

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

JUNE 20, 2024

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00PM, Thursday, June 20, 2024, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

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

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

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Communications Specialist Lynn Meikle, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair King called for a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.085-2024

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the June 20, 2024, 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 June 6, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the June 6, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.086-2024

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Christian Brown introduced himself to the Board and stated that he is running for the 6th District County Commissioner seat for the term beginning January 1, 2025.

Marshall resident, Barry Wayne Adams expressed opposition to the Ford Blue Oval project and the Board of Commissioners' Rules related to the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Adams provided copies of documents referencing the Chinese Communist Party.

Fredonia resident, Rebecca Seabring shared her opposition to the Ford Blue Oval battery plant and concerns related to potential contamination.

Autumn Smith of Battle Creek expressed opposition to the development of the Ford Blue Oval battery plant.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Appointment of Calhoun County Commissioner to represent District 3

Chair King stated that the Board needs to fill District 3, as on May 23, 2024, Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette resigned her Board position. Comr. King added that pursuant to Board Rule 9.7, the vacancy was posted on the Calhoun County website and in the Battle Creek Shopper and that applications for the vacant position were accepted between May 24, 2024, and June 7, 2024. He noted all applicant names were sent by Corporation Counsel to Elections Specialist Erica Barthomolew to ensure that each applicant was a registered District 3 voter, which is required by statute MCL 46.411. After reviewing the Qualified Voter File, Ms. Barthomolew determined that two applicants were not registered District 3 voters.

Comr. King continued, stating that all applicants were sent letters on June 11, 2024, stating whether they were determined eligible for consideration or ineligible. On June 13, 2024, 21 days after Commissioner Vette's resignation, pursuant to Board Rule 9.7, the eligible applicant names were forwarded to the Commissioners. Derek King reported the three eligible applicants were invited to tonight's meeting. The vacancy notice on the County website, as well as the notice in the Battle Creek Shopper, also invited citizens to submit questions that they would like the Commissioners to ask of the applicants at tonight's meeting. The questions were able to be submitted via an online portal. No questions were received. The applications of the three eligible applicants have been provided along with the meeting agenda to the public in attendance at tonight's meeting. There were three questions asked on the application: 1. Are you a registered voter within District 3; 2. Why do you want to represent District 3; and 3. What do you believe are the most important issues facing our community and District 3? Applicants were also asked to list any community groups/organizations that they have been, or are, involved with.

Comr. French provided a statement regarding the integrity of the process to appoint the District 3 Commissioner.

Each applicant was asked to introduce themselves and make statements regarding why they would like to fill the vacancy.

David Wheeler shared he's resided in the district for two years and expressed his concerns for the community and willingness to provide community service.

Albert Morehart noted he was running for the position on the fall ballot. Mr. Morehart shared his personal and professional background. Al Morehart highlighted his former and current board appointments and community service experience.

Anthony Iovieno shared his personal background and professional experience with local non-profit organizations. Mr. Iovieno noted his support for diversity on the Board and shared he is on the ballot this fall as well.

Res.087-2023

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Miller to nominate Al Morehart."

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. French to nominate Anthony Iovieno."

Chair King called three times for other nominations and none were offered. Chair King asked for a **Verbal Roll Call Vote** by the Deputy Clerk.

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Comr. Hatcher chose Iovieno
Comr. French chose Iovieno
Comr. Frisbie chose Morehart
Comr. King chose Morehart
Comr. Miller chose Morehart
Comr. Thompson chose Morehart

Morehart - 4
Iovieno - 2

Al Morehart was appointed to the Board of Commissioners, representing District 3, for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2024, as presented.

Motion **CARRIED**.

9. Consent Agenda

A. *Petitions, Communications, Reports*

1. *Financial Statements for Information Only: May 2024*

B. *Resolutions*

1. *Calhoun County Senior Millage Allocation Committee Appointments*

2. *County Board of Commissioners' Budget Committee Appointments*

Res.088-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Consent Agenda of the June 20, 2024, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Miller provided information related to the recent Calhoun County Agricultural and Industrial Society (CCAIS) meeting held at the fairgrounds.

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 reported that the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB) met June 18, noting \$6.1 million in funding allocations to local governments.

Ms. Scott added that for the first time since 2019, the FLRSB Board also approved discretionary Tier 4 grants up to \$25,000 for any lawful government purpose. Kelli Scott stated the applications are due on July 31, 2024.

B. ***New Business***

1. *BCATS FY2025 Local Funding Resolution*

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that this is an annual resolution to support local funding for BCATS, noting the funds are divided based on population between the Road Department and the Cities of Battle Creek and Springfield.

Res.089-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve BCATS FY2025 Local Funding

Resolution, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Sheriff's Office Agreement with Starr Commonwealth

Kelli Scott highlighted the agreement between the Sheriff's Office and Starr Commonwealth, noting that all costs will be covered by Starr Commonwealth.

Sheriff Hinkley was present and described the value of the Agreement to provide these services to the facility.

Comr. Miller shared his support of having an officer at the location for safety reasons.

Comr. Hatcher inquired as to the age of residents at the facility.

Sheriff Hinkley replied that he was not certain as to what ages the Starr license included, and shared he believed they were under the age of 16.

Res.090-2024

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. French to approve the Sheriff's Office Agreement with Starr Commonwealth, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Jeff Franklin of Newton Township introduced himself as the new Executive Director of BCATS, replacing Pat Karr, and thanked the Board for their support of the FY25 Funding resolution.

Autumn Smith thanked Comr. French for her statement related to the Board's appointment of Comr. Morehart. Ms. Smith expressed concerns related to human trafficking and housing at Starr Commonwealth.

Albion resident, Alex Harris expressed opposition to services to Starr commonwealth.

Barry Wayne Adams noted opposition to the Blue Oval site and complaints of misconduct in office.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Thompson welcomed Comr. Morehart to the board.

Comrs. Miller and Frisbie commented regarding housing at Starr Commonwealth and use of public funds.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. Claims Payable for May 30, 2024 through June 12, 2024, in the amount of \$3,379,943.00

Res.091-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for May 30, 2024, through June 12, 2024, in the amount of \$3,379,943.00, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Hatcher noted an upcoming event at Kellogg Arena on June 29.

Comr. Frisbie reported that he attended the recent Battle Creek Juneteenth event with Comrs. French and Hatcher.

Comr. Miller noted Blues Fest is this Saturday in downtown Marshall.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners