

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MAY 4, 2023

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02, Thursday, May 4, 2023, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

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

Present: Comrs. Kathy-Sue Vette, Steve Frisbie, Derek King, Tommy Miller, Rochelle Hatcher, Diane Thompson, and Monique French.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Communications Coordinator Lynn Meikle, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair Vette commented on the importance of Mental Health Month and suicide prevention services within Calhoun County.

Chair Vette called a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Frisbie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Approve the Agenda of the May 4, 2023, Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners.

Res.062-2023

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the May 4, 2023, Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

Partially Suspend County Board Rule 2.6 for this meeting.

Res.063-2023

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. French to partially suspend County Board Rule 2.6 for this meeting, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Yes – 6, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.

No - 1, Comr. Miller
Motion **CARRIED**.

Comr. Miller noted his objection to the motion to suspend.
Comr. Frisbie commented about the reasoning for the partial suspension for this meeting.
Comr. King noted that there are still opportunities to speak during both Citizens Times, one at the beginning and one at the end of the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Board of Commissioners' Equalization Session

Minutes of the April 11, 2023, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting.

Res.064-2023

"Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2023, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

6. Special Order of Business

A. Proclamation: Mental Health Month - May 2023

Jeanie Goodrich and Meghan Taft from Summit Pointe were present to receive the Proclamation.

CEO Goodrich offered comments about Summit Pointe's services provided to the community.
Ms. Taft added information about upcoming mental health training and other initiatives throughout the County.

Comr. Vette read the following Proclamation on the record:

**PROCLAMATION
Mental Health Month
May 2023**

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 5 American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year; and

WHEREAS, almost half of all US adults will experience a mental health challenge at some point over the course of their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, only 60% of people with mental health disorders sought treatment in the prior year; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of disability in the United States is neuropsychiatric disorders including mental disorders, behavioral disorders and neurological disorders; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year age-adjusted suicide rate for Calhoun County is 40% higher than the Michigan

and US rates; and

WHEREAS, early intervention is the key to improved outcomes for people with mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, recovery from a mental health condition or challenge is achievable and attainable for many people; and

WHEREAS, every member of our community can play a role in promoting treatment for good mental health. Observing May as Mental Health Month provides an excellent opportunity to increase, awareness of mental health disorders and, therefore, empower the community to normalize good mental health awareness and practices and take meaningful action to support those citizens accessing care to achieve better mental health. Mental Health Month is also a yearly reminder of the importance of organizations like Summit Pointe in Calhoun County to provide crisis intervention services as well as training such as Mental Health First Aid, Crisis Intervention for our Law Enforcement units and QPR so that all citizens are able to recognize signs and symptoms of poor mental health and reduce the time between diagnosis and treatment, thereby strengthening the health of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023, as

“Mental Health Month”

in the Greater Calhoun County Area and urge all the citizens in Calhoun County to do their part to normalize good mental health practices by working together and supporting their communities’ efforts to educate themselves as much as possible to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, thereby shortening the time between onset and treatment and giving everyone the opportunity to maximize their potential,

Dated this 4th day of May 2023

Signed: Kathy-Sue Vette, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.065 -2023

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Proclamation: Mental Health Month - May 2023, as presented.”

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

B. Proclamation: National Therapy Animal Day April 30, 2023

Cheryl Rosenbaum accepted the Proclamation

Comr. King read the following Proclamation: National Therapy Animal Day April 30, 2023 on the record:

PROCLAMATION
National Therapy Animal Day
April 30, 2023

There are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners has designated April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams in the Town of East Leroy play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams make millions of visits per year in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and hospice; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 30, 2023, as:

“National Therapy Animal Day”

In the County of Calhoun and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers. Further, I publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.

Dated this 4th day of May 2023

Signed: Kathy-Sue Vette, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.066-2023

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Proclamation: National Therapy Animal Day April 30, 2023, as presented.”

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

7. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident E. Rich asked where to find supporting documents related to agenda item 9A1 Financial Statements.

Bedford Township resident Adam Heikkila commented regarding agenda items and the motion to partially suspend County Board Rule 2.6.

J. Bryant of Squaw Creek commented on the Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month , expressing mental health concerns related to the Ford Blue Oval Battery Park development and the City of Marshall's City Council meeting held in the County Board chambers on May 8.

8. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Doug Ferrall, Assistant Director of Community Development, highlighted the Park Millage Allocation process listed on the Consent Agenda.

Prosecutor Dave Gilbert shared his support of the National Therapy Animal Day Proclamation.

Senior Services Manager Helen Guzzo provided information related to the upcoming Senior Expo.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Financial Statements for Information Only: March 31, 2023

B. Resolutions

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

2. 2023 Calhoun County Parks Millage Allocations

3. Approval of the Calhoun County ORV Ordinance

Res.067-2023

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 4, 2023, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

There were none.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. Administrator/Controller's Report

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott shared that she attended the recent Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Conference along with Commissioner French.

Ms. Scott added that the National Association of Counties (NACo) will hold its annual conference in July in Texas, and that the annual MAC Conference will be in October in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Kelli Scott commented on the the updated agenda for the current Board meeting, noting the removal of the item requesting that the Board adopt Articles of Incorporation to form a new countywide public transit system. Ms. Scott explained that this change in actions followed a meeting of the Battle Creek

City Commission, where there were questions and concerns among city commissioners about how the new proposed Authority would be governed, funded, and controlled. Scott noted that although the need for countywide public transportation has been well documented for more than a decade and although the steering committee of city managers and mayors from all four cities within the county have indicated strong support for such a system, her recommendation after consulting with the County Board Chair and Vice Chair was to not ask the Board to consider its creation until the City of Battle Creek's elected board expresses their support and willingness to champion the new system, from both a governance and operations standpoint.

Administrator/Controller Scott thanked County staff from Community Development and Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer for their hundreds of hours spent supporting the request for the County to facilitate the formation of a countywide public transit system, noting that the County was asked to be a neutral facilitator of the 2020 consultant's study and a coordinator of the project timeline and drafting of the Articles of Incorporation.

B. New Business

1. PA2 Budget Amendment for FY22/23

Ms. Scott reported the PA2 Alcohol Tax budget, together with State Block Grant funds through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), supports residential and outpatient treatment, and prevention services for Calhoun County residents to address and prevent substance use disorders.

Kelli Scott added this amendment will provide additional funds already approved by the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) and their oversight board to increase funding for the County's Drug Court and Sobriety Court operations.

Res.068-2023

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Miller to approve the PA2 Budget Amendment for FY22/23, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French. Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Treasurer's Office Staffing Allocation Change Request

Treasurer Brian Wensauer offered a description of and reasons for the requested change in staffing allocation and the position to be moved to funded status.

Res.069-2023

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Treasurer's Office Staffing Allocation Change Request, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *Lease Amendment: Calhoun County Land Bank Authority*

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the lease has been in effect since 2019 and this amended is for additional space through 2024.

Res.070-2023

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Lease Amendment: Calhoun County Land Bank Authority, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French. Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

A. Heikkila stated his opposition to the time limitation for Citizens Time.

E. Rich requested the County permit the City of Marshall to use the County's audio and video for their meetings to allow for recording and streaming of the meetings.

J. Bryant re-addressed mental health concerns and concerns related to the recent City of Marshall meeting.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. French expressed that it was offensive to hear remarks from the public toward the County Commissioners that related not to the business of the County Board but to the City of Marshall and other public bodies' meetings.

Comr. Miller requested the continuation of Rule 2.6 for Citizen Time and addressed complaints he received related to the roads.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. *Claims Payable for April 5, 2023 through April 26, 2023, in the amount of \$6,240,669.23*

Res.071-2023

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for April 5, 2023, through April 26, 2023, in the amount of \$6,240,669.23, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French. Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Miller noted the upcoming Senior Expo and senior transportation available to residents to get to and from the event.

Comr. French shared that she was contacted by the Mayor of Battle Creek related to clean up of the I-194 penetrator.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners