

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

OCTOBER 17, 2024

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Property Tax Apportionment Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, October 17, 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, Diane Thompson, Monique French, Al Morehart.

Comr. Rochelle Hatcher arrived at 7:28pm (first vote was on the Consent Agenda).

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator-Internal Services Megan Banning, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Communications Director Amber LeClear, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair King called a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.132-2024

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the October 17, 2024, Property Tax Apportionment Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of the October 3, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Annual Meeting in Accordance with MCL46.1*

Minutes of the October 3, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Annual Meeting in Accordance with MCL46.1.

Res.133-2024

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2024 Board of Commissioners’ Annual Meeting, as presented.”

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

6. Citizens' Time

James Jennings of Marengo Township expressed concerns about communications from Mercury Broadband.

Barry Wayne Adams of Marshall addressed concerns related to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) and their upcoming ballot proposal.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There were none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. 2024 Joanne Konkle Leadership Award Resolutions: Jan Tolf and Carol Maynard

Vice Chair Frisbie read the following Resolutions into the record:

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Honoring Jan Tolf**

WHEREAS, Jan Tolf was the Project Director and CEO of NorthPointe Woods before she retired in 2002. Prior to this, she developed the Department of Senior Services at Battle Creek Health Systems, which is now known as Senior Health Partners.

WHEREAS, as CEO, Jan’s leadership was instrumental in encouraging support, collaboration, and financing of the plan to construct an affordable senior residence facility in the community of Battle Creek. Under her watchful supervision, the selection of the campus site, planning and construction of the first units of Assisted Living and Independent Congregate living, facilities became a reality. Her passion for the Mission, devotion to staff, and the residents with friendship, care and compassion became hallmarks of her service.

WHEREAS, in her personal time, Jan Tolf has been a tireless supporter and member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Battle Creek. She also served on the Area Agency on Aging Policy Board as well as provided leadership to the Burnham Brook Center.

WHEREAS, in 2000, Jan was an Athena Award Honoree- in recognition of her achievement of attaining and personifying the highest level of professionalism as identified by members of her community...demonstrating excellence and growth, perseverance, and serve as a role model for women in the workplace and the community.

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 Jan's service with compassion, dedication, and exemplary leadership to Calhoun County and its older adults, Jan Tolf is the recipient of the 2024 Joanne Konkle Senior Services Professional Achievement Award.

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

Signed: Derek King, Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Honoring Carol Maynard

WHEREAS, Carol Maynard has been involved with the Forks Senior Center since it opened in 2005. She has been a Board Member for the past seven years and six of those, she has served as President.

WHEREAS, Carol's leadership of the Forks Senior Center Board has been a driving force in the success of the senior center. Her commitment to helping others has had a huge impact on older adults in the community. During Covid, while the center was closed, Carol made weekly phone calls to members to check on them and see how they were doing. She continues to make welfare checks to this day. She also delivered masks, food and water to people who were shut in at home and not able to get out.

WHEREAS, Carol volunteers as the Early Riser class leader two days a week at the center and is at the center daily, including sometimes on the weekends. Carol coordinates the get well, birthday, and sympathy cards that are mailed out to members and their families. She checks on people who are out sick or having surgery. She lends a hand to answering phones, assists visitors, and gives tours to new members. Carol loves to help with the preparation and serving of lunches for the monthly Lunch and Learns. She organizes and sets up monthly potlucks as well as coordinates food for Euchre and the Salad Luncheon fundraisers.

WHEREAS, in her spare time, Carol participates in the annual Relay for Life walk. She assists with various events and committees for the United Methodist Church. She checks in on sick friends and does small chores when needed. She is also a reliable driver to get people to their doctor's appointments.

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 Carol's service with commitment and generosity to Calhoun County and its older adults, Carol is the recipient of the 2024 Joanne Konkle Senior Services Volunteer Achievement Award.

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

Signed: Derek King, Chairman Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.134-2024

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the 2024 Joanne Konkle Leadership Award Resolutions: Jan Tolf and Carol Maynard, as presented."

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

B. 2024 Apportionment Report: Presentation and Approval

Deputy Equalization Director Tom Scott summarized the memo provided with the Apportionment Report and signed by the Equalization Director, Matthew Hansen, who was also present at the meeting.

Mr. Scott stated that the resolution approving the apportionment process serves as each taxing jurisdiction's authority to levy property taxes in the county.

Tom Scott noted that the four new millages proposed on the November ballot, if passed, will amend the current report and will be revised for the Board of Commissioner's approval in November.

Ms. Scott added that the report includes information for each township, authority, city, village, school district, intermediate school district and community college reflecting their millage rates and taxable values in comparison to the prior year.

Res.135-2024

"Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Miller to approve the 2024 Apportionment Report, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 6, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, Thompson, French, and Morehart. Absent at the time of the vote - 1, Comr. Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

C. Transit Authority of Calhoun County: Presentation

Dr. Paul Watson and Linda Morrison, county appointees to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, provided an update on the TACC's work to date and explained the November 5 ballot question.

Comr. Miller asked if the TACC is concerned about staffing the expanded operation, given the City of Battle Creek's recent reduction in transit hours due to driver shortages. Watson replied that his understanding was that the driver shortage issue has been alleviated recently.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

- 1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged*
- 2. Financial Statements for Information Only: September 2024*

B. Resolutions

- 1. Senior Millage Contract Amendments for Supplemental Fundng*
- 2. Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) Appointment: Vester Davis*
- 3. Sheriff's Office Contract Renewal for License Plate Readers, and MDOT Permit Resolution*

Res.136-2023

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Consent Agenda of the October 17, 2024, Board of Commissioner's Property Tax Apportionment Session, as presented."

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Miller reported that a Calhoun County Agricultural and Industrial Society (AKA the Fair Board) meeting was held October 16, noting the annual membership sign up deadline is Monday, October 21 and the annual meeting is scheduled for November 20.

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 reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission met on October 3, the Senior Millage Allocation Committee met on October 4, the Consolidated Dispatch Authority met on October 8 and the Veterans Affairs Committee met on October 16.

Kelli Scott noted that the 2025 budget hearings with elected officials would be held on October 22.

B. *New Business*

1. *2025 Appropriations Resolution: Elected Officials and Deputy Salaries*

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that state law requires the County to set elected officials' and their deputies' salaries by Nov.1 in election years, and that County Administration is recommending a two and a half percent salary increase.

Ms Scott noted that Calhoun County Commissioners are not offered benefits.

Res.137-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the 2025 Appropriations Resolution: Elected Officials and Deputy Salaries, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *Animal Control and Protection Ordinance Amendment*

Kelli Scott stated that the Animal Control and Protection Ordinance has been in place since 1975 and amended eight times. She added that the amendment corresponds to the amended contract with the County Animal Shelter, recently approved by the Board, noting that the only substantive change relates to the Shelter's notification to residents, giving them flexibility in notification methods.

Scott stated that Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose drafted the amendment and was present to answer any questions.

Res.138-2024

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Animal Control and Protection Ordinance Amendment, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *2025-2026 Workers Compensation Excess Insurance Renewal*

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott stated that HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault manages this and other benefits renewals and was present to answer any questions.

Ms. Scott reported that this contract is for excess workers' compensation coverage and that the proposal includes a 2% increase and sets the rates for two years starting January 1, 2025.

Res.139-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the 2025-2026 Workers Compensation Excess Insurance Renewal, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. *Revisions to Policy #310 Job Classification and Compensation*

Ms. Scott reported that this is a revision to Policy 310 related to job classification and compensation for non-union employees, mainly to incorporate statutory requirements for setting elected officials' and deputies' salaries during election years, and adding a boot/clothing allowance for non-union employees within the Road Department who perform similar tasks to union employees.

Res.140-2024

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve Revisions to Policy #310 Job Classification and Compensation, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Barry Wayne Adams commented on the TACC and school bond ballot proposals. Mr. Adams shared an update regarding the ongoing lawsuit related to the Ford Blue Oval battery park development.

Rebecca Sebring of Fredonia Township played a recording related to China and Russia technology related to US defenses.

Julie Bryant of Squaw Creek shared concerns related to Blue Oval construction and the discharge of sediment into the Kalamazoo River.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. French thanked the members of the TACC for their presentation.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for September 26, 2024, through October 9, 2024, in the amount of \$4,938,294.64*

Res.141-2024

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for September 26, 2024 through October 9, 2024, in the amount of \$4,938,294.64, as presented.”

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

There were none.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners