

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

September 2, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 2, 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, Gary Tompkins, Kathy-Sue Vette, and Rochelle Hatcher.

Staff Present: 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

After a moment of silence for the soldiers and citizens killed in Afghanistan, Comr. Frisbie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Res.142-2021

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the agenda of the September 2, 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 19, 2021 Board of Commissioners' Regular Session.

Res.143-2021

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

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

There was none.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

There was none.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. *National Rail Safety Week Proclamation*

Comr. King read the following Proclamation on the record:

WHEREAS, 1,889 rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 678 personal injuries and were responsible for 201 fatalities in the United States during 2020; and

WHEREAS, 1,088 trespassing incidents have occurred in the United States resulting in 532 pedestrians being killed and another 556 injured while trespassing on railroad property rights of way during 2020; and

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety, reminding the public that railroad right of ways are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws will reduce the number of fatalities and injuries; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver, United States Department of Transportation, and all local, state, county, and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders, and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable laws in support of National Rail Safety Week;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby attest their full support proclaiming September 20th to 26th, 2021, National Rail Safety Week and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

Signed:

Steve Frisbie, Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.144-2021

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Vette to accept the National Rail Safety Week Proclamation as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. State Trunkline Maintenance Contract from 10-1-2021 to 9-30-2026;
2. Approval of the Settlement in Kirk v. Calhoun County Litigation, as Recommended by Legal Counsel; and
3. Ratification and Approval of the River Forks Solar Project Road Agreement

Res.145-2021

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Consent Agenda of the September 2, 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 on August 20 for their strategic planning session at Miller Manor in Battle Creek and discussed how to increase utilization of services for underserved populations, volunteerism, wellness and what emerging trends there are in the senior arena.

Comr. Tompkins reported that the Calhoun County Solid Waste Advisory Committee met August 25 and heard a report on the CNC Landfill Recycling Program and heard an update on the Marshall Recycling Center.

Comr. Tompkins added that the Calhoun County Broadband Task Force met September 1, noting that Michael Reen of Aspen Wireless explained the upcoming feasibility study, including the cost methodology, project goals, deliverables and cost benefit analysis, as well as the timing of the completion of the feasibility study.

Comr. Frisbie shared that a new Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (911 Board) Director was hired, and he is Michael Armitage, from Eaton County.

Comr. Frisbie added that the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission met on September 2 and discussed the process of allocating the millage funds, noting that an item is planned for approval by the Board of Commissioners in October. Frisbie added that Parks staff reported that construction in Albion began at Albion Park, which is at M 99 and Condit Road.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. County Administrator/Controller's Report

There was no verbal report this evening as Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott was attending the Michigan Association of County Administrative Officers (MACAO) Conference.

B. New Business

1. Calhoun County Public Health Department FY22 Budget.

Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox stated that Deputy Health Officer Brigitte Reichenbaugh and Deputy Controller Megan Banning were present to help present the budget.

Brad Wilcox noted the health department budget goes through the same rigorous process as the development of our County general fund budget and that Kelli Scott is involved in the health department budget, working with the Health Board's budget committee and the leadership of the health department, just as she does with our departments throughout the County's annual budget process.

Deputy Controller Megan Banning reminded the Board that the Health Department has a different fiscal year than the County's other funds, and so this budget is for the fiscal year 2022 and totals just over \$8.8 million in expenditures. She added that the FY2022 budget represents about a five and a half percent increase over the prior year budget.

Ms. Banning highlighted key assumptions within the Health Department budget, including salary assumptions, projected increases in employee benefits costs. Banning noted that there is a projected strategic use of fund balance for next year of \$102,000, and that at the end of 2022, the total fund balance is still expected to be higher than \$2 million.

Comr. Tompkins asked Brigitte Reichenbaugh what the biggest challenge was in preparation of this budget.

Ms. Reichenbaugh replied that COVID-19 is still a workload challenge, along with the difficulty in finding qualified staff to hire, especially nursing staff. She noted that some of the positives that came out of COVID-19 were increases in community partnerships and outreach to underserved populations.

Res.146-2021

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Calhoun County Public Health Department FY22 Budget as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Frisbie, Hatcher, Miller, Smith, Tompkins, King and Vette.
Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Calhoun County Road Department Contract Award: Sign & Post Bid #118-21 with Dornbos Sign, Inc.

Assistant Administrator Wilcox explained that this bid provides signs and posts for the Road Department and that the bid has been successful with two-year cycles. Mr. Wilcox informed the Board that Dornbos has been the contractor for several years and has done a good job.

Res.147-2021

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Calhoun County Road Department Contract Award: Sign & Post Bid #118-21 with Dornbos Sign, Inc. as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Frisbie, Hatcher, Miller, Smith, Tompkins, King and Vette.
Motion **CARRIED**.

13. CITIZENS’ TIME

There was none.

14. COMMISSIONERS’ TIME

Comr. Tompkins took a moment to express his sincerest condolences, prayers and thoughts to the 13 servicemembers who gave their lives this past week to keep us safe and asked everyone to pause to remember September 11, which will be forthcoming as its 20th anniversary.

Comr. Frisbie shared that there are several opportunities to participate in ceremonies recognizing 9/11, including one at McCamley Park in Battle Creek at 6pm on September 11.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res.148 -2021

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for August 13, 2021 through August 25, 2021 in the amount of \$4,608,021.19 as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Frisbie, Hatcher, Miller, Smith, Tompkins, King and Vette.
Motion **CARRIED**.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Hatcher wished Brad Wilcox a Happy Birthday tomorrow.

Comr. Tompkins wished Comr. Miller a happy belated birthday.

Comr. Tompkins reported that there will be a benefit auction on September 11 at Kids 'N Stuff in Albion to support programming exhibits and operations for the museum.

Comr. Miller shared a voice mail message from a resident to the Road Department regarding the condition of the roadway at R Drive South between 17 Mile and Old 27.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board