

Board Conference Room
April 25, 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 25, 2024, at 11:36 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. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Morse.

Also Present: Mr. Ron Rash, Golden Township resident; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the April 9, 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. Ron Rash, Golden Township resident, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the members of this board and all that they do.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2024-48 – PARKS AND RECREATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy, to adopt the proposed Parks and Recreation rules and regulations as presented by the Parks and Recreation Commission with the changes noted.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-49 – VETERANS AFFAIRS BALLOT RENEWAL

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve the language of the following Ballot Proposal for the provision of operating millage for the Oceana County Department of Veterans' Affairs to be presented to voters at the Tuesday, August 6, 2024 primary election:

OCEANA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS OPERATING

MILLAGE RENEWAL

This proposal reestablishes the .1000 mill millage previously approved by the electors that expired after the December 2023 levy. The Headlee Amendment previously reduced this millage to .0986 mills. This ballot proposal renews the previous .0986 mills and authorizes a new additional millage of 0.0014 mills to restore the mills that were rolled back by the Headlee Amendment.

Shall the limitation upon the total amount of taxes that may be levied against all taxable property within Oceana County be renewed and restored at the rate of up to .1000 mills, (\$0.1000 per \$1,000.00 in taxable value) against all taxable property in Oceana County for a period of 4 years, 2024 through 2027, inclusive, for the purpose of funding the operations of the Oceana County Department of Veterans' Affairs? Revenue from this millage will be disbursed to Oceana County. If approved and levied in its entirety, this millage would raise an estimated \$148,112 in the first calendar year of the levy.

YES

NO

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson commented that he appreciated the improvements in the Veterans Affairs office since Ms. Slinkard was hired.

MOTION #2024-50 – DRAIN COMMISSIONER REQUEST EARLY HIRE FOR CHIEF DEPUTY REPLACEMENT

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to allow the County Drain Commissioner to hire a Chief Deputy replacement three months prior to the current Deputy's retirement for training purposes.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-51 – REGISTER OF DEEDS REQUEST EARLY HIRE FOR CLERK REPLACEMENT

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs to allow the County Register of Deeds to hire a Clerk replacement one month prior to the current Chief Deputy's retirement for training purposes.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-52 – APPOINTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DPA

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy, to appoint the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission as the Designated Planning Agency for Oceana County for the purpose of regional Materials Management Plan and allow the Chair to sign the agreement.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-53 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to approve the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for April 25, 2024.

AMBULANCE	\$20,736.69
GIS	-0-
FOC	-0-
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	-0-
BROWNFIELD	-0-
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE	26,429.50
LCOT	1,584.00
K9 UNIT	218.36
CJT	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	-0-
VETERANS AFFAIRS	7,890.54
TECH & INNOVATION	30,257.71
CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
FORECLOSURE	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	3,063.56
GENERAL FUND	368,104.62
GRAND TOTAL	\$458,284.98

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Hardy reported that the 911 Board Meeting was cancelled due to lack of business, but will be convened next month.

Mr. Erickson noted that the Oceana County Medical Care Facility is still in the process of obtaining a new administrator. He also commended Mr. McKeen on his efforts with the Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission.

Mr. Walker reminded that the Administrator Review Survey should be turned in to Jessica early next week. He also mentioned that Mr. Joel McCormick, McCormick Sand, visited the Transfer Station to provide an assessment of the installation of a scale. He offered some options that are worth consideration.

Mr. Erickson also reported that he attended the Oceana County Republican Party last week. He indicated that a topic of discussion was the possible dissolution of the party in this county. He also reported that the Treasurer of the Republican Party has resigned.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 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 25, 2024, at 10:46 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Ms. Lisa Kaspriak, Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group (MMMEG) Administrator, Ms. Jodi Slinkard, Oceana County Veterans Affairs; Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission; 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 April 9, 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. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Ms. Lisa Kaspriak, MMMEG Administrator presented the Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group Annual Report and a history on autopsies.

Ms. Jodi Slinkard brought forth Veterans Affairs Ballot Language.

Ms. Byard requested to hire a replacement Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner three month prior to retirement date.

Ms. Byard requested to hire a replacement in the Register of Deeds to start on June 10th one month prior to retirement date.

Ms. Byard requested to appoint West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission as the Designated Planning Agency for the Materials Management Plan (MMP).

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			\$ 2,530.00	To Ferry Twp Fire Dept for 1st qtr MFR costs
			\$ 11,440.00	To Grant Township for 1st qtr MFR costs

	\$ 6,710.00	Shelby- Benona Fire Department for 1st qtr MFR costs.
243 - Brownfield Redevelopment	\$ 10,354.25	to Fishbeck for professional services
260 - Indigent Defense	\$ 8,584.50	to MKG Law Office, PLLC for court appointed attorney fees
	\$ 13,236.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
293 - Veterans	\$ 1,909.26	to VanAndel Propane for Indigent veteran/dependent expense
	\$ 1,012.50	to Trophy House for public outreach
298 - Technology & Innovation	\$ 1,741.65	to Huntington National (Credit Card) for software subscriptions
	\$ 23,211.00	to Kroll Associates, INC for professional services
	\$ 4,543.00	to SHI International Corp for Machinery & Equipment and software
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 6,286.06	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security services
248 - General Services	\$ 10,000.00	to Reserve Account for postage
257 - Equalization	\$ 18,150.00	to V&V Assessing for equalization and assessing services.
296 - Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,860.20	to Integrity Business Solutions for office supplies

301 - Sheriff	\$ 26,444.54	to Enterprise for fleet vehicle management.
	\$ 1,649.32	to Affordable Auto Sales for vehicle repairs/maintenance
	\$ 1,755.12	to Engineered Protections Systems, Inc for security purposes
	\$ 3,238.29	to NYE uniforms
351 - Jail	\$ 1,443.76	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 1,585.46	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
648 - Medical Examiner	\$ 3,322.48	to WMU Homer Stryker M.D. for autopsies
649 - Mental Health	\$ 10,833.33	to West Michigan CMH for Local April 2024 Match
~ Total	\$ 171,840.72	

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

The quarterly department head meeting was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Discussion was held regarding a new I.T. person, new vendors, and reminders to provide paperwork for accounts payable when submitted, corrections to budget overages if they occur and a video on "The 7 Great Leadership Traits".

MERS UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY PAYMENT

During the Board of Commissioners meeting in May I would like the Board to consider discussion regarding a payment to our unfunded accrued liability. We are currently funded at 83.8% and the Board has been working diligently to continue working at getting that to 100%. We did not make a payment last year and I feel we should discuss a \$200,000 payment or look at dividing that amount out for the year and making monthly payments in addition to what we pay regularly.

Mr. Walker suggested to talk to the Treasurer first before doing a one-time payment to make sure the liquid assets are available.

AUDITORS

We have been working to gather information for the auditors. They are scheduled to be here for on-site work May 6th through the 10th.

FOLLOW UP

The resolution pertaining to the Governor's cuts to the Conservation District has been forwarded to legislators and the Governor.

We have received the approved County Master Plan. It has been posted to the County website and forwarded to Stephen Carlson of WMSRDC as well as Garry McKeen. Copies of the plan will be forwarded on to local units of government.

There has been discussion related to uses for Opioid Funds. As previously stated, these funds must be used for the purpose of opioid remediation. Attached is a schedule for the settlement funds per year and what Oceana County is due to receive through 2038.

Additional Administrator's Report Items

The Personnel Policy will be coming to the board for approval. Mr. Walker suggested allowing the Elected Department Heads to review as well before is adopted.

Mr. John Wilson has reached out to Ms. Byard to request extending the final payment for the Pentwater-Hart trail. An email has been sent to MEDC to see what has to be done.

Ms. Byard inquired when the board would like to reschedule the Airport/Animal Control and Griswold tour. The board will answer after looking into it further, possibly after the next meeting.

Department Head Reports

Sheriff Mast stated there is an inmate work group at the Shelby Twp. Park. He reported that there are currently 48 in the jail. He mentioned that Deb Barefoot, retired corrections officer, passed away and the funeral will be on Saturday. He mentioned that there is talk among the corrections union exploring some options and the union possibly splitting. Sheriff Mast noted that there are two officers who are finishing the academy, and that Sgt. Scott Bosley will be taking over the marine program for the summer.

Public Comment

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission stated that there will be a planning meeting on May 16 at the County Services Building (CSB) which will be led by Mary Riley. There will also be a zoning meeting in September. He also stated that John Warner, Oceana County Deputy Drain Commissioner has been a vital part of the Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission and will be missed upon his upcoming retirement.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk

Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee

The Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Erickson, on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 10:02 a.m. in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks and Recreation, Ms. Linda East, Golden Township resident; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024 Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission, gave a brief history regarding Oceana County parks and provided the parks mission statement. He also stated that the 5-year plan is underway. He also provided a power point presentation that included pertinent information regarding the parks. Mr. McKeen thanked the individuals on the Parks and Recreation Commission for their dedication and all the hard work they do.

Agenda Items

Mr. Garry McKeen gave the annual Parks and Recreation report as well as went over Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Walker stated he talked to the prosecuting attorney who suggested adding civil infraction violation and a fine not to exceed \$100.

Public Comment

Ms. Linda East, Golden Township resident, spoke in regard to the Medical Care Facility. She stated that she has become more involved as her mother is a resident there. She also stated that she attended the second interview process for administrator. She was disturbed that members of the board were quoting rumors of a candidate to exclude them from consideration. She felt that the integrity of one of the board members and as well as a County Commissioner board member, was impugned during this process. She stated that she wanted the process to be fair for everyone.

Chairperson Erickson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk