

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 19, 2021

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 6:57 p.m., Thursday, August 19, 2021 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chair Frisbie called the meeting to order and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll.

Present: Comrs. Jake Smith, Steve Frisbie, Derek King, Tommy Miller, and Gary Tompkins.

Excused: Comrs. Rochelle Hatcher and Kathy-Sue Vette.

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

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

Sheriff Hinkley lead a moment of silence for Kalamazoo County Sergeant Ryan Proxmire who was killed in the line of Duty and Dan Loew, husband of Calhoun County Elections Manager Terri Loew, who recently passed away.

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

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Res.136-2021

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the agenda of the August 19, 2021 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Board of Commissioners' Regular Session.

Res.137-2021

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Board of Commissioners' Regular Session as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

**6. CITIZENS' TIME**

Numerous residents of Battle Creek, Ceresco and Marshall shared their concerns related to mask mandates in schools and expressed their opposition.

Comr. King informed the public that Calhoun County currently does not have a countywide mask mandate and noted that some individual school districts have implemented mask mandates and some have not. He added that if the County issued a mask mandate it would come from the County's Public Health Officer through his authority under Michigan's Public Health Code, and would not require a vote of either the Public Health Board or the County Board of Commissioners.

**7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS**

Sheriff Steve Hinkley reported that he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force to represent all Sheriffs in the State of Michigan. Sheriff Hinkley mentioned the County Fair is in full swing and that he enjoyed meeting youth during kids day Tuesday. Hinkley thanked those who are volunteering their time at the fair and noted that his department would be assisting with the services of fallen Kalamazoo Sergeant Proxmire this weekend.

County Clerk Kim Hinkley paid tribute to Dan Loew who recently passed away. Clerk Hinkley also announced that beginning August 20, online marriage applications will be available on the County website.

**8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**A. *2020 Medical Examiner's Annual Report***

Dr. Joyce deJong, D.O. provided an overview of the 2020 Annual Report of the Office of the Medical Examiner, providing paper copies to all commissioners and the County's administrative executive team members. Dr. deJong stated the number of deaths within Calhoun County are provided by the County Clerk's office.

Dr. deJong informed the total number of deaths from 2019 to 2020 increased from 1,521 to 1,783 with homicides quadrupling from 4 to 16 from 2019 to 2020.

Dr. Joyce deJong mentioned there were 54 drug-related deaths in 2020 which is a 21% increase with 31 being unemployed persons.

Comr. Frisbie shared his appreciation to Dr. deJong for the services provided by the Medical Examiner's Office and the time to present their findings.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Petitions, Communications, Reports**

1. Resolutions from Other Governmental Units to be Acknowledged
  - i. Missaukee County re: ARPA Funds Compliance
  - ii. Lake County re: ARPA Funds Compliance
  - iii. Lake County re: Realignment of Courts
  - iv. Lake County re: State Match of ARPA Funds

B. Resolutions

1. FEMA Non-Congregate Sheltering Project Grant Agreement

Res.138-2021

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Consent Agenda of the August 19, 2021 Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

**10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS**

Comr. Tompkins shared that the Senior Millage Allocation Committee met August 6 at Albion College and toured the Albion College Food Distribution Center supported by the Senior Strategic Fund.

Comr. King reported the Calhoun County Health Department Board met Monday, August 16 with the main order of business accepting the budget which will be presented to the Board of Commissioners in September. Comr. King mentioned there was discussion and public comment about mask mandates and reiterated that the decision would be made by the Health Officer and not the advisory board.

Comr. Smith asked Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer to confirm who has the authority to make decisions regarding mask mandates.

Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer replied that the Michigan Public Health Code gives authority to the local health official who is Eric Pessell with the Calhoun County Health Department.

Comr. Frisbie shared that the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority Board has selected two finalists for the new Executive Director and a decision is expected in the next week or two.

**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 shared that the Calhoun County Broadband Task Force met on Thursday, Aug. 12 virtually to set the annual meeting schedule and review status on established strategic goals.

Ms. Scott added to Commissioner King's report on the Calhoun County Board of Public Health Meeting on Aug. 16, noting that the board reviewed a letter from Medical Director Dr. William Nettleton to frame the discussion about the need to consider action from the Health Officer to issue a countywide mask mandate, like some other counties in Michigan have done. She added that Health Officer Pessell has been sharing all emails on this topic with her and that ongoing discussions continue to take place to consider all response options to help keep schools safe this year.

Administrator/Controller Scott reported that the Battle Creek Executive Airport Advisory Board met on Aug. 18 via Zoom, with the current focus on reviewing options for the form of governance for the airport, led by a consulting firm. She added that a new Technical Advisory Committee was formed to represent the main tenants at the airport.

Kelli Scott clarified her answer to Commissioner Smith's question about claims payable at the August 5, 2021 Board meeting, noting that the large increase in claims payable was specifically the \$21 million in pension bond proceeds forwarded to MERS to pay unfunded liabilities within the plan, and not general payments made within the Treasurer's Department.

### **B. New Business**

#### **1. Calhoun County July 2021 Financials.**

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott reported no significant items to draw the Board's attention so, as the statements reflected changes to the budget based on the mid-year budget adjustments.

#### **Res.139-2021**

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Smith to accept for information only the Calhoun County July 2021 Financials as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

#### **2. Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention Program Grant Application**

Ms. Scott stated the grant provides funding to help offset the operational costs for a sheriff's deputy to provide services for secondary road patrol. She added that the grant was reduced for the year starting October 1 and that as such, there would be required a General Fund budget request for the County's 2022 fiscal year to fund the difference in costs for this operation.

#### **Res.140-2021**

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention Program Grant Application as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, Smith, and Tompkins. Excused – 2, Comrs. Hatcher and Vette. Motion **CARRIED**.

**13. CITIZENS’ TIME**

There was none.

**14. COMMISSIONERS’ TIME**

Comr. Frisbie thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and expressing their concerns related to mask mandates in schools.

Comr. Frisbie recognized Mr. Fisher of Sheridan Township and noted how important it is for townships to work collaboratively with the County on various road projects.

**15. CLAIMS PAYABLE**

Res.141 -2021

“Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. King to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for July 28, 2021 through August 12, 2021 in the amount of \$4,021,000.17 as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, Smith, and Tompkins. Excused – 2, Comrs. Hatcher and Vette. Motion **CARRIED**.

**16. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comr. Miller noted the Calhoun County Fair is ongoing this week.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

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Susan M. Connolly  
Deputy Clerk to the Board