

**Board Conference Room
April 9, 2024
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, April 9, 2024, at 11:31 a.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: Mr. Garry McKeen, Benona Township Resident; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the March 28, 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. No additions were mentioned.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Garry McKeen, mentioned there might need to be a change to the wording of Resolution #2024-45. The current wording could lead some to believe that the County is committed to maintaining the budget for the Conservation District.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2024-43 – LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – SEASONAL PART TIME

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Morse, Motion #2024-44, to adopt the proposed letter of understanding with changes to allow the Sheriff to set the range of pay for non-certified Seasonal Part Time officers not to exceed what is currently in the contract.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Walker reminded that as discussed earlier, any benefits accrued must be used at the end of employment as there is no expectations of their employment for seasonal employment.

MOTION #2024-44 – COUNTY TREASURERS REQUEST TO EXTEND THE 40 HOUR WORKWEEK

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Hardy, Motion #2024-45, to allow the County Treasurer's office to continue working the 40-workweek through 2024.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-45 – RESOLUTION 24-08 TO REQUEST TO MAINTAIN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN’S OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Morse, Motion #2024-45, to approve Resolution #24-08, in opposition to the fiscal year 2025 Governor’s recommended budget for the reduction of operational funding to the Michigan Conservation District’s and the elimination of local administration of the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program known as MEAP.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-46 - EQUALIZATION REPORT AND APPROVAL OF L4037 and L4024

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Erickson, Motion #2024-46, to approve the 2024 Oceana County equalized valuation as presented by the Equalization Director, the L4037 and L4024 as reflected in the equalization report and authorize the County Clerk and the Chairman to sign.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024- 47 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Motion #2024-47, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for April 11, 2024.

AMBULANCE	\$11,264.37
GIS	-0-
FOC	-0-
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	1,292.20
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	16,030.00
BROWNFIELD	-0-
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE	28,876.99
LCOT	-0-
K9 UNIT	-0-
CJT	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	17,450.00
VETERANS AFFAIRS	8,991.71
TECH & INNOVATION	1,806.83
CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
FORECLOSURE	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	17,797.48

GENERAL FUND

541,058.59

GRAND TOTAL

\$644,568.17

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Morse commented on the OCEA meeting, he felt that the presenter did not present in a positive way, however the meeting did end on a positive note. The application that was approved for the MDARD—has not been heard back on. Tracy’s evaluation form for the administrator was 1-7 but is now 1-5. Please return evaluation by the next board meeting.

Mr. Erickson mentioned that he will get a quote on the cost to publish the county newsletter.

Mr. Walker thought that we need to look at the pay for the nurse at the jail which is now paid out of the ARPA fund. He wondered about switching to pay out of the Opioid funds. Tracy thought that there may be a difficult time justifying this as the funds are to be used for opioid issues. She will find out for sure if the opioid funds could be used for this purpose. He also noted that there were eight Golden Eggs that included in the 5,000 Easter eggs that were put out for those participating in the Rothbury Easter egg hunt. Inside those eggs, 8 had a golden egg inside. The golden eggs were to be taken to the village hall where parents were instructed to go to Walmart to pick a bicycle of their choosing for their child. This event was funded by the Community Development funds which come from the Electric Forest.

Public Comment

Mr. Gary McKeen, stated that the Oceana County Planning Commission had a joint meeting with Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA). A brochure was put out regarding Skilled Trades which was sponsored by OCEA I Can with some college access network, Oceana Community Foundation and ESD. The brochure promoted educational programs for students. The next meeting will be joint with the townships on May 18.

He also noted that Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission had a meeting and are trying to find a new host for Black Lake. There was discussion to shut it down, but the decision was to keep it open.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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, April 9, 2024, at 10:42 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Mr. Edward VanderVries, Oceana County Equalization Director; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024 Finance and Administration Committee meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were mentioned.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator requested approval of Resolution #24-08 to maintain the operational budget for the Michigan Conservation Districts. Mr. Walker is in favor of this resolution.

Mr. Edward VanderVries, Oceana County Equalization Director, asked for consideration to approve the 2024 Equalization Report and approval to sign the L4024 and L4037. He indicated our assessed value is up 15.74% and the taxable value is up 8.85% over 2023. There are a lot of millage rollbacks this year. As the assessed values go up the millage rollbacks are affected by the transfer of ownership. Total equalized value has the true cash value of over 5 billion dollars and the taxable value is over 1 billion.

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

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

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
Special Revenue Funds				
210 - Ambulance			\$ 4,422.10	to MMRMA for quarter liability insurance.
			\$ 4,840.00	to Walkerville fire department for 1st qtr MFR costs
238 - Pentwater Hart Trail			\$ 1,292.20	to Fleis & Vandenbrink for survey

239 - Shelby Twp Community Park	\$ 16,030.00	to FAST Fiberglass for equipment. Fully Reimbursed by private donations.
260 - Indigent Defense	\$ 9,506.50	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 7,170.00	to Hayes Law Office, PLC for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 5,833.34	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
286 - ARPA	\$ 17,450.00	to J.E. Tiffany and Sons for work at Crystal Valley Dam
293 - Veterans	\$ 1,345.87	to Crystal Flash for indigent veteran expense
549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 2,971.30	to RVN Inspections, LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews
	\$ 1,000.00	to Shoreline Inspection Service LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 6,233.60	to Randolph D Miller, LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews
	\$ 1,239.99	to Sonnie Smith for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 1,720.40	to Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. for legal services.
208 - Insurance	\$ 45,272.65	to MMRMA for quarter liability insurance.
245 - Remonumentation	\$ 1,862.05	to Harrison Marker Co. for contracted surveyor services.

	\$ 2,176.00	to J Randolph Hepworth for monumentation surveyor contract for 2024.
265 - Courthouse & Grounds	\$ 2,340.29	to City of Hart for utilities
	\$ 1,074.27	to DTE Energy for utilities
	\$ 1,606.74	to Republic Services for trash removal
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 4,223.92	to Hayes Law Office for monthly appropriations.
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Springstead Law Offices for monthly appropriations
294 - Probate Court	\$ 1,125.00	to Barkow Law for County Guardian fees.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 1,200.51	to AT&T mobility
351 - Jail	\$ 1,287.26	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 1,140.64	to DTE for utilities
	\$ 3,091.66	to City of Hart for utilities
	\$ 1,397.06	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 14,432.15	to Advanced Correctional Healthcare for inmate medical
430 - Animal Control	\$ 1,095.85	to Oceana Veterinary Clinic for professional services

528 - Transfer Station	\$ 9,406.15	to American Classic Dumpster Services
710 - MSU Extension	\$ 36,598.75	to MSUE Business Office for the 2nd qtr assessment fee per agreement.
~ Total		
		\$ 217,910.17

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

Jana has been working diligently to gather information for the County Newsletter. She has reached out to the papers to obtain the cost for inserts. Once the information is received, it will be provided to the Board.

MID MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

A meeting of the MMCAA was held on March 28th. There was a presentation regarding local food procurement discussing food that is obtained from local farmers for local units to be provided at food pantries. Several reports were provided relating to the planning and finance committees. Resolutions were passed for the Early Head Start Application, Head Start Change of Scope, and a resolution in recognition. This was the first meeting with MMCAA, but I look forward to learning more about the programs that are offered in Oceana County and what needs to be shared with our community.

BROADBAND

Curtis Burdette reached out to our Broadband Task Force to discuss the possibility of a community update meeting with speakers from the different vendors relating to broadband and where they are now and what plans there are for high-speed internet development throughout the county. Information will be provided once a date and time has been decided on.

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY STUDY PRESENTATION

A big thank you to the OCEA for providing the Workforce and Economic Diversity Study presentation. The data from the study showed that even though blue collar jobs are in high demand, the training facilities needed to provide the necessary education are scarce. However, the meeting was set up to allow breakout groups to brainstorm ways in which to change this along with helping existing and new businesses to succeed with training and job openings. The OCEA will compile the data gathered during this meeting and work to keep it moving forward.

FOLLOW UP

The Board of Commissioners requested that a letter be sent to Sandy Griffin for her years of service with the Road Commission. The letter has been prepared and will be sent once signed by the Board Chair at the board meeting.

An update was provided at the previous meeting regarding space at the Health Department. The Board requested that a tour be provided to the Building Department. That tour has been scheduled. Maintenance is also working to gather bids for the cost of the window. Once those have been obtained, they will be provided to the board.

Department Head Reports

There were no department head reports at this time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk

Courts and Public Safety Committee

The Courts and Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beggs, on Thursday, April 9, 2024 at 10:01 a.m. in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024, Courts and Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Beggs asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were mentioned.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Ms. Byard asked for consideration to approve a letter of Understanding, Seasonal Part-Time Pay. There were concerns related to the wording in the hourly rate of pay concerning certified and non-certified part-time seasonal employees. Certified seasonal part time employee shall be compensated at the starting Road Deputy wage. The sheriff will set the pay for the non-certified part-time employee with the rate being at least \$18.00 and not more than the starting wage for the Road Patrol Deputy.

Mr. Walker stated for those who sat on the negotiations with the POAM, even though they are non-certifying people it should be understood that benefits of sick days and personal days must be used by the end of their employment.

Department Head Report

There were no department head reports at this time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Beggs asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk

Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee

The Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, April 9, 2024 at 10:06 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: County Treasurer, Mary Lou Phillips; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morse asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were presented.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

County Treasurer, Mary Lou Phillips provided a report on the Quarterly Report relating to the 40-hour workweek and the request to extend.

She also stated their new employee Samantha Smith is doing well. She thanked the board for allowing her to be hired prior to Betty's retirement.

She indicated when she arrived in 2017 the general fund had one CD. We now have money in the checking account and are earning interest, as well as other accounts. There have been extensive changes implemented as well as mandated changes from the state.

Mr. Walker stated he has never seen a department head as detailed as we have right now. The documentation is very well done. The \$20,498 to stay as a 40-hour work week is worth all the work that is done.

Department Head Comment

There were no department head comments at this time.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Chairperson Morse asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk