

Board Conference Room  
October 14, 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, October 14, 2021, at 11:47 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, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Christians, Mr. Erickson, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Morse.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; and Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes from the September 23, 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. Add redistricting of county commissioners prior to payment of claims.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Erickson to enter in to closed session to discuss the written legal opinion and settlement agreement for case #1:21-cs-400-JTN-rsk.

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

Motion carried.

The Oceana County Board of Commissioners regular meeting recessed at 11:51 a.m.

The Oceana County Board of Commissioners regular meeting reconvened at 12:16 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, spoke regarding advocating for mother, mother in law, and the other residents at the Oceana County Medical Facility (OCMCF). She has attended many meetings and is still unclear as to what their policies are trying to protect. There has been email correspondence from Gary Davis, OCMFC Administrator, asking for help

in stopping this. Since then the facility's protocol has changed and Ms. Wittman is concerned that OCMFC is not keeping Covid-19 out of the building.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 – APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MDOT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS**

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve the following resolution regarding an amendment to 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 is requesting that Contract No. 2021-0684, originally dated May 27, 2021, be amended to allow for a project in the category of Seal Runway Pavement Surfaces/Joints.

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

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 – SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR WEST MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM INITIATIVES**

**Moved by** Mr. Erickson and **supported by** Mr. Christians to adopt the following Resolution on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021:

**WHEREAS**, Oceana County is a member of the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the agriculture and food processing sector is an important part of the west Michigan economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners supports efforts to advance the agriculture and food processing cluster in West Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission will work with regional partners throughout the West Michigan region on the West Michigan Agriculture Technologies & Regional Food Systems Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced the Build Back Better Regional Challenge to provide transformational investment to regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies and grow existing regional clusters.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**; the Oceana County Board of Commissioners supports the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission's EDA "Build Back Better" grant application for the West Michigan Agricultural Technologies & Regional Food Systems Initiative.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 – MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE OCEANA COUNTY BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Moved by** Mr. Christians and **supported by** Mr. Hardy to adopt the following Resolution on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021:

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

**WHEREAS**, on September 23, 2021, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners appointed seven (7) of nine (9) members to Brownfield Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County Administrator is recommending appointments for the remaining two (2) seats on the Brownfield Board for the terms of office stated below. The terms of office take effect October 1, 2021. All subsequent terms of office shall be for three (3) years:

1. Ms. Anne Pawli – one (1) year term
2. Mr. Richard Huntington – 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 these individuals of their appointment and to coordinate their participation in an organizational meeting of the newly established Brownfield Board.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5 – APPROVING THE 2021 APPORTIONMENT REPORT**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners has examined a summary of all mileages to be spread in the City of Hart, townships and school districts for the 2021 tax year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oceana County Equalization Department has determined that all of the applicable compiled laws; that is, Headlee, Truth-in-Assessing; Truth-in-Taxation and Truth-in-Equalization have been followed by all of the governmental units levying property taxes with Oceana County and documentation of compliance, as required by law, is on file in the Equalization Department.

**WHEREAS**, copies of the aforementioned revised documents are also on file with the County Clerk.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the 2021 Apportionment Report of Oceana County millage rates, as calculated and compiled by the Oceana County Equalization Department, is approved and that the Oceana County Equalization Director is authorized to complete and sign Michigan Department of Treasury Form L-4402 to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury in a timely fashion.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 – LITIGATION**

Moved by Mr. Walker and supported by Mr. Hardy to accept the recommendation of Oceana County’s Legal Counsel regarding the pending litigation.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 – RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and **seconded by** Ms. Meyette to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for October 14, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

<b>AMBULANCE FUND</b>	<b>\$2,952.66</b>
<b>FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND</b>	<b>1,899.52</b>
<b>GIS FUND</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>29,598.36</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>5,377.57</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>2,082.54</b>
<b>K-9 UNIT</b>	<b>106.36</b>
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>	<b>7,271.51</b>

<b>MEDICAL RESERVE</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.</b>	<b>134.98</b>
<b>PENTWATER HART TRAIL</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>SHELBY TWP COMMUNITY PARK</b>	<b>10,476.50</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND</b>	<b>26,611.13</b>
<b>LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG</b>	<b>1,143.00</b>
<b>VICTIMS SERVICES</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>439,403.47</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$527,057.60</b>

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

Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding re-districting that recently took place, dropping Oceana County down to five districts. Concerns were voiced and more information will be provided to the Commissioners.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

Ms. Meyette noted that Christian Health Centers will be leasing a space in Newaygo County and looking for other areas closer to Oceana County. She suggested that Dr. Sobie and our Economic Development team to look into the benefits of potentially bringing them to Oceana.

Mr. Christians thanked Oceana County and the Board for letting him be a representative at the Michigan Association of Commissioners (MAC) conference on Mackinac Island. He attended many great programs and found it to be very worthwhile.

Mr. Erickson found it alarming that the OCMFC will be losing approximately \$400,000 per month due to low census numbers, which is raising many concerns. They are also interviewing for a new director.

Dr. Sobie noted that the Strategic Planning Report had been distributed to the Commissioners. The next step will be to identify the action steps for the first set of goals. This could start as early as the next meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Wittman continued her public speech regarding OCMCF and how the staff put her mother in law in an interior room so she could not have window visits. They asked if they could do Monoclonal Antibody treatment for her mother. Ms. Wittman declined to have the treatment done as her mother was not sick and had not been sick. Ms. Wittman also stated that the OCMCF has been letting college students in to do coursework, but still won’t let her in to see her mother.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Amy L. Anderson  
Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

11/10/2021  
Date

Robert Walker  
Mr. Walker, Chairperson