

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02p.m., Thursday, September 21, 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, Diane Thompson, and Monique French.

Absent: Comr. Rochelle Hatcher.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Communications Director Lucy Blair, 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. French led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.118-2023

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the September 21, 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 September 7, 2023 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the September 7, 2023, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.119-2023

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Minutes of the September 7, 2023, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

7. Special Order of Business

A. 2022 Medical Examiner's Annual Report--presented by Dr. Joyce deJong, D.O.

Dr. Joyce deJong, D.O. provided an overview of the 2022 Annual Report of the Office of the Medical Examiner. Dr. deJong stated the number of deaths within Calhoun County are provided by the County Clerk's office.

Dr. deJong shared the Office of the Medical Examiner is close to being fully staffed and is a participant in child and elder death review teams covering 12 counties, including Calhoun.

Dr. deJong noted a CT scanner was donated in 2022 to help decrease the number of autopsies and added the positive drop of accidental deaths and drug related fatalities down to 47 from roughly 60 the year prior.

Dr. Joyce deJong informed 33 of 44 fentanyl deaths were caused from illicit drug use.

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

B. Resolutions Honoring Robert Spencer and Mary Jo Byrne, recipients of the 2023 Joanne Konkle Leadership Award

Comr. King read the following Resolutions on the record:

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Honoring Robert "Spence" Spencer**

WHEREAS, Robert Spencer has been the Construction Supervisor for Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity since 1993, after retiring from General Motors.

WHEREAS, "Spence," as he is fondly called, truly loves people. He has helped supervise the building of around 100 houses for low-income clients, and he has helped supervise the construction of several hundred wheelchair ramps over the years, primarily for seniors. He helps guide the "regular volunteers" of Habitat, who are generally retirees from a wide variety of professions. He is always willing to share his expansive knowledge of construction with all he works with. He effortlessly teaches new many of the volunteers his tricks and tips for construction while they work.

WHEREAS, Robert has developed a minor home repair program for Habitat. This program

generally works with older homeowners who cannot perform small repairs on their homes anymore. He and a helper use their lifetime of acquired skills to fix problems making homes safer, healthier, and more energy efficient.

WHEREAS, He has certainly touched this community's older population in very practical ways, especially those who are in need. Robert is an extremely cheerful person and anyone who has ever worked alongside of him would attest to the fact that he made them smile.

WHEREAS, Calhoun County Senior Services and the Senior Millage Allocation Committee have created the Joanne Konkle Senior Services Achievement Award which is awarded annually to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to serve seniors ages 60 and over in Calhoun County following the example set by Joanne Konkle.

WHEREAS, to recognize Robert Spencer's service with commitment and generosity to Calhoun County and its older adults, Robert is the recipient of the 2023 Joanne Konkle Senior Services Volunteer Achievement Award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that Robert Spencer is hereby honored and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to Calhoun County and its older adult residents.

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

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Honoring Mary Jo Byrne

WHEREAS, Mary Jo Byrne is the Executive Director and one of the founding members of the Fountain Clinic, created in 1992. Prior to this, she worked at Oaklawn Hospital as a social worker who assisted seniors with discharge planning to rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes.

WHEREAS, Mary Jo is a strong advocate for those in need. She frequently goes above and beyond to find Fountain Clinic patients, emergency assistance such as temporary housing, utility assistance and dental care. She always acts with kindness and compassion.

WHEREAS, as director, Mary Jo is an advocate for her employees, providing a comfortable, family-like work environment. She is a tireless fundraiser and works very hard to ensure that the clinic is welcoming and safe for both her staff and clients. During the COVID 19 outbreak she was instrumental in bringing vaccines to seniors and others in the community and regularly brings blood pressure clinics to senior centers and various health events around the county.

WHEREAS, in her personal time, Mary Jo volunteers for Marshall Mobile Meals, delivering hot meals to homebound seniors. She also assists with the Marshall Area Community Services (MACS). She is a member of the County Board of Health, Women's Philanthropic Circle, the League of Women Voters, and the Free Clinics of Michigan.

WHEREAS, Calhoun County Senior Services and the Senior Millage Allocation Committee have created the Joanne Konkle Senior Services Achievement Award which is awarded annually to recognize individuals who have given a lifetime of service providing quality services and advocacy for seniors ages 60 and over in Calhoun County following the example set by Joanne Konkle.

WHEREAS, to recognize Mary Jo's service with compassion, dedication, and exemplary leadership to Calhoun County and its older adults, Mary Jo is the recipient of the 2023 Joanne Konkle Senior Services Professional Achievement Award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that Mary Jo Byrne is hereby honored and thanked for her many years of dedicated service to Calhoun County and older adult residents.

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

Robert Spencer and Mary Jo Byrne, recipients of the award, thanked the Board for the recognition and shared their excitement for the future with Senior Services.

Res.120-2021

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the awarding of the Joanne Konkle Leadership in Senior Services Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Spencer and recognizes him with a special tribute for his exceptional service to Calhoun County citizens, as presented."

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

"Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. King to approve the awarding of the Joanne Konkle Leadership in Senior Services Lifetime Achievement Award to Mary Jo Byrne and recognizes her with a special tribute for her exceptional service to Calhoun County citizens, as presented."

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

C. Proclamation - Albion Business & Professional Women's 95th Anniversary Celebration - September 25, 2023

Comr. French read the following on the record:

PROCLAMATION

ALBION BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN
95th Anniversary Celebration
September 25, 2023

WHEREAS, Albion Business & Professional Women was organized and chartered in March 1928 dedicated to improving the opportunities for women in the work force; and

WHEREAS, Albion Business & Professional Women is an organization open to working women in Albion and surrounding areas. Offering guest speakers at meetings, networking opportunities, and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Albion Business & Professional Women achieved 95 years as an organization in March of this year. ABPW will be hosting a celebration in honor of that achievement on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00PM, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Albion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim that Albion Business & Professional Women be recognized for their commitment to achieving equality for all in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. Calhoun County encourages residents and businesses to support the organization's events, including the 95th Anniversary Celebration on September 25.

Dated: September 21, 2023

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

Carolyn Face Gilg with the Albion Business & Professional Women's Club accepted the Proclamation and thanked the board for the recognition.

Res.121-2021

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Proclamation - Albion Business & Professional Women's 95th Anniversary Celebration, as presented."

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

8. Citizens' Time

Resident Richard Logan of Battle Creek shared his concerns related to the designation of public versus private roadways and a roadway matter he's involved with.

Resident Barry Wayne Adams expressed concerns related to the Marshall Ford BlueOval site.

Terry Ott of Albion informed he's seeking support to help acquire a lot behind his business through the Land Bank to create an expanded lane to aid handicapped customers.

Art Kale of Clarence Township recognized the recipients of the Joanne Konkle Award, thanked the board for their service and thanked Corporation Counsel, Jim Dyer for his years of service to the County.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Financial Statements For Information Only: August 2023

B. Resolutions

1. Michigan Works! Southwest Workforce Development Board Reappointments

2. Correction to Previously Approved Contract Extension: Senior Transportation

3. Judicial Salaries Effective October 1, 2023

4. 2023-24 FY Child Care Fund Annual Plan and Budget; MST Agreement

5. Bond Cremation Resolution

6. Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission appointment

Res.122-2023

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Consent Agenda of the September 21, 2023, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. French shared that she attended the Advisory Committee meeting of CareWell Services on September 18 and participated in recent Farm Bureau Farm Tour events.

Comr. Vette reported on a recent Goguac Lake Level Board meeting.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. Administrator/Controller's Report

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott noted that the Michigan Legislature is back in session this Fall, and seems to be poised to move numerous bills rather quickly. Scott added that there is

speculation that the state legislature may end up adjourning as early as November 9 this year, and asked the Commissioners to watch for legislative updates and calls for action to reach out to our legislators regarding proposed new legislation..

Kelli Scott reported that the Michigan Association of Counties is opposed to proposed legislation related to solar energy zoning at the state level which would take away local control of zoning.

Ms. Scott added that she'll be attending the Michigan Association of Counties annual conference from October 1 through 3 in Kalamazoo.

B. New Business

1. Sheriff's Office Purchasing Award and Budget Amendment

Kelli Scott reported that this request is from the County Sheriff to use some of the accumulated restricted fund balance in the Drug Forfeiture Fund, in addition to a grant from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, with no general fund impact, to purchase a body scanner that will be used in the intake of the jail.

Sheriff Hinkley shared the safety improvements that will be created in the jail, to reduce the intake of illegal items in the facility. Sheriff Hinkley added that the body scanner will allow them to see items that may have been swallowed in their stomachs or moving through their intestines so medical attention can be provided.

Kelli Scott noted the scanner will reduce liability and will reduce use of force allegations.

Res.123-2023

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. French to approve the Sheriff's Office Purchasing Award and Budget Amendment, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 6, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Thompson, and French.
Absent - 1, Comr. Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

2. PA2 Budget for FY23/24

Ms. Scott mentioned that the County is required to pass through 40% of the liquor tax that is collected in Calhoun County to Southwest Michigan Behavior Health (SWMBH), which is our Regional Administrator for providers of substance-use disorder treatment and prevention services.

Kelli Scott stated that this PA2 budget will provide substantial funding toward the County's Drug Court, Sobriety Court, and Veterans Court and will also allow for Summit Pointe's services at the County Youth Center. She added that the FY23/24 PA2 budget also provides funding to

the Haven of Rest.

Res.124-2023

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Miller to approve the PA2 Budget for FY23/24, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 6, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Thompson, and French.
Absent - 1, Comr. Hatcher.

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Mr. Logan continued to address his concerns related to local roadway designation and property values.

Mr. Adams re-addressed his opposition to the BlueOval site.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Frisbie requested Corporate Counsel Jim Dyer to explain the roadway issue with Mr. Logan. Frisbie also shared his opposition to the proposed solar legislation.

Jim Dyer provided a brief summary of the completed litigation between Mr. Logan and the County.

Comr. French informed the Board that she visited the Battle Creek Homeless Shelter for a tour. French added her congratulations to Helen Guzzo on her new position with the City.

The board thanked Corporation Counsel, Jim Dyer for his years of service and professionalism to the County and congratulated him on his new position at Village Manager of Northport.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for August 31, 2023 through September 12, 2023 in the amount of \$8,003,203.77*

Res.125-2023

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for August 31, 2023 through September 12, 2023, in the amount of \$8,003,203.77, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 6, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Thompson, and French.
Absent - 1, Comr. Hatcher.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Miller announced that Eckford Township will be holding a fundraiser on September 30.

Comr. French highlighted she will be the recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award at 6pm on Friday, September 22.

Comr. King expressed condolences for the passing of former Sheriff Matt Saxton's father, with services held on Friday and Saturday, September 22 and 23.

Comr. Frisbie noted county budget hearings begin in October.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners