

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00p.m., Thursday, September 7, 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, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair Vette called a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Hatcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.107-2023

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the September 7, 2023, Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of the August 17, 2023 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the August 17, 2023, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.108-2023

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2023, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Residents of Convis Township and Battle Creek expressed their support for the creation of the new countywide transportation authority (TACC).

Resident Nick Woods inquired about how TACC millages would work, whether there would be opt in options at a later date, and whether the opt out deadline was October 9 or 19.

Residents of Marshall, Battle Creek and Marengo Township shared their opposition to the transportation authority and the Ford Blue Oval Battery Park development.

Bedford Township resident Adam Heikkila shared his opposition to the decision making of the board.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Michigan State University Extension Annual Report

District Director Julie Pioch explained that the MSUE Annual Report presentation was part of the memorandum of agreement between MSU and Calhoun County to provide an overview of the previous year's accomplishments. Ms. Pioch explained that Calhoun County provided the MSUE office within the County Building and moved the past year to the second floor. Ms. Pioch informed residents attended 89 programs held by the MSUE in 2022.

Numerous staff members were present, addressed the Commissioners, and provided a brief description of their positions and duties with the MSUE.

B. Proclamation - Recovery Month - September 2023

Res.109-2023

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Proclamation - Recovery Month - September 2023, as presented."

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

C. Proclamation - 2023 Miles for Memories

Comr. Frisbie read the Proclamation into the record:

**PROCLAMATION
MILES FOR MEMORIES**

September 7, 2023

WHEREAS, Miles for Memories began with its first event on September 7, 2013 for the purpose of raising funds and increasing awareness of Alzheimer’s disease in Calhoun County; and

WHEREAS, Miles for Memories has adopted the vision statement of creating solutions for those impacted by dementia in Calhoun County through movement, programming, and research; and

WHEREAS, Miles for Memories is a volunteer-led organization that has developed programs and trainings across the county aimed at helping those impacted by dementia. Such initiatives offer hope for identifying and providing the best types of care, lifestyle programs, personal training, safety, risk reduction, and more; and

WHEREAS, Miles for Memories takes pride in the amazing collaborations made through the development of the Help Home program, a program designed to help individuals experiencing some form of dementia to register in a database maintained by Consolidated 9-1-1 Dispatch; and

WHEREAS, Miles for Memories has expanded those collaborations to develop a new G.P.S. safe return watch and personal medical I.D. to locate loved ones that have wandered; and

WHEREAS, Miles for Memories hosts several events throughout the year, including the upcoming family-friendly ½ and 1 mile “Miles for Memories Community Stroll” event, taking place on September 16, 2023 at Festival Market Square in downtown Battle Creek, and raising funds and awareness about all forms of dementia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim that Miles for Memories be recognized for their commitment to raising awareness and funds for Dementia as well as creating solutions for families throughout Calhoun County, and encourages County residents and businesses to support the organization’s events, including the Miles for Memories Community Stroll on September 16.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2023

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

Ms. Clark accepted the Proclamation and thanked the board for recognizing the event.

Res.110-2023

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. French to approve the Proclamation - 2023 Miles for Memories, as presented.”

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

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. *Other County Resolutions and communications to be acknowledged.*

B. Resolutions

1. *Community Mental Health Authority (Summit Pointe) Board Appointment*

2. *Renewal of Pharmacy Benefit Management Agreement with Express Scripts, Inc.*

3. *Correction to a Previously Approved Resolution 084-2023*

Res.111-2023

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Consent Agenda of the September 7, 2023, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. King reported that the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) Director Pat Karr is retiring and will be replaced by Jeff Franklin.

Comr. Vette shared that she attended the groundbreaking for the joint venture between Summit Pointe and Grace Health for a pharmacy opening next to Summit Pointe on September 6.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There were none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. *Administrator/Controller's Report*

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott noted that she had no verbal reports for the meeting and that the Board could move on to New Business.

B. *New Business*

1. *Articles of Incorporation Forming the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County*

Kelli Scott shared that she was excited about this project, which has been identified as a strategic priority by previous County boards since before she arrived in 2009. Ms. Scott noted there's support from city managers and mayors, and including the City of Battle Creek, which is the planned partner to operate the new countywide transit system. Scott emphasized that the County has been asked to be the facilitator of the project and that the State legislation regarding public transit authorities requires the Board of Commissioners to be the public body to create the countywide authority. She noted that City Manager Rebecca Fleury and her staff were present to answer any questions.

Calhoun County Assistant Director of Community Development Doug Ferrall and Mallory Avis, Director of the Battle Creek Transit Authority, provided highlights of the importance of the system to local governments and the proposed service delivery scenarios and preliminary budget pro-formas.

Comrs. Miller and Thompson shared their opposition to the TACC, noting financial hardships of residents and their potential increased struggles if there was a new millage.

Comrs. Frisbie and French expressed their support and reminded the Board that and City, township or Village could choose to opt out.

Res.112-2023

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Articles of Incorporation Forming the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 5, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Hatcher, and French.

No - 2, Comrs. Miller and Thompson

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Calhoun County Public Health Department FY24 Budget

Kelli Scott noted that the Health Department's fiscal year begins October 1 in conjunction with the State's fiscal year, since a large portion of the department's funding comes from a state appropriation and grants. Scott added that the Board of Public Health convened a budget committee as in prior years, to include county administration and commissioner Derek King, and that committee reviewed the proposed budget in detail and recommends approval.

Ms. Scott reported the budget reflects an approximate 1% increase from the current year, and that staffing requested includes a little less than one new position on a net basis.

Kelli Scott added that the budget includes a reorganization of managers within the health department so that they can better assume new programming, the implementation of a strategic plan and national accreditation, along with the implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Ms. Scott thanked Finance Director Megan Banning and Deputy Health Officer Brigitte Reichenbaugh for their leadership in developing the budget, and noted that they were present to answer any questions.

Comr. Thompson asked about how opioid settlement funds would impact the Health Department budget. Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott replied that the County expects the State of Michigan to deploy some of their opioid settlement funds for certain programs that

the Health Department operates, and that the County's opioid settlement funds up to \$200,000 were included in this budget as a placeholder and backstop only if needed if state funding is insufficient.

Res.113-2023

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Calhoun County Public Health Department FY24 Budget, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Approval of New Policy #328 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Civility

Ms. Scott reported that this new policy emphasizes the county's commitment to making all employees welcome and fits into what we've been reading as best practices from state and national sources as key to recruiting and retaining employees.

Kelli Scott added the policy was drafted by our HR staff, modeling policies existing with other organizations. Scot added that the county's internal Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee was instrumental in the creation and editing of the policy.

Comr. Frisbie asked Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer how this policy complies with existing state and federal legislation. Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer replied that he supported the new policy based on his review of the language and opinion that the policy does comply with required provisions within the law.

Res.114-2023

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. French to approve new Policy #328 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Civility, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. MDNR Agreement for Ott Preserve Improvements

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that the grant application written by Doug Ferrall to obtain funds for improvements to the county's Ott Preserve park, including a new bathroom, parking lot improvements and landscaping.

Doug Ferrall shared information about the popularity of the park and the fact that this project would not be possible without the support of matching funds from the new parks millage.

Res.115-2023

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the MDNR Agreement for Ott Preserve Improvements, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

5. *Sale of County-Owned Property on Division Drive in Marengo Township*

Ms. Scott shared the Board of Commissioners previously authorized publishing this property for sale in January 2023.

Kelli Scott noted part of the property is used for storage and training by the Road Department and will be maintained and not included in the proposed sale.

Scott noted that Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer and Managing Director of the Road Department John Midgley were present to answer questions.

Jim Dyer informed the Board that the sale will benefit the community by selling the piece of this property that is not needed, which is essentially wetlands, and will generate some much needed funding for the road department.

Comr. Miller noted he opposed the sale of the acreage in January due to road department use and motioned to table the vote.

Comr. Hatcher expressed concerns about the wetlands and future preservation of the land.

Comr. King expressed concern that the preservation of the wetlands was not mentioned in the agenda packet information, and asked that the resolution be amended to stipulate such before a purchase agreement is executed.

Res.116-2023

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to Table the Item.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 2, Miller and Hatcher
No - 5, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Thompson, and French.

Motion **FAILED**.

Res.117-2023

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. French to approve the Sale of County-owned Property

on Division Drive in Marengo Township, as amended to include the Stipulation to Add Language of a Conservation Easement within the Resolution, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 5, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Thompson, and French.

No - Comrs. Miller and Hatcher

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

A few residents expressed their opposition to the TACC vote and the Ford Blue Oval Battery Park development.

A resident expressed concern for future millages related to the TACC and the costs related to the authority.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Hatcher announced that September is National Suicide Awareness Month and that there would be a 5K run event at the VA Medical Center on September 16.

Comr. French commented regarding the need for the TACC and emphasized the opt out option and the residents' right to vote on future millages.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for August 10, 2023 through August 30, 2023 in the amount of \$5,154,789.91*

Res.117-2023

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for August 10, 2023, through August 30, 2023, in the amount of \$5,154,789.91, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Miller announced a Homer Future Farmers of America (FFA) Tractor Show on September 30th.

Comr. French shared she will be the recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award from the National Black Women's Association Business Professionals on September 22nd.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners