

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**April 20, 2017**

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 20, 2017 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Robert Ziliak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner File provided the Invocation. Commissioner Dyes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Ausra, Annie File, Michael Grice, Skip Dyes, Robert Ziliak, Roseann Marchetti and E. Clark Cobb.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Karen L. Folks, Finance Director Angie Steinman and Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Visitors introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Ziliak informed board members of the addition of New Business item M-56-17 - a Motion to accept the resignation of Robert Benjamin. He also removed the language, "discuss litigation" from M-55-17 - a motion to enter Closed Session. Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve the April 20, 2017 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Amended Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Prosecutor Victor Fitz and Victim Rights Coordinator Marie Anderson introduced the Victim Rights Week Book Cover Winners.
2. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, informed the board of commission plans and projects.

**RECOGNITIONS**

There were no recognitions.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, 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-52-17) A motion approving Claims dated April 7, 2017.

(R-53-17)

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2017 COUNTY EQUALIZATION REPORT  
AS SUBMITTED**

**WHEREAS**, the Equalization Department has examined the assessment rolls of the 15 Townships and 2 Cities within Cass County to determine whether the real and personal property in the respective Townships and Cities has been equally and uniformly assessed; and

**WHEREAS**, based on this examination and studies it conducted, the Equalization Department has prepared and presented to the County Board of Commissioners the attached 2017 Equalization Report; and

**WHEREAS**, said Equalization Report presents recommended County equalized valuations for each of the 15 Townships and 2 Cities within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommended County equalized valuations were determined by adding to, or deducting from, the assessed valuations of taxable property in the 15 Townships and 2 Cities within the County, the amount necessary to arrive at the appropriate proportion of true cash value.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners accepts and adopts the recommended County equalized valuations presented in the 2017 Equalization Report prepared by the Cass County Equalization Department for a total 2017 equalized valuation of real and personal property of \$2,845,082,328 with the breakdown of equalized valuation by property classification as follows:

Agricultural Real Property	\$559,559,400
Commercial Real Property	\$90,941,400
Industrial Real Property	\$37,551,000
Residential Real Property	\$1,939,453,821
Developmental Real Property	\$0

---

Total Real Property	\$2,627,505,621
Total Personal Property	<u>\$217,576,707</u>
Total Real and Personal Property	\$2,845,082,328

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cass County Board Chairperson and the County Clerk of the Board of Commissioners are authorized to sign the report; further, that the County Administrator and the Equalization Director/Deputy Director are authorized to represent Cass County at both Preliminary and Final State Equalization sessions, if deemed necessary.

Approval of the April 6, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Ausra, File, Grice, Dyes, Ziliak, Marchetti and Cobb.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioners Ausra, File, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice, Cobb and Ziliak furnished committee reports.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Karen L. Folks provided a written Administrator's Report.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Angie Steinman offered the financial report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**M-54-17**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve payment of invoice #173 in the amount of \$10,981.00 to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for 2017 services. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair requested a roll call vote:

Yes (7): Commissioners File, Grice, Dyes, Ziliak, Marchetti, Cobb and Ausra.

No (0): None.

Motion M-54-17 carried by roll call vote.

**M-56-17**

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to accept the resignation of Robert Benjamin from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no comments or announcements.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**M-55-17**

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to enter closed session in order to discuss union negotiations and to consider material exempt from disclosure under state or federal statute via Section 8(h). In addition to all board members, the closed session included Administrator Folks, Finance Director Steinman, Sheriff Behnke, Undersheriff Roach, Attorney Leigh Schultz and Clerk/Register Monica Kennedy.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Dyes, Ziliak, Marchetti, Cobb, Ausra and File.

No (1): Commissioner Grice.

The meeting moved to closed session at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 9:27 p.m.

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to follow the recommendation of Attorney Schultz. Commissioner Grice requested a roll call vote:

Yes (4): Commissioners Ziliak, Cobb, Ausra and File.

No (3): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti and Grice.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Ziliak, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Kennedy, Clerk/Register