

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

APRIL 9, 2024

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 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: Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, Communications Director Lucy Blair, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair Vette called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Frisbie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.042-2024

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the April 9, 2024, Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of the March 21, 2024 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting

Minutes of the March 21, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.043-2024

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Minutes of the March 21, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

James Coury of Marshall stated that he was a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for over forty years and a member of the local conservation committee. Mr. Coury expressed his support of the proposed Parks Millage Ballot Proposal and recognized members of the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission.

Alex Harris of Albion introduced himself to the Board, stating that he is a small business owner and running for State Representative for the 44th District.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Proclamation - April 2024 National County Government Month

Proclamation - April 2024 National County Government Month

Res.044-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Proclamation - April 2024 National County Government Month, as presented.”

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

B. 2024 Equalization Report and Resolution

Chair Vette introduced Matt Hansen, Equalization Director, and Tom Scott, Deputy Equalization Director. Mr. Scott provided an overview of the 2024 Report and proposed Resolution.

There was discussion related to the changes in property values within Clarendon and Convis Townships.

Tom Scott explained how assessments are evaluated, and highlighted the impacts of new solar developments on personal property values.

Res.045-2024

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the 2024 Equalization Report and Resolution, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

B. Resolutions

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

2. 2023 Intergovernmental Funding Agreement - Homeland Security Grant Program

3. CCRD 2024 Plows and Distributor Financing

4. Renewal of Land Lease with Battle Creek Balsa Bees #1429

Res.046-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve the Consent Agenda of the April 9, 2024, Board of Commissioner’s Equalization Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. French shared that on April 25, the Neighborhood Planning Council in the City of Battle Creek met and received information about the new hotel opening in August.

Comr. French reported that the Battle Creek Impacting Violence Committee will be meeting once a month.

Comr. French reported that the Calhoun County Broadband Taskforce met on April 9 and heard updates about the process for the state map challenge.

Comr. French added that the Washington Heights United Methodist Church will be breaking ground to do some community revitalization on April 25.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. Administrator/Controller's Report

Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox attended and introduced each item under New Business.

B. New Business

1. Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Services Agreement - Sheridan Township

Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox stated that Sheridan Township requested enhanced police services over and above the duties and functions rendered by the Sheriff's Office. In order to implement this new contract, the Sheriff's Office is also requesting an increase of one deputy to fill the new position.

Mr. Wilcox added that this agreement is similar to Pennfield Township and Springfield City's Agreements with a positive General Fund impact.

County Sheriff Steve Hinkley was present and noted the agreement mirrors the law enforcement contract with Convis Township.

Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose was present to answer any questions related to the drafting of the agreement.

Res.047-2024

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. King to approve Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Services Agreement - Sheridan Township, as presented."

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. CCRD Bid Award: RFQ#103-24 Pothole Patching

Mr. Wilcox stated that the Purchasing Department and the Calhoun County Road Department developed the Pothole Patching Request for Qualification.

Assistant County Administrator Wilcox added that the bid is related to pothole patching on County roads for the 2024 road maintenance season.

Interim Road Department Director Kristine Parsons noted that CCRD supervisors would be responsible for awarding the work for each individual project.

Comr. Miller requested a list from the Road Department where the patching will begin.

Communications Director Lucy Blair noted that the information is available on the County website for reference.

Comr. King highlighted there will be a rotating schedule related to the highest density of potholes.

Res.048-2024

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve CCRD Bid Award RFQ#103-24 Pothole Patching, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *CCRD 2024 Federal Aid Safety Grant Applications*

Brad Wilcox reported that the Calhoun County Road Department is responsible for over 1,300 miles of primary and local roads, wherein certain roadways are being recommended for safety improvements.

Interim Director Kristine Parsons stated that the Road Department is applying for four tree removal grants for priority areas based on traffic safety and crash data.

Res.049-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve CCRD 2024 Federal Aid Safety Grant Applications, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. *CCRD Grant Application: Transportation Economic Development - Category A*

Assistant County Administrator Wilcox shared that the grant application is related to a projected substantial increase in traffic volumes on several roads between Battle Creek and Marshall, adding that existing infrastructure will be unable to adequately facilitate future traffic demand from both a capacity and condition standpoint.

Interim Road Department Director Parsons stated that the Road Department is proposing a proactive plan of capacity, surface condition, and travel time reliability improvements along the length of the 11 Mile Rd./Verona Rd./15 Mile Rd. corridor.

Res.050-2024

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve CCRD Grant Application: Transportation Economic Development - Category A, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Parks Millage Ballot Proposal

Brad Wilcox shared that in 2020, County voters approved a 0.20 mill Parks Millage proposal which aimed to maintain, operate, preserve, acquire, and develop parks in Calhoun County.

Jesse Cox, current Parks and Recreation Board Member, offered his support to the proposal and noted improved river access and park development.

Doug Ferrall provided a presentation highlighting improvements the current millage has made to County parks.

Comr. Frisbie mentioned that the County website provides detailed data related to the accomplishments of the current millage.

Comr. Miller stated that based on the townships he represents, he disagrees with the formula allocation of the millage to the local municipalities.

Comr. Thompson shared concerns related to smaller townships and questioned why the election is proposed for 2024.

Mr. Ferrall replied that 2023 dollars are currently in use and approved through 2024, with 2024 tax dollars collected and utilized in 2025. He added that the ballot is proposed for the 2024 primary election so that there is no gap in tax collections before the millage expires.

Assistant Community Development Director Ferrall noted changes in the proposal from last ballot, adding language to clarify the original language.

Comr Frisbie addressed concerns related to smaller townships and expressed his support for the ballot language as presented.

Res.051-2024

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Parks Millage Ballot Proposal, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Jesse Cox addressed Comr. Miller's concerns related to the ballot proposal.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Miller gave remarks related to the new Newton Township millage and the Road Department's funding of upcoming local road projects.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. Claims Payable for March 14, 2024 through April 2, 2024, in the amount of \$9,163,699.18

Res.052-2024

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for March 14, 2024, through April 2, 2024, in the amount of \$9,163,699.18, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. French noted that there are an estimated 170 new jobs expected with the new Doubletree Hotel in Battle Creek opening this summer.

Comr. Vette thanked Mr. Harris for coming to the meeting and introducing himself.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners