

**Board Conference Room  
February 22, 2024  
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 12:11 p.m.

Chairperson Walker led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll was called by Clerk Anderson. Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker.

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Ms. Anna Rapa, Oceana County Friend of the Court Referee; Ms. Lynette Cavazos and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare any conflicts of interest on the agenda items. No conflicts were declared.

Chairperson Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. As earlier mentioned Walker - #2024-28 District Court Magistrate.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Ms Anna Rapa, Oceana County Friend Of the Court Referee, was present to introduce herself as a Probate Judge candidate.

**Agenda Items**

**MOTION #2024-22 – COUNCIL ON AGING – BALLOT LANGUAGE**

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Beggs, to rescind Resolution #23-14 and adopt Resolution #24-04, approving the ballot language proposition for the August 6, 2024 Primary Election for the provision of an operating millage for the Oceana County Council on Aging.

This proposal reestablishes the 1 mill millage previously approved by the electors that expired after the December, 2023 levy. The Headlee Amendment previously reduced this millage to 0.9838 mills. This ballot proposal renews the existing 0.9838 mills and restores the 0.0162 mills previously rolled back by the Headlee Amendment.

Shall the limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be levied against all taxable property within Oceana County be increased by the amount of up to One Dollar (\$1.00) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) (1.00 mill) against all taxable property in the County of Oceana for a period of 8 years, 2024 through 2031 inclusive, for the purpose of funding operations and to providing services to senior citizens of the county through the Oceana County Council on Aging, a Michigan non-profit corporation? If approved and levied in its entirety, this millage would raise an estimated \$1,481,115.00 in the first calendar year of the levy.

YES

NO

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-24 – LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy, to approve the Letter of Understanding between the Fraternal Order of Police, the Oceana County Sheriff’s Department and Oceana County for the proposed wage scale increase to aid in retaining and attracting employees to the Oceana County Sheriff’s Department.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-25 – RENEWAL GRANTS FOR THE CODERED – EMERGENCY MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to approve two alignment and allowability forms for Emergency Management for the renewal of CodeRed, the County’s emergency mass notification system, with funds to be paid from the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-26 – MGT MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE FRIEND OF THE COURT**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Morse, to approve the MGT Master Services Agreement for the Oceana County Friend of the Court for the purpose of Title IV-D Claiming services and automated time log processing and allow the Chair to sign.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-27 – CONTRACT FOR SURVEYOR SERVICES**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy, pending determination of whether a bid is required to approve the Monumentation Surveyor Agreement with Alex Altmaier, PS, A & A Land Surveying, for the purpose of all surveying projects in Oceana County as required by the Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan for Oceana County and allow the Chair to sign.

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

Motion carried.

It was requested that the County Administrator to determine if a bid is needed.

**MOTION #2024-28 – DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE WAGE INCREASE**

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Erickson, to align the District Court Magistrate’s wages with the pay scale set by the adoption of the FY-2024 budget

Roll call vote: Mr. Morse – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; and Mr. Walker – Abstain.

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-29 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Motion #2024-29, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for February 22, 2024.

<b>AMBULANCE</b>	<b>\$251,517.73</b>
<b>GIS</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>FOC</b>	<b>2,194.06</b>
<b>PENTWATER-HART TRAIL</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>SHELBY TWP COMM PARK</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BROWNFIELD</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>AUTOMATION R.O.D.</b>	<b>1,658.84</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE</b>	<b>47,138.82</b>
<b>LCOT</b>	<b>84.00</b>
<b>K9 UNIT</b>	<b>239.97</b>
<b>CJT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>167.78</b>
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>	<b>6,703.02</b>
<b>TECH &amp; INNOVATION</b>	<b>9,017.76</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>1,098.48</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>11,061.55</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>542,566.93</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$873,448.94</b>

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

Motion carried.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

Mr. Morse reported that Jana in the County Administrator’s office is working on a County Newsletter. He stated that the idea of sending the newsletter with the tax bills is not an option as the tax bills are sent by the townships. His vision of this is that each of the Department Heads would highlight items for their offices and possibly even the Commissioners would add items as well.

Mr. Erickson noted that Ms. Christine Jensen, former Oceana County Medical Care Facility Board member passed away earlier this week. He also noted that there are tire recycle companies that will come to you to pick up old tires that are not in use. He also expressed his thanks for the efforts of Mr. Lee Hyslop, Crystal Township Supervisor, Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Mr. Richard Raffaelli, Shelby Township Supervisor. He also mentioned that Early Voting has been available since Saturday and will continue through Sunday.

Mr. Walker mentioned that the Land Bank Authority meeting this week was very productive. He stated that the Land Band Authority has adopted a bid policy that Marquette County has used and he will bring it before this board to consider using the same format.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Byard read the following email from Mr. Richard Raffaelli:

Respectfully Submitted

I want to go on the record that the council of aging in our community is the best-in-class organization and as our population becomes older the need will be greater

As Chair of the MTA Oceana County, I raised the concern of the cost to taxpayers associated with one special election in Oceana County (Roughly 50K) In less that 16 hours the Council of aging agreed and removed their millage renewal from the special election. As they move forward the County Commissioners are now stating they would like to change the language. The points I have heard are extremely valid but why did the County approve the original ballet language from the very beginning? I have investigated the financials and data surrounding their cost structure etc and this is a sound fiscally conservative group that is not over funded and only have 30 to 45 days operating dollars should the revenue stream cease. As you know a prudent group should bank on 18 months. I have a proposal that I believe would be a solid compromise, but it requires buy in from both groups.

The average Millage term in MI for similar councils is 7 to 9 years. As COO of the largest employer in the County I can tell you having a secured revenue stream for 6 years does not allow for strategic planning. I suggest the ballot have 8 Years. I realize there were several comments regarding funding other senior centric organizations with some of the millage. We must be very careful with this approach. If suddenly 20% of Petersons revenue declined, the negative impact to our business would be significant so there needs to be a balanced process that doesn't hurt the council of aging but also supports the entire county.

My suggestion Year 1 to 8 County have a hold back of 50K from the Millage to be administered by the County Commission and 8 years on the millage request. The 50K a year is controlled by the County and can approve additional senior funding requests up and including the Council of aging, but this must go to local governments with senior programs or 5013c organizations that focus on senior programing. I suggest a committee is formed to determine the process (Happy to volunteer as a member lead by Tracy)

I believe we all need to better understand what the Council of Aging does and maybe the group can support a renewed communication approach, but I fully support open dialogues with both groups and I have challenged myself to visit the facility to learn more. Is there an opportunity for the county to Partner with other transportation needs etc.....I know firsthand that non-factual commentary in an open meeting can have significant negative effects. Our mission should be to take care of our seniors and we have an organization that does that

Thankyou for your time and I hope a win win solution is developed.

Richard Raffaelli Shelby Township Supervisor, Chair Michigan township Association Oceana County Chapter, COO Peterson Farms

Ms. Lynnette Cavazos, Pentwater Township Supervisor, expressed her thanks to the County Clerk for providing the Early Voting Site for the registered voters in Oceana County. She also expressed her thanks to the Board for their support of the Oceana County Council on Aging millage proposal.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m. He also stated that the commissioners will reconvene at the District Health Department #10 building for a tour of the building and all are welcome to join them.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Walker, Chairperson

## **Finance and Administration Committee**

The Finance and Administration Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Hardy.

Also Present: Mr. Paul Postal, Business Agent, FOPL; Ms. JoAnn Erway, Oceana County Council on Aging Board Member; Ms. Stephanie Moore, Oceana County Council on Aging (OCCOA) Executive Director; Ms. Lisa Nagel, OCCOA Transportation Director; Ms. Jaccie Smith, OCCOA Senior Care Services Director; Ms. Kris Collee, Agewell Services; Mr. Troy Maloney, Emergency Management Director; Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission; Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff; Mr. Doug Bacon, Oceana County Council on Aging Board Vice-President; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes of the February 08, 2024 Finance and Administration Committee meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Walker declared a conflict of interest regarding Motion #2024-28 due to direct family interaction. Mr. Beggs noted that he repairs Council on Aging vehicles – Mr. Erickson stated the same and both were concerned that this may be a conflict of interest for them. Mr. Walker stated that he did not believe this would be an issue, as the Council on Aging does not have a contract for this service and may choose to go elsewhere for their services.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Agenda Items**

Mr. Paul Postal, Business Agent, FOPLC brought forth a Letter of Understanding requesting a \$1.00/hour increase for the FOP Unit.

Ms. JoAnn Erway brought forth Council on Aging Millage Ballot Proposal. She stated there is not a fact problem, but a perception problem regarding the COA. She also stated clearly the information is not getting relayed on the ground. Her big message was "ASK US". She stated that they are happy to give any and all information.

Mr. Morse asked the question for clarification regarding in home community living support. Ms. Jaccie Smith, Director of Senior Care Services, indicated they are checked on two to three days per week and can either be increased or decreased based on need. She also indicated that the follow up is once a month for six months. Mr. Morse felt that the Oceana County Council On Aging (OCCOA) does great work!

Mr. Walker indicated he felt that the OCCOA does an excellent job in the Hart, Shelby and Pentwater area. He commented the outer county areas do not feel they are receiving sufficient services. He felt that a millage should not have been allowed without a contract. He indicated that 1 mil for 10 years shuts down the ability for other entities to receive specialized services. Mr. Erickson stated he has been involved in OCCOA all of his life. He believes that the OCCOA should have been invited to attend the Walkerville meeting. It is important to work together to find a way to better provide services for the outlying areas. The citizens are what is important.

Mr. Morse questioned if millage funds were used for the escorted trips. Ms. Stephanie Moore, OCCOA Executive Director, responded that the trips that are offered by OCCOA, are paid for by the individuals that are travelling – not millage funds. She indicated that the escorted trips are a great marketing tool.

Mr. Walker voiced his concern over the ballot language that 10 years seems excessive regarding the millage. He suggested OCCOA partner with other senior resources with a \$50,000/5 year to see how it would work. Mr. Erickson suggested looking further into ARPA money. Mr. Morse recommended six years and possibly up to eight rather than ten years. We should continue to seek cooperative relations to create a bridge. Mr. Hardy felt the six to eight year is a better idea.

Ms. Kris Collee, Agewell Services, stated there is a 650 person wait list for Meals on Wheels. She stated that they can't advertise the program because there is no money, but, appreciates donations as they do help.

Mr. Troy Maloney, Emergency Management Directory presented renewal grants for CodeRed-Emergency Mass Notification System.

Administrator Byard brought forth MGT Master Services Agreement for the Friend of the Court.

Administrator Byard brought forth Approval of Contract for Surveying Services for Remonumentation.

Commissioner Morse presented District Court Magistrate Wage Increase. The bottom line is the magistrate feels singled out. The judge feels the increase is justified. \$1.00 per hour should be made retroactive.

Ms. Byard did not read the claims for payment, but the following was provided:

Oceana County Administrator

REVIEW OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT (>= \$1,000 and Other Noteworthy Expenditures)

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>				
210- Ambulance			\$ 246,620.56	to Life EMS for the quarterly service agreement.
			\$ 2,420.00	to Hart Fire Department for 4th Quarter 2023 MFR Costs
215 - Friend of the Court			\$ 2,194.06	to Image Soft for professional services and icloud storage
256 - Automation Fund R.O.D.			\$ 1,658.84	to GovOS, Inc for software fees.

260 - Indigent Defense	\$ 11,050.50	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 8,490.00	to Hayes Law Office, PLC for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 5,833.33	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
	\$ 5,289.00	to MKG Law Office, PLC for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 10,533.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
298 - Technology and Innovation	\$ 5,490.00	to Alertus Technologies for maintenance and support fees
	\$ 1,248.45	to Pivot Point Partners for software
445 - Public Improvement	\$ 1,098.48	to Johnstone Supply for supplies
549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 1,959.65	to RVN Inspections, LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews
	\$ 1,500.00	to Shoreline Inspection Service LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,150.00	to Thomas Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
<b>General Fund</b>		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 5,920.37	to H Security & Investigation for Courthouse Security services
262 - Elections	\$ 1,445.40	to Ludington Daily News for ad for election



	\$ 14,729.34	to Spectrum Printers for early voting postcard mailings.
265 - Courthouse & Grounds	\$ 2,004.99	to City of Hart for utilities
	\$ 1,203.00	to Hallack contracting for plowing and salt
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 1,104.00	to Jurors for Juror fees.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Hayes Law Office for monthly appropriations.
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services.
	\$ 1,435.85	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Springstead Law Offices for monthly appropriations
296 - Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,014.00	to Thomson Reuters for library periodicals
301 - Sheriff	\$ 24,748.02	to Enterprise for fleet vehicle management.
	\$ 1,249.80	to Amazon capital services for machinery and equipment
	\$ 11,232.50	to Chrouh Communications for machinery and equipment
	\$ 29,000.00	to Ingham County for radios
	\$ 11,689.92	to Motorola Solutions for equipment and machinery
351 - Jail	\$ 15,536.15	to Advanced Correctional Healthcare for inmate medical
	\$ 3,146.12	to Gordon Food Service for inmate boarding

595 - Airport	\$ 3,600.00	to Hallack Contracting for plowing and salt
~ <b>Total</b>		
		<b>\$447,343.17</b>

**Administrator’s Report** (as provided by Ms. Byard):

**MAC/MACAO MEETING**

MAC touched on the items that have been included in the Governors proposed budget. There is an increase to the Juvenile Justice and addressing bed shortages as well as behavioral health Medicaid services. There has been \$30.5 million set for inmate medical who would have been otherwise eligible for Medicaid 90 days before their release. There have been some funds set aside for mental health for Public Safety. They have full funding set for the MIDC. They have proposed a 5% increase in revenue sharing with an additional 3% if we have allocated all ARPA funds. Last, there is a proposal for a 1289% (yes, 1289) increase to tipping fees which would increase it to \$5/ton to deter out of state dumping.

There are two bills as it relates to the Open Meetings Act as it relates to classifying groups, however no changes for us.

They discussed a deficit to road funding, and they are exploring options for this issue.

**MAC MEETING REGARDING OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

MAC provided an educational meeting regarding the Opioid Settlement Fund. Kent County presented information regarding their long-standing collaboration committee regarding opioids and the support and investing resources in mitigation of the epidemic. They have many partners involved in the process with substance abuse disorder services set as the baseline. They are collecting data and evaluating each area to determine where the funds should be spent. Eaton County presented as well with information pertaining to a steering committee. The committee decided to work on a strategic plan to bring the community to the table and create strategic to build new infrastructure and enforce what is working. They reviewed their process and the meetings that have been held along with the information they have gathered for their community needs assessment.

These meetings are held once a month to look over how other counties are making use of the Opioid funds. I am currently in the process of gathering additional information as it relates to use of these funds in county jails and will be providing that information to our group along other avenues for use of the funds.

**OCEANA COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**

I have been invited to join the OCEA Board. They met on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Curtis Burdette highlighted the work with the EDA Workforce Strategy and Rightplace. He also shared upcoming events. The Committees provided updates for their Executive, Workforce, Development and Outreach Committees. I look forward to being a part of this group.

**AUDIT PREPARATION**

As previously mentioned, we are in the process of gathering information for the County Auditors prior to their field work.

**Department Head Reports**

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission, Stated there is one week left of public inspection of the county five-year plan. He stated that on March 7 there will be a public meeting during the planning commission. If change is needed it will be modified. He noted that the Oceana County Parks and Recreation has scheduled the engineering meeting next Wednesday, for the Stony Creek Project and work is set to begin the middle of April.

Sheriff Mast indicated the jail population was up. He stated that there are a couple of new hires going through field training in corrections, and there are new officers on the road as well. He reported that last week there was an incident and a few Federal agencies were in the Walkerville area trying to intercept some of the illegal drug exercise. Sheriff Mast noted that the brown uniform is extremely hard to find and extremely expensive, therefore, the staff will be making the change to black uniforms.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Doug Bacon, OCCOA Board Vice-President, he stated bussing is not a money-making project. He stated that bussing is a part of the millage, so if millage is taken away, then there will be an impact on bussing services.

Ms. Byard read an email from Mr. Richard Raffaelli, Shelby Township Supervisor regarding the OCCOA. The email is on file in the County Clerk’s office.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk