

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

April 16, 2015

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 16, 2015 in the Commission Chambers.

Chairperson Bernie Williamson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Robert Wagel, Annie File, Dwight Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Bernie Williamson, Robert Ziliak and E. Clark Cobb.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Roger Fraser, Finance Director Angie Steinman and Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy.

Commissioner Cobb provided the Invocation. Commissioner Wagel led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the April 16, 2015 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda with items R-37-15, M-42-15 and M-43-15 removed from the consent agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION

The 5th and 6th grade Michigan History Days Teams from Sam Adams Elementary School performed.

PRESENTATION

Aaron Miller, 58th District State Representative, discussed Proposal 1 for Safer Roads. Representative Miller also answered questions from commissioners and the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, that the following items be voted on at one time by roll call vote and be considered as a consent agenda by the Board of Commissioners:

(M-35-15) A motion approving Claims dated 4/10/15

(R-36-15) Resolution – Articles of Incorporation

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.A. 338 of 1974, the Cass County Board of Commissioners created the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) with the passage of Articles of Incorporation in 1977; and

WHEREAS, the Articles of Incorporation provide in Article VII, section A., that the Board of Directors of the EDC “. . . shall consist of nine persons, not more than three of whom shall be an officer or employee of the County”; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation recommend that the membership of the Board of Directors be increased to a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 persons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners approves an amendment to Article VII, section A of the EDC’s Articles of Incorporation to read, in pertinent part, as follows:
The Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of 9 persons, but not more than 12 persons. The term of (new language underscored).

(M-38-15) Motion to approve Saturday, June 6, 2015 for a county auction at the Cass County Fairgrounds Show/Sale Arena with an 8 a.m. registration time and 9 a.m. start time.

(M-39-15) Motion to approve the purchase of a 2015 Ford F150-XL extended cab 4x4 from Gorno Ford at a cost of \$24,452 (including fees and title).

(M-40-15) Motion to approve a Cropland Lease Agreement for Dr. T.K. Lawless Park between the County of Cass and Joseph and Tina Young. The agreement shall be for three years, from April 16, 2015 to February 1, 2018, unless otherwise terminated by the Lessor or the Renter for cause. Rental rates are as follows:

First year: \$150 per acre, \$15,600 annually
Second year: \$150 per acre, \$15,600 annually
Third year: \$150 per acre, \$15,600 annually
Total amount of contract: \$46,800

(M-41-15) Motion to approve a Cropland Lease Agreement for Dr. T.K. Lawless Park between the County of Cass and Griner Farms. The agreement shall be for three years, from April 16, 2015 to February 1, 2018, unless otherwise terminated by the Lessor or the Renter for cause. Rental rates are as follows:

First year: \$110 per acre, \$11,440 annually

Second year: \$110 per acre, \$11,440 annually
Third year: \$110 per acre, \$11,440 annually
Total amount of contract: \$34,320

Approval of the April 2, 2015 Regular Meeting Amended Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Wagel, File, Dyes, Marchetti, Williamson, Ziliak and Cobb.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

R-37-15

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner File, approve the following resolution:

Appropriating Funds to Support the Move of the Department of Corrections Staff to the Former Location of the Health Department

WHEREAS, the County of Cass hosts certain Department of Corrections parole staff employed by the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, State law requires counties to bear most of the costs for housing those Corrections employees in county facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department has relocated from the County-owned building at 201 M-62; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed to relocate the Department of Corrections personnel from the County Annex to the vacant building at 201 M-62; and

WHEREAS, certain electronic, security and communications equipment is required at the new location; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Corrections and the State Department of Management and Budget will be sharing in certain costs and installing certain State-owned equipment; and

WHEREAS, the attached documentation describes the equipment and costs of this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners appropriates funds for this project in the amount of \$41,335 from the general fund balance.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Williamson, Ziliak, Cobb and Wagel.

No (0): Commissioner Dyes.

Resolution R-37-15 carried by roll call vote.

M-42-15

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the transfer of \$12,300 from the Charles Bombardie Bequest to the Parks Fund.

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Transfer of Funds			
Reserve Lawless Park Bequest	208 751-371.001	\$12,300	
Transfer In – Bombardie	208 751-699.009		\$12,300
Budget Amendment			
Transfer in – Bombardie	208 751-699.009	\$12,300	
Lawless Park Bombardie expense	208 751-801.008		\$12,300

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Williamson, Cobb, Wagel and File.

No (1): Commissioner Ziliak.

Motion M-42-15 carried by roll call vote.

M-43-15

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the payment of invoice #7044 to the Kalamazoo Nature Center for interpretive signs in the amount of \$7,000 to be paid out of line item 208 751-801.008 – Lawless Park Bombardie expense.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Marchetti, Williamson, Cobb, Wagel, File and Dyes.

No (1): Commissioner Ziliak.

Motion M-43-15 carried by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

R-44-15

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the following resolution:

Resolution in Support for Proposal 1 for Safer Roads

WHEREAS, Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges threaten driver safety and contribute to countless accidents each year, as drivers swerve to avoid potholes and other road hazards; and

WHEREAS, 38 percent of Michigan's state- and locally-owned urban roads and 32 percent of the state's state- and locally-owned rural roads are in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has relied on Band-Aid, short-term fixes for our roads instead of investing enough money to fix our roads for the long term; and

WHEREAS, Michigan invests less per capita in transportation than any other state in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the longer we wait to fix Michigan's roads, the more it will cost us; and

WHEREAS, in addition to threatening public safety, Michigan's crumbling roads hurt our economy; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot is Michigan's last, best chance to finally fix our roads with funds which cannot be diverted somewhere else – while also supporting Michigan's long-term future by investing in our public schools and local communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to amend the state Constitution will increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the school aid fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline, and diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the wholesale fuel tax and voter registration fees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners supports Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot to provide funding needed to finally fix our roads for the long term, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners knows the 1-cent hike in sales tax is a reasonable amount to pay to ensure driver's safety on the roads, and

RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners formally supports Safe Roads Yes! because if it passes, all taxes on fuel are fuel taxes and thus are constitutionally protected for all transportation purposes.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (2): Commissioners Ziliak and Marchetti.

No (5): Commissioners Williamson, Cobb, Wagel, File and Dyes.

Resolution R-44-15 failed by roll call vote.

R-45-15

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Ziliak, to approve the following resolution:

Supporting the Appointment of a State Poet Laureate

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has not had a Poet Laureate since Edgar Guest in the 1950's and is one of only six states without the position; and

WHEREAS, Lois J. Cross-Hart is a talented and prolific poet, a life-long resident of Michigan and a long-term resident of Cassopolis; and

WHEREAS, Lois J. Cross-Hart has written thousands of poems, been published in multiple venues, has published a book of poems, "The Color of Nether", and has broad appeal and understanding; and

WHEREAS, Lois J. Cross-Hart is multi-racial and multi-cultural with a deep connection to her Michigan roots; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners designated Lois J. Cross-Hart as Cass County Poet Laureate in March, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the last Poet Laureate of the State of Michigan was designated by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38 in 1952.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners respectfully request Senator John Proos, and Representatives Aaron Miller and David Pagel

work cooperatively with their fellow legislators and the Office of the Governor to designate Lois J. Cross-Hart Poet Laureate for the State of Michigan

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Ziliak, Cobb, Wagel, File, Dyes, Marchetti and Williamson.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-45-15 carried by roll call vote.

Lois J. Cross-Hart shared three of her favorite poems.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti and Cobb furnished committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Fraser presented the Administrator's Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Angie Steinman offered the Financial Report. Commissioner Marchetti questioned the Civil Council line item being over budget by 43.91% as well as the Snowmobile Enforcement Grant being over budget by 61.85%. Administrator Fraser stated he would meet with Commissioner Marchetti to discuss the issues.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Ziliak offered an announcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Marchetti stated he attended a meeting earlier in the day and the feeling was that the proposal would not pass. They do not expect 18-24 months before there is an answer.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Wagel, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date Bernie Williamson, Chairperson Monica Kennedy, Clerk/Register