

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**May 7, 2015**

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 2015 in the Commission Chambers.

Chairperson Bernie Williamson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti 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: 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.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Visitors introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Ziliak moved, seconded by Commissioner Wagel, to approve the May 7, 2015 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Wilson, a resident of Howard Township, addressed the board regarding his friend, a Pokagon Township resident, whose property was foreclosed on by the County Treasurer for unpaid taxes. Treasurer Linda Pruett stated she explained the process to Mr. Wilson. She emphasized her sympathy to the situation but stressed that the county must follow state statute and cannot circumvent the process. Judge Dobrich suggested that Mr. Wilson contact an attorney to obtain a guardian or conservator for the gentleman. Commissioner Cobb provided his contact information as he represents Pokagon Township.

**PRESENTATION**

Prosecutor Victor Fitz and Victim Rights Coordinator Marie Anderson presented the 2015 Victim Rights Week Book Cover Winners:

MARCELLUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Harper Townsend - Cover Winner

Abby Tone

Naomi Mroczek

KINCHELOE ELEMENTARY

Lyla Elrod-Edwards

Mylie Jane Green

PATRICK HAMILTON

Andrew Bryant

Samantha Hernandez

Davianna Robles

Cheyenne Grady

SAM ADAMS

Nola Hawkins - Will Not Be Here

Soriano Danzy-Reyna

Mackenzie Boyer

EDWARDSBURG

Jake Emenaker - Back Cover

Emily Wachowiak

Tori DeMeyer

Cambria Storm

Abby Bossler

**PRESENTATION**

Attorney Referee Melissa Sytsma and Court Administrator Carol Bealor introduced the Cass County Bar Association Essay Contest Winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place - Valeria Badilla, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Olivia Hudak, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Nicole Byrd, Honorable Mention - Olivia Wagner. All individuals received a certificate and pin while the top three received cash prizes.

**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-46-15)** Motion approving Claims dated 4/24/15

**(M-47-15)** Motion to accept the 2015 Survey and Remonumentation Grant.

**(M-48-15)** Motion to approve the following agreements to implement the 2015 Survey and Remonumentation Grant:

Tom Stephenson, Grant Representative Surveyor	\$5,155.00
Marbach, Brady & Weaver, Inc.	\$8,800.00
Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.	\$8,800.00
Stephenson Land Surveying	\$8,800.00
Kesler Land Surveying, LLC	\$8,800.00

These costs will be reimbursed from the Michigan State Survey and Remonumentation Act Grant for 2015.

**(M-49-15)** Motion to approve the Software Subscription and Service Agreement with Courthouse Technologies, the Interlocal Agreement to Form a Joint Endeavor between Berrien and Cass County and to appropriate \$2,000 for Courthouse Technologies Software Training in FY2015.

Approval of the April 16, 2015 Regular Meeting 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.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioners Marchetti, Ziliak, Cobb and Williamson furnished committee reports.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Fraser presented the Administrator's Report.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Steinman offered the Financial Report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**R-50-15**

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Wagel, to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Clerk/Register of Deeds maintains certain records more than 150 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, these records should be stored in precise atmospheric conditions to minimize their deterioration; and

**WHEREAS**, the space used for the storage of these records has little air movement and suffers significant swings in temperature and humidity throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clerk/Register has proposed two projects to address the deteriorating records, being the installation of an environmental control system and a contract to restore and digitize five record books; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached documentation describes the proposals and estimated costs.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cass County Board of Commissioners appropriates funds for the environmental control system in the amount of \$28,500 from the Public Improvement Fund, Fund 245; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that \$15,700 be appropriated to the County Clerk/Register budget from the Tribal Casino Compact Fund (discretionary casino fund) to pay for record preservation and data conversion.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-50-15 carried by roll call vote.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Ziliak and Williamson offered announcements.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

CCIEA President Tina Butler distributed the MERS employer contribution tables to all board members. She went on to state that at the March 20, 2015 board workshop, Administrator Fraser reported that a deficit free legacy cost was one of his objectives. At the same workshop, Mr. Fraser informed the board that he increased the county contribution to MERS in order to decrease the unfunded liability. Tina Butler then notified board members that her April 2nd FOIA request to MERS revealed that the county had not increased contributions to any of the eight county plans. She asked board members to investigate why Administrator Fraser relayed a false report. Discussion followed regarding the MERS unfunded liability and communication between MERS and the county. Commissioner Dyes requested a response regarding the incorrect report from Administrator and that Administrator Fraser do so at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernie Williamson, Chairperson

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