

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

March 1, 2018

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 1, 2018 in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Terry Ausra called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Commissioner Cobb 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, Roseann Marchetti, Robert Ziliak 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

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to approve the March 1, 2018 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to remove R-27-18 from the consent agenda to appear for a separate vote. Motion to approve the amended agenda carried by voice vote.

PRESENTATION

Judge Susan L. Dobrich provided information on the court response to the Opioid Crisis. Preston Collett, Cass County drug court graduate turned mentor, shared his story.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

INTRODUCTIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cobb 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-26-18) A motion to approve Claims dated February 23, 2018.

Approval of the February 1, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

R-27-18

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Ziliak, to approve the following Resolution to Approve Outside Counsel for Opioid Litigation:

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) desires legal representation in national litigation that is being waged against manufacturers and distributors of opioids and other culpable parties; and

WHEREAS, the participation in such national litigation requires specialized expertise; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the qualifications of Weitz & Luxenberg PC, Sam Bernstein Law Firm PLLC, Smith & Johnson Attorneys PC, and Conybeare Law Office PC, and believes those firms collectively possess outstanding experience and qualifications to represent the County’s interests as it relates to the opioid epidemic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the firms of Weitz & Luxenberg PC, Sam Bernstein Law Firm PLLC, Smith & Johnson Attorneys PC, and Conybeare Law Office PC, as special counsel to represent the interests of Cass County in litigation concerning the opioid epidemic.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to postpone the motion for two weeks. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (3): Commissioners File, Ausra and Dyes.

No (4): Commissioners Grice, Cobb, Marchetti and Ziliak.

Motion to postpone failed by roll call vote.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-27-18 passed by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Karen L. Folks provided a written Administrator's Report. Finance Director Angie Steinman offered an update on county finances.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Marchetti, Grice and Cobb offered comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Terry Ausra, Chair

Monica Kennedy, Clerk/Register