

Board Conference Room
April 12, 2022
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker at 11:30 a.m.

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

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; Ms. Amy Trudell, City of Hart resident; Ms. Marilyn Morse, Benona Township resident; Mr. Patrick Kelly, City of Hart resident; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2022 meeting and April 4, 2022 special 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 conflicts were declared.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Beggs strike snow removal

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Morse to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public comment

Ms. Amy Trudell, City of Hart resident, stated that she would like to be able to review the resolutions scheduled for the current regular board meeting.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, offered a prayer.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Morse to enter into closed session to discuss public meetings and threats of pending litigation.

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

Motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners meeting recessed at 11:34 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners meeting reconvened at 1:19 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Morse to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month is acknowledged throughout the United States annually in April; and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness and educate the community on the various ways to support families and prevent abuse and neglect; and to recognize that child abuse and neglect is a complex and ongoing problem in our society; and

WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, feel secure, and be free from verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, and neglect; and children are vital to our county's success, prosperity, and quality of life, and are our most valuable assets for the future; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem affecting our current and future quality of life standards of our community; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by making sure every family and caregiver have the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the majority of 1,138 child abuse and neglect cases investigated in 2020 originate from situations and conditions that are preventable; and with the help of an engaged and supportive community, child maltreatment can be eradicated by effective prevention strategies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Oceana County and encourages citizens, community agencies, faith-based groups, to join in our local, state, and national efforts to prevent the maltreatment of children to further strengthen the communities in which we live.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Erickson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the village of Hesperia desires to enter into an agreement with the Oceana County Sheriff's Department for the provision and transfer of police functions; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Sheriff presented to the village of Hesperia the costs necessary to receive police functions from the Oceana County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Sheriff has considered the request from the village of Hesperia

and desires to assume the provision and transfer of police functions into the Oceana County Sheriff's Department.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Sheriff is authorized to enter into an intergovernmental services agreement with the village of Hesperia for the provision and transfer of police functions; contingent upon the Oceana County Sheriff and Oceana County Administrator receiving a certified copy of an adopted resolution from the village of Hesperia whereby the village council approved the intergovernmental services agreement and commits to paying the costs associated with the provision and transfer of police functions.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – APPROVAL OF 2022 EQUALIZATION REPORT

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the 2022 Oceana County equalized valuation of \$1,935,742,918 for real and personal property and a taxable value of \$1,375,149,007 as shown by the 2022 analysis for equalization in compliance with Section 211.34 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, as amended, and all other applicable laws of the state of Michigan.

Furthermore, the Oceana County Clerk and Chairperson of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners are authorized to sign the "L-4024 Statement of Acreage and Valuation of Personal and Real Property Report" and the "L-4037 State Tax Commission Assessment Roll Certification" for the political subdivisions of the County. The values reflected in this Equalization Report show a 4.75 % increase in Equalized Value and a 4.92% increase in Taxable Value overall when compared to the 2021 values.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – APPROVING THE RE-ALLOCATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve a re-allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds previously committed to funding a temporary, full time, Economic and Community Projects Coordinator. The purpose of the re-allocation is to provide funding for part time administrative support to the Oceana County Economic Alliance through the MSU Extension Office. The Oceana County Administrator is authorized to amend the Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund and ARPA Fund budgets in the projected amount of \$16,700 which represents six (6) months of the fiscal year. Appropriations for future budgets, such as Fiscal Year 2023 and so on, will be addressed during Oceana County's annual budget cycle.

Furthermore, upon approval of this resolution the Oceana County Administrator is authorized to eliminate the temporary, full time, Economic and Community Projects Coordinator position following a reasonable notice to the impacted employee.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson expressed his desire that the separation with the employee be made with thanks and gratitude.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Moved by Mr. Christians and supported by Mr. Erickson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2022, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners extended an offer of employment to Ms. Tracy Byard to serve as the Oceana County Administrator, pending development of an acceptable employment agreement between the parties; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Byard has accepted an employment agreement that was presented to her and is now asking the Oceana County Board of Commissioners to approve the same; and

WHEREAS, the employment agreement is attached to this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the employment agreement as presented and welcomes Ms. Byard to Oceana County.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Christians stated that this is a great opportunity for Oceana County.

Dr. Sobie stated that he felt Ms. Byard is an excellent choice for the position.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and **seconded by** Mr. Christians to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for April 12, 2022 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE	\$2,476.66
GIS	-0-
FOC	6,928.08

PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	12,052.31
SHELBY TWP COMMUNITY	
PARK	3,200.00
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE	22,266.50
LCOT	1,500.00
K9	626.98
CDBG	6,568.35
ARPA	290.00
VETERAN AFFAIRS	4,382.34
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION	14,168.23
CAP PROJECT-EQUIP	
REPLACEMENT	15,377.83
FORECLOSURE	16,506.54
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	19,535.37
GENERAL FUND	428,598.96
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 554,478.15

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

Motion carried.

Commissioners Reports

Mr. Christians reported that he attended the WMSRDC meeting on March 25th. There was a large campaign for governmental entities to fill out the ARPA application forms. He also attended the Village of Pentwater and the Weare Township meetings.

Mr. Erickson attended the Parks & Recreation meeting recently and reported on projects that are in progress.

Mr. Beggs mentioned that Silver Lake Improvement Board is working towards a healthy ecological system and the Silver Lake Dunes are now open and the lakeshore is coming alive!

Mr. Hardy noted that he is the Chairperson for the ARPA Committee and stated that request for proposals is on the county website (www.oceana.mi.us/arpa). Organizations may apply for up to \$50,000 in funding for projects that benefit Oceana County. Submission began April 1st and will continue through May 31, 2022. The committee will review those applications and bring the recommendations to the County Board for approval.

Ms. Meyette reported that Department of Veterans Affairs' new Veterans Service Officer, Jodi Slinkard, has great customer service. There has also been an explosion of interest from veterans.

Mr. Walker reported he attended a meeting via zoom with Byce & Associates regarding jail designs and they will be attending the next board meeting with a presentation. He also mentioned that having met with Mr. Britton, the board has decided to include draft resolutions in the board packet available to the public. This will give the public a better opportunity to be informed. He also stated that the board's policies will be updated as well.

Public Comment

Ms. Amy Trudell, City of Hart, resident indicated that she has previously requested resolutions prior to approval and that she is very happy for the change to the board packets.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, reported that she was unhappy with the notification she received from the Oceana County Medical Care Facility regarding their current visitor policy.

Ms. Marilyn Morse, Benona Township resident, specified that she belongs to of a group who is attempting to provide education for citizens to care about government and ways to become involved. She also provided an invitation to the board members to attend a movie event on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at The Avenue Event Center in New Era beginning at 6:30 p.m. She encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Patrick Kelly, City of Hart resident, requested clarification regarding ARPA funding.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

Mr. Walker, Chairperson