

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

DECEMBER 5, 2024

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, December 5, 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, and Monique French.

Absent/Excused: Comrs. Al Morehart, Diane Thompson, and Rochelle Hatcher

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 of Commissioners Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair King called for a moment of silence, paying tribute to Comr. Hatcher for a recent loss in her family.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.162-2024

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve the agenda of the December 5, 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 November 21, 2024, Board of Commissioners; Regular Meeting*

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

Res.163-2024

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams expressed opposition to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County's (TACC's) taxation on property owners.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Resolution - 2024 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign

Comr. King read the following Resolution onto the record:

2024 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign
December 11, 2024 – January 1, 2025
“Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol (with at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams per deciliter or above) still accounted for approximately 1/3 of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities in 2022 and injure hundreds of thousands more every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Christmas and New Year’s holiday periods from mid-December through January 1st are traditionally one of the deadliest times of the year for alcohol-impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, in December 2022 one person was killed every 42 minutes in a drunk-driving crash in the United States; and

WHEREAS, drivers must remember that driving impaired by any substance, drugs (legal or illegal) or alcohol, is illegal and potentially deadly for themselves, passengers and other road users; and

WHEREAS, based on December 2022 crash figures, male drivers were almost four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash involving alcohol than female drivers, and drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percent (25%) of alcohol-impaired fatalities that month; and

WHEREAS, organizations across the nation are joining together to promote Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization to remove impaired drivers from the roadways under the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” national public awareness campaign during the December 11, 2024 – January 1, 2025 time period;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize the

2024 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization effort from December 11, 2024 – January 1, 2025 under the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. We call upon everyone to promote awareness of the impaired driving problem, to promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and all drugs, and to promote the awareness campaign this holiday season and throughout the year.

Dated: December 5, 2024

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.164-2024

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve the Resolution - 2024 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign, as presented."

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

B. Proclamation - Cereal City Concert Band 2025 Mid-Europe Wind Band Music Festival

Comr. French read the following Proclamation onto the record:

PROCLAMATION
Cereal City Concert Band
2025 Mid-Europe Wind Band Music Festival

WHEREAS, the Cereal City Concert Band (CCCB) was founded in 1987, and is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization consisting of over 55+ semi-professional musicians from Southwest Michigan. As one of the pillar instrumental ensembles in Battle Creek, the CCCB provides the community with quality wind band performances. The Band performs three formal concerts per year, numerous community service events, and has a long history of supporting local military events. Additionally, many members of the band perform in several other ensembles of varying genres, thereby enriching the cultural life of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Cereal City Concert Band is one of a select number of U.S. bands invited to perform in the 2025 Mid-Europe Wind Band Music Festival in Schladming, Austria. In 2023, this world-famous Festival brought together ensembles from 22 countries, approximately 1,800 participants, and more than 10,000 spectators over the course of the five-day Festival of Wind Band music; and

WHEREAS, the CCCB is truly honored by this invitation and is excited to perform as cultural ambassadors for Battle Creek community, Michigan and the United States and to highlight the talent of musicians from Southwest Michigan on the World stage. Prior to performances in Schladming, the band will perform a concert for the community in Prague, Czech Republic. In addition to two festival performances, members of the band will have the opportunity to observe or participate in concerts and master classes, refining their skills as individual and

ensemble musicians; and

WHEREAS, these performance and masterclass opportunities will not only help to strengthen the CCCB as a musical ensemble, but also provide us the opportunity to elevate the level of artistry and musical experience(s) we provide to our own audiences here in the Battle Creek community;

RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Commissioners is proud to honor the Cereal City Concert Band for their ongoing community efforts locally, and especially for their exclusive opportunity to participate in the 2025 Mid-Europe Wind Band Music Festival.

Dated this 5th day of December 2024

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.165-2024

“Moved Comr.French, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Proclamation - Cereal City Concert Band 2025 Mid-Europe Wind Band Music Festival, as presented.”

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

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. Amendment to the Calhoun County Address Ordinance

2. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Lease Addendum

Res.166-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve the Consent Agenda of the December 5, 2024, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

There was none.

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 informed the commissioners to watch for communications from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding proposed legislation.

Kelli Scott highlighted the County Podcast series which features topics such as the recent court adoption day, foreclosure assistance, and other helpful topics.

B. New Business

1. Bid Awards: RFP #124-23 Senior Millage Allocations

Ms. Scott shared that this year the Senior Services' Office issued requests for proposals for four services and is recommending two contract extensions, all approved by the Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) on November 8, 2024.

Kelli Scott highlighted each contract, noting the senior transportation contract is the highest in dollar amount.

Senior Services Director, Rod Auton was present to answer any questions.

Res.167-2024

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. French to approve Bid Awards: RFP #124-23 Senior Millage Allocations, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, and French.
Absent/Excused - 3, Comrs. Morehart, Thompson, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

2. AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement 2025 - 2027

Administrator/Controller Scott reminded the Board that HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault is the County's chief negotiator in general, and that Catherine Lessnau, Deputy HR and Labor Relations Director, took the lead in negotiating this contract.

Ms. Scott added that the union ratified the contract already.

Res.168-2024

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement 2025-2027, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, and French.
Absent/Excused - 3, Comrs. Morehart, Thompson, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *Policy Update and New Policy: Family Medical Leave & Paid Medical, Parental and Caregiver Leave*

Kelli Scott stated that this item includes an update to current board Policy 371 and a proposed new Policy 378, which will expand medical paid benefits for events qualifying under the Family Medical Leave Act. Administrator/Controller Scott noted that the policy updates are hoped to improve recruitment and retention of employees.

Ms. Scott added that this new Policy 378 will be piloted with non-union employees only, and that a complete countywide implementation would require negotiations with each union group.

Res.169-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve Policy Update and New Policy: Family Medical Leave & Paid Medical, Parental and Caregiver Leave, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, and French.
Absent/Excused - 3, Comrs. Morehart, Thompson, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

4. *Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Appropriations*

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott reminded the Board that the required public hearing on the 2025 proposed budget was held at the November 21 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Ms. Scott noted that the General Fund includes \$59.4 million in expenditures and anticipates a \$511,000 increase to the fund balance.

Kelli Scott mentioned that overall revenues are expected to increase by 2.5% for 2025 compared to 2024, due to increases in State Revenue Sharing and property taxes, among other changes.

Administrator Controller Scott highlighted expenditure assumptions, including a 2.5% average pay scale increase for county employees in addition to certain market adjustments and steps.

Ms Scott thanked Assistant County Administrator-Internal Services Megan Banning and the Budget Committee for their work on the budget.

Res.170-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. French to approve Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Appropriations, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, and French.
Absent/Excused - 3, Comrs. Morehart, Thompson and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

5. *2025 Remonumentation Program Grant Application*

Ms. Scott reported that this item is a grant application for funding for a mandated program to coordinate the remonumentation of property descriptions controlling survey corners.

Kelli Scott noted the program is funded by the State through Public Acts 345 and 346 through the State Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

GIS Director, Brent Thelen was present to answer any questions.

Res.171-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. French to approve the 2025 Remonumentation Program Grant Application, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, and French.
Absent/Excused - 3, Comrs. Morehart, Thompson and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams shared opposition to the Marshall Ford Blue Oval Battery Park development and highlighted the Marshall Township Planning Commission meeting the past Monday.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. French noted that the Court-sponsored Adoption Day was held on November 26, with former county commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette as a guest speaker.

Comr. French recognized the retirement of Battle Creek City Manager Rebecca Fleury.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for November 14, 2024 through November 26, 2024 in the amount of \$3,827,206.89*

Res.172-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. French to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for November 14, 2024, through November 26, 2024, in the amount of \$3,827,206.89, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, and French.

Absent/Excused - 3, Comrs. Morehart, Thompson and Hatcher.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Miller shared that the Merry Mile has opened at the County Fairgrounds and will run until the end of the year.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners