

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

May 6, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 6, 2021 via Zoom Meeting and aired live on YouTube.

Chair Frisbie called the meeting to order, requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll and requested all commissioners note their physical location for the current Board of Commissioners meeting in accordance with the Amended Open Meetings Act. All members indicated they were in Calhoun County, MI.

Present: Comrs. Jake Smith, Steve Frisbie, Derek King, Tommy Miller, Gary Tompkins, Kathy-Sue Vette and Rochelle Hatcher.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Communications Manager Lucy Blair, and Deputy Clerk Susan Connolly.

2 and 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE/INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After a moment of silence, Comr. King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Res. 074-2021

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the agenda of the May 6, 2021 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners’ April 13, 2021 Equalization Session according to MCL209.5.

Res. 075-2021

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the minutes of the Board of Commissioners’ April 13, 2021 Equalization Session according to MCL209.5 as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Michael (Mac) McCullough, an employee of Willard Library and resident of Battle Creek acknowledged the efforts and support of the Board of Commissioners to expand broadband access to Calhoun County residents.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sheriff Steve Hinkley reported that he attended Sheriffs' Leadership Training for new sheriffs and acknowledged and thanked all corrections officers during Michigan's Corrections Officers' Week.

Clerk/Register of Deeds Kimberly Hinkley thanked the board for approving the records management system contract with Kofile which provides time savings for staff and convenience for County residents. Clerk Hinkley mentioned Tuesday, May 4 was election day and canvassers met May 6 with the support of Terri Loew, Elections Coordinator.

Senior Services Manager Helen Guzzo informed the board that Dominic Oo was participating via Zoom as he was on the Consent Agenda to be approved for membership on the Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC). Ms. Guzzo noted that there are 38 centenarians who will be recognized this summer.

Comr. Frisbie asked Helen Guzzo the process for the selection of the SMAC member. Helen Guzzo explained the application process including advertising in the local Battle Creek Shopper newspaper, posting the application on the County website, meeting during a public SMAC meeting to hear from the candidates and discuss qualifications and then making the final recommendation and vote.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was none.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Resolutions from Other Governmental Units to be Acknowledged
 - a. Cheboygan County re: 4-year Commissioner Terms
 - b. Iron County re: Release of COVID-19 Federal Funds
 - c. Iron County re: Wolf Management
 - d. Wexford County re: 4-year Commissioner Terms
 - e. Grand Traverse County re: Denouncing Threats of Violence
 - f. Berrien County re: County Revenue Sharing Fund
 - g. Alger County re: Support of Local Businesses

B. Resolutions

1. Appointment to Calhoun County Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) (Filling remainder of term replacing Teresa Schell, expiring April 30, 2023)
 - a. Dominic Oo
2. Creation of Calhoun County Broadband Task Force, and Appointment of Initial Members: (Terms indefinite)
 - a. Mac McCullough, Community Engagement Librarian, Willard Library (chair)
 - b. Angela Stewart, Community Initiatives Officer, Battle Creek Community Foundation
 - c. Kathy Szenda Wilson, Co-executive Director, BC Pulse, and Battle Creek City Commissioner, Ward 4
 - d. Jim Haadsma, State Representative, 62nd District
 - e. Lee Adams, Director, Southcentral Michigan Planning Council and Community Development Leader, W.E. Upjohn Institute
 - f. Dr. Raymond Barclay, Chief Planning Officer, Albion College
 - g. Dr. Paul Watson, Vice President for Instruction, Kellogg Community College
 - h. Gary Tompkins, County Commissioner, District 7
 - i. Jake Smith, County Commissioner, District 3
 - j. Sam Lutgring, Assistant Superintendent, Technology Services, Calhoun Intermediate School District
 - k. Art Kale, Manager, Village of Homer, MI
3. Consent for Local Road Agreements with Albion & Eckford Townships
4. FY21 Calhoun County Public Health Department Grant Awards
5. 457 Retirement Savings Plan Acknowledgment and Agreement

Res. 076-2021

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 6, 2021 Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Hatcher informed the Board of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Conference last week and noted that she participated in numerous sessions including legislative training and juvenile law in Michigan.

Comr. Hatcher reported that she attended the County Planning Commission meeting on May 3.

Comr. Tompkins reported the Calhoun County Solid Waste Committee met on April 21 and approved a mini grant for the purchase of trail cameras to reduce illegal dumping. Comr. Tompkins added Solid Waste Coordinator Sara Kelly highlighted the recent successful recycling event on April 10 that collected electronics and appliances.

Comr. Vette reported that the Summit Pointe Board met on May 4 and the meeting included the election of officers, noting that she would continue as Chair and that Kelli Scott continues as Treasurer, Dr. Terence Lunger as Secretary, and Richard Lindsey as Vice Chair.

Comr. Frisbie informed the Board that the County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (911 Service) Director Rich Feole will be retiring in August. Comr. Frisbie highlighted that Congressman Peter Meijer was in town a few weeks ago to visit the new Summit Pointe psychiatric clinic.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. County Administrator/Controller's Report

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott provided an update on the County's COVID-19 Response and reopening plans and noted Board of Commissioner meetings will remain virtual through at least June and then the situation will be evaluated for future months. She added that county employees will begin to transition to in-person work through the summer with the Courts following separate guidance from the State.

Ms. Scott reported Standard & Poor's Global Ratings reaffirmed the 'AA' long-term credit rating on the County's outstanding bonds and on the upcoming new Pension Obligation Bonds. She added that the rating report highlighted factors contributing to the County's creditworthiness--strong management including realistic revenue and expenditure assumptions, strong budgetary performance, strong budget flexibility and strong liquidity.

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that she also wanted to express appreciation for the County's corrections officers during Corrections Officers Week, adding additional thanks to all government employees for Public Service Recognition Week and our public health nurses for Nurse Appreciation Week.

Kelli Scott informed the Veterans Affairs Committee met April 14 and approved emergency relief for veterans.

Ms. Scott shared that on April 19 she, Human Resources and Finance staff met with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to review the county's employee health insurance claims experience from 2020 which reflected healthcare costs down significantly in 2020, likely due to the pandemic. Scott noted that more importantly, BCBSM's report highlighted some very positive comparisons of Calhoun County's employee health claims costs, our employees' engagement in wellness and preventative care activities, based on national and state peer organizations.

B. New Business

1. Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) Grant application to EGLE for Local Freight Vehicles, Port Drayage Vehicles, Transit & Shuttle Buses Replacement.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott explained that this is a state grant program aimed to reduce old diesel vehicles with new emission friendly vehicles. Road Department Operations Director Kori Albrecht was available via Zoom to answer any questioned raised. The grant application identified four trucks to be replaced with a total grant in the amount of \$263,000 toward their purchase.

Res.077-2021

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) Grant application to EGLE for Local Freight Vehicles, Port Drayage Vehicles, Transit & Shuttle Buses Replacement as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Calhoun County March 2021 Financials.

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that it is the normal practice for the County to issue the first monthly financial report to the Board after the first quarter, given the year-end close out period and the absence of a need to report on the first couple of months of the fiscal year. Ms. Scott mentioned the County continues to see reduced revenues within the jail and Sheriff's department, and that there is also expenditure savings from the work share program and positions that have remained vacant.

Res.078-2021

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Calhoun County March 2021 Financials as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Site Readiness Planning contracts with Burns & McDonnell.

Kelli Scott noted that these contracts are necessary to aid in making two of the County's largest vacant commercial/industrial sites ready for future development. She added that site readiness grants and this project were started in 2019 and the contracts are the final step to implement the site planning efforts.

Comr. Miller questioned if there is a conflict of interest with Mr. Sackrider sitting on the County's Planning Commission. Ms. Scott replied that the grant-funded project would support the State's marketing efforts and ultimately private development on the land, and not Sackrider individually.

Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer affirmed Kelli Scott's reply.

Res.079-2021

"Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Site Readiness Planning contracts with Burns & McDonnell as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Comrs. Vette, Hatcher, Smith, Frisbie, King and Tompkins. No – 1, Comr. Miller. Motion **CARRIED**.

4. Kimball Pines Park Contract with PEA Group

Administrator/Controller Scott shared this is the fourth time items related to the Kimball Pines Redevelopment project have come before the board, based on steps required by the MDNR Trust Fund grant. Ms. Scott noted this is the final step in order to engage the PEA Group to design the project.

Comr. Hatcher asked if the board could see the plans for work to be performed. Kelli Scott replied this contract approval is the step to be able to create the designs.

Res.080-2021

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. King to approve the Kimball Pines Park Contract with PEA Group as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

13. CITIZENS' TIME

Battle Creek resident, Dominic Oo introduced himself and thanked the board for electing him for his role with SMAC.

14. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Comr. Tompkins commended Senior Services for coming up with other ways to honor centenarians in place of the annual luncheon due to COVID-19 constraints.

Comr. Miller reported that he had heard from some township officials within his commissioner district that they were unhappy with the County's Road Department, noting road paving matters with Eckford Township as one example.

Comr. Frisbie spoke in regard to social media posts and gross misuse of trust and asked others to stop and refrain from posting negative statements about the County on social media platforms.

Comr. Smith responded referencing his social media posts about concerns with the proposed Parks Millage ballot language from November 2019. He added that he has requested information from the County's legal counsel and looked forward to the reply, to address whether there has been proper oversight by the Board of Commissioners of the process to distribute parks millage funds to local governments.

Comr. Frisbie noted that there was Board approval in 2019 of the Parks Millage ballot language and the intent to distribute funds to local governments based on population, and that the allocations were part of the 2021 budget that the Board approved.

Comr. King noted that the Board of Commissioners' role is to govern and that the Board must rely on staff and committees to implement projects and processes with money allocated in the budget.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res.081-2021

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for April 2, 2021 through April 29, 2021 in the amount of \$6,007,380.64 as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board