election will probably be needed to fill his spot on the 911 Dispatch Center Committee. At the latest meeting, EMS issues were being addressed and past dispatch logs were being audited to find out where the issue with response time is happening. Hopefully, with new guidelines in place, response times will be quicker. Mr. Hardy also noted that due to a Facebook group that tracks 911 calls and posts them live, the 911 center is attempting to install better encryption to prevent tracking.

Mr. Morse requested clarification on the issues being addressed at EMS. Mr. Hardy and Mr. Walker noted that there are issues regarding which entity is being dispatched and who actually receives, forwards, and then physically goes out on the call. There seems to be some resistance between entities regarding this situation and needs to be streamlined and those entities need to work together.

Mr. Sobie announced that the Road Commission will be using the County Services Building Classroom as their regular meeting venue.

Mr. Walker attended Land Bank Authority meeting and was pleased with the progress made. The Walkerville Bar (Hometown Tavern) was recently cleaned up by Ken Adams & Sons Excavating and Ms. Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer, was highly pleased with their work. The Land Bank Authority has been, and will continue, to watch the Brownfield Restoration Authority (BRA). Mr. Walker noted that applications to join the Brownfield Committee are posted on the County Website and are due by the end of August. Mr. Walker also attended the Earl & Linda Peterson Research Center opening. He noted that it was phenomenal and was highly impressed with Mr. Peterson's speech. Mr. Walker believes it would be marvelous to hold the County Alliance Meeting, in October, at that facility.

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 12:39 p.m.


Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk


Date


Mr. Walker, Chairperson