

Board Conference Room
September 23, 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 23, 2021, at 11:41 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. Marilyn Morse, Patriots for Truth and Action; and Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2021 meeting as corrected.

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.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, quoted scripture and spoke briefly about her time with Oceana County Medical Care Facility (OCMCF).

Ms. Marilyn Morse, Patriots for Truth and Action, spoke in support of Ms. Wittman and of her personal experience with the elderly during the pandemic.

Chairman Walker opened the public hearing on regarding the Michigan Community Development Block Grant Program for the Emergency Home Repair Program at 11:52 a.m.

Chairman Walker declared the public hearing regarding the Michigan Community Block Grant Program for the Emergency Home Repair Program closed at 11:54 a.m.

There was no public comment on the Michigan Community Block Grant Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OCEANA COUNTY BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moved by Mr. Morse and **supported by** Mr. Christians to adopt the following resolution on this 23rd day of September, 2021:

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners established the Oceana County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (“the Brownfield Board”); and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Administrator was directed to implement an advertising campaign to solicit interest from individuals, including the public at large, in order to develop a list of nine (9) recommended appointees to the Brownfield Board; and

WHEREAS, as of August 31, 2021, the Oceana County Administrator completed the advertising campaign and recommends the following appointments, either by name or job position held in the county, to the Brownfield Board for the terms of office stated that take effect October 1, 2021. All subsequent terms of office shall be for three (3) years:

1. Oceana County Treasurer – three (3) year term
2. Oceana County Economic Development Coordinator – three (3) year term
3. Mr. Norman Dodds – three (3) year term
4. Mr. Denny Powers – two (2) year term
5. Ms. Sara Bizon – two (2) year term
6. Ms. Tracy Blamer – two (2) year term
7. Ms. Lynne Cavazos – one (1) year term
8. To be determined – one (1) year term
9. To be determined – one (1) year term

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the above described appointments to the Brownfield Board and directs the Oceana County Administrator to notify all individuals of their appointment and to coordinate scheduling an organizational meeting of the newly established Brownfield Board.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OCEANA COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Moved by Mr. Erickson and **supported by** Mr. Hardy to adopt the following resolution on this 23rd day of September, 2021:

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Clerk has determined that the terms of two members of the Oceana County Board of Canvassers expire on October 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Republican and Democratic parties have submitted names of individuals for consideration by the Oceana County Board of Commissioners; and a letter

from the Oceana County Clerk dated September 13, 2021 listing the individuals is attached to, and is a part of, this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Clerk is recommending that Ms. Cindy Fout (Republican) and Ms. Kathy Schneider (Democrat) be appointed to the Oceana County Board of Canvassers; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners is required by statute (MCL 168.24a(3)) to make appointments to the Oceana County Board of Canvassers from each political party and the Oceana County Clerk has provided a ballot to each commissioner to cast their respective vote.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, following the tallying of votes by the Oceana County Clerk, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners appoints Cindy Fout (Republican) and Kathy Schneider (Democrat) to the Oceana County Board of Canvassers for a four (4) year term effective November 1, 2021 and expiring October 31, 2025.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Ms. Meyette – no; Mr. Morse – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – RELEASE OF FUNDS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and **seconded by** Mr. Morse to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for September 23, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$419.00
FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND	2,524.26
GIS FUND	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	19,183.67
TECHNOLOGY	7,278.05
AIRPORT TERM REFUNDING 2012	20,900.00
AMBULANCE TERM REFUNDING 2012	26,200.00
MCF DEBT REFUNDING 2012	235,425.00
FORECLOSURE	5,361.78
K-9 UNIT	-0-
VETERANS AFFAIRS	6,151.42
MEDICAL RESERVE	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.	2,452.95
PENTWATER HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMMUNITY PARK	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	2,400.00
INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	26,270.58
LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND	-0-
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
VICTIMS SERVICES	-0-
CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT	-0-
GENERAL FUND	401,968.01

TOTAL \$756,534.72

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.

Discussion ensued regarding a letter received from the Oceana County Sheriff's Department suggesting the Emergency Manager be housed in their department. Mr. Hardy asked Sheriff Mast and/or Undersheriff Schiller to explain the reasoning behind this. Undersheriff Schiller explained that other counties have found it useful to have their Emergency Manager within their Sheriff's Department because there are other people to call on if the need ever arises. Mr. Walker stated that there is already a statute for these occasions and if neither the Emergency Manager or the Deputy Emergency Manager are available, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners steps in. Mr. Walker also invited Sheriff Mast to sit in on the second round of interviews for the Emergency Manager position.

Commissioner's Reports

Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Morse for his work in arranging the Special Planning and Environmental Services meeting on Saturday. He was very pleased with the program.

Mr. Christians gave a brief overview of his tour at Grand Rapids Community College.

Mr. Erickson noted that he appreciated the community engagement at the meeting on Saturday. He also attended the 30th anniversary of the Community Foundation.

Mr. Hardy noted that at the last 911 Board meeting they voted to end the trial period with Life EMS and go back to the original system for dispatching calls.

Ms. Meyette mentioned that the Newfield Township treasurer has stepped down and is moving to Florida. The new treasurer takes over on October 1st. There were a lot of concerned locals at the last Newfield Township meeting due to the break in at a local dispensary.

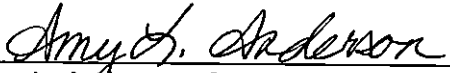
Mr. Walker thanked all of the commissioners for their perseverance with all of the meetings they've been attending lately.

Dr. Sobie noted that there would be a halt on creating any new accounts for the time being until the new Chart of Accounts is fully implemented.

Public Comment

Ms. Wittman spoke of her current situation with the OCMCF. She is displeased with the care of her mother in law. She went on to explain that her mother in law received the vaccine and then contracted COVID. Subsequently, OCMCF gave her an experimental treatment, and Ms. Wittman was not allowed to visit her. Ms. Wittman also feels that OCMCF is pressuring her to authorize her mother in law to receive this treatment even though she hasn't had any symptoms. Ms. Wittman then expressed her dissatisfaction that at the OCMCF Board meeting last month, Chairman Larry VanSickle prematurely closed public comments.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.



Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

11/10/2021

Date



Mr. Walker, Chairperson