

Board Conference Room  
September 9, 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, September 9, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Chairman Walker.

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

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Ms. Peggy Whitman, City of Hart resident; Mr. John Adams, Shelby Township resident; and Mr. James Kelly, MSUE Director.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the August 26, 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 inquired if there were any changes to be made to the agenda.

Ms. Meyette proposed a resolution recognizing September 17, 2021 as constitution day be added to the agenda.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Peggy Whitman, City of Hart resident, provided an update regarding her issues with the Oceana County Medical Care Facility that she previously brought to the Board's attention. She requested a religious exemption from the mask mandate. Upon being denied, she is claiming her rights have been violated. She has been denied to see her mother on numerous occasions, so she peacefully protested outside of the facility, at which time Mr. Davis called the police. Ms. Whitman received notice on September 2<sup>nd</sup> that one employee at the facility tested positive which put them in outbreak testing status and therefore no visitors are allowed in.

Mr. John Adams, Shelby Township resident, spoke on behalf of the Oceana County Climate Action Counsel. The Counsel's primary goal is to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the county by 2040. They have a three-step plan for how they will achieve this: first, educate both elected officials and the public; second, advocate for the fight against climate change; and third, work with local governments to find cost-effective means to combat climate change. Mr. Adams also stated that both the Village of Shelby and Shelby Township have passed climate emergency proclamations. Mr. Walker informed Mr. Adams that Honeywell has come to assess our energy usage and that the County will go from there.

James Kelly, Director of the MSU Extension, made note of the September 1<sup>st</sup> article posted on Oceana County Press regarding 4-H. Community members spent \$270,000 to support local 4-H this year. Mr. Kelly also wanted to thank Sarah Schaner, Toni VanBergen, and Kathy Walicki for their efforts in making 4-H so great this year.

Mr. Erickson said that fair admission well surpassed their expectations and gave a brief report on the 2021 festivities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 –APPROVING AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT WITH INDIGENT DEFENSE CONSULTANTS.**

**Moved by** Mr. Beggs and **seconded by** Mr. Morse to approve the proposed Independent Contractor Agreement with Indigent Defense Consultants for continued administration of the county’s indigent criminal defense programs as mandated by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. The Oceana County Administrator is authorized to sign the agreement.

Mr. Morse commented that we are really blessed to have her as an advocate for us and she really gives our county a voice, Ms. Meyette echoed this.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 – AMENDING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ RULES OF PROCEDURE.**

**Moved by** Mr. Erickson and **supported by** Mr. Christians to adopt the following Resolution on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021:

**WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2021, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) adopted its Rules of Procedure that describe the rules to be used by the Board as a legislative body in conducting its business; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2, subsection 4 of the Rules of Procedure states that the Annual Meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners shall be held on the second Thursday of October of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County Clerk is recommending that the Annual Meeting be held on the fourth Thursday of September of each year in order to allow additional time to recommend to the Board appointments to the Oceana County Board of Canvassers, including providing sufficient notice of said appointment well in advance of any required November elections.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the Oceana County Clerk’s recommendation to amend the Rules of Procedure and hereby sets the Annual Meeting to be the fourth Thursday of September of each year and the change shall take effect immediately.

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

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 3 –AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND VETERANS’ AFFAIRS BUDGET.**

**Moved by** Mr. Christians and **seconded by** Ms. Meyette to amend the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund budget for the Sheriff’s Department; and the Fiscal Year 2021 Department of Veterans’ Affairs Fund budget to cover costs that exceed the original or amended budget appropriation for each of the following accounts:

#### **General Fund (#101)**

##### **Jail**

- Increase Salaries & Wages – Overtime (101-351-707.000) by \$13,000 from \$33,660 to \$46,660 to cover projected costs of overtime compensation through the end of the year.

##### **Veterans’ Affairs Fund (#293)**

- Increase Public Outreach (293-000-812.000) by \$7,500 from \$0.00 to \$7,500 to cover the costs of bringing the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall to the county.

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

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 4 – CONSTITUTION DAY**

**Moved by** Ms. Meyette and **seconded by** Mr. Beggs to recognize September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as Constitution Day.

**WHEREAS**, the American Revolution created an independent nation, the United States, and secured the first system of self-government as a model for the world.

**WHEREAS**, this system of self-government produced the tenets of equal justice limited government and rule of law that exists in the United States today.

**WHEREAS**, the 39 delegates that signed the US Constitution at the Constitutional Convention forever changed the course of human history and established the essential guide of compromise.

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States protects the unalienable rights of every citizen of the United States, secures the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, and sets the standard of governance for the world

**WHEREAS**, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 marks the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land and the document by which we the people of this land self-govern.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby commemorate the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and recognizes the sacrifices made by the people who made that signing possible.

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

Motion carried.

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

**Moved by** Mr. Hardy and **seconded by** Mr. Morse to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for September 9, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

<b>AMBULANCE FUND</b>	<b>\$1,556.15</b>
<b>FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND</b>	<b>1,849.86</b>
<b>GIS FUND</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>7,398.74</b>
<b>K-9 UNIT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>	<b>10,090.75</b>
<b>MEDICAL RESERVE</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PENTWATER HART TRAIL</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>SHELBY TWP COMMUNITY PARK</b>	<b>26,900.00</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND</b>	<b>14,954.36</b>
<b>LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>VICTIMS SERVICES</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT</b>	<b>189.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>238,353.93</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$276,700.56</b>

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

Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Wittman asked what the protocol is when a citizen poses a question, as well as where she can get a copy of the procedural outline. Dr. Sobie let her know that protocol and procedures are on the website.

Mr. Adams added that the City of Montague and the City of Whitehall have passed climate emergency proclamations and have committed themselves to achieving net zero by 2040. He informed the Commissioners that the City of Montague did a cost analysis on using an internal combustion vs. electric lawnmower. The analysis showed that they would have significant savings using an electric lawnmower and subsequently purchased one.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

Mr. Morse reminded his fellow commissioners that Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the strategic planning meeting will be held at The Avenue, in New Era at 9 a.m. All members of the public are welcome. Mr. Morse also reported on the work force committee, which is working on an application to be part of an EDA study. The study will provide information regarding which industries are most viable for attraction in this area.

Mr. Christians reported on the work being done to find a trade school for Oceana County to partner with. Mr. Walker suggested asking Senator Bumstead for a letter of support in the search for a trade school.


Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Erickson for the work that he put in for the fair.

Mr. Beggs gave a brief report for the Road Commission. They are currently winding down construction mode and getting the roads ready for winter. They have all of the chip sealing done and will be hopefully getting the paint trucks in to stripe the roads.

Mr. Hardy said that he has nothing to report at this time, there is an upcoming 911 meeting next Wednesday.

Ms. Meyette reported that there were 15-20 citizens in attendance of the last Health Department meeting, giving reasons why they feel that there shouldn't be a mask or vaccination mandate. Ms. Meyette also reported that the Health Department Director is the only person with the authority to impose a mask mandate within the district.

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

  
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Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

11/10/2021

  
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Mr. Walker, Chairperson