

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 6, 2022

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022, in Commissioner Chambers. Due to COVID-19 concerns, all public participation was offered via Zoom.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Jones provided the Invocation. Commissioner Grice led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ryan Laylin, Annie File, Skip Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Robert Benjamin, Mike Grice and Jeremiah Jones.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen, Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors present introduced themselves.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board of Commissioners for a one-year term.

Commissioner Marchetti nominated Commissioner Dyes.

Commissioner Grice nominated Commissioner Jones.

Commissioner File nominated Commissioner Laylin.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to close nominations. Motion to close nominations carried by voice vote. Clerk/Register McMichael read the votes that were cast by secret ballot:

Commissioner Dyes received two votes.

Commissioner Jones received three votes.

Commissioner Laylin received two votes.

Clerk/Register McMichael explained that the vote required a majority of the seven board members, which was four votes. Because no commissioner received the necessary number of votes, Clerk/Register McMichael asked commissioners to cast their vote again.

Commissioner Dyes received two votes.
Commissioner Jones received three votes.
Commissioner Laylin received two votes.

Commissioner Laylin withdrew his name from consideration for Chair. The commissioners voted again, as follows:

Commissioner Dyes received four votes.
Commissioner Jones received three votes.

Commissioner Dyes was elected Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners. Clerk/Register McMichael turned the meeting over to Chair Dyes.

Chair Dyes opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners, a one-year term.

Commissioner File nominated Commissioner Laylin.
Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Grice.
Commissioner Dyes nominated Commissioner Marchetti.

The Chair closed the floor for nominations and instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Commissioner Laylin:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner File:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Dyes:	Commissioner Marchetti
Commissioner Marchetti:	Commissioner Marchetti
Commissioner Benjamin:	Commissioner Grice
Commissioner Grice:	Commissioner Grice
Commissioner Jones:	Commissioner Grice

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll again as no commissioner received the necessary votes (four) to be elected as Vice Chair.

Commissioner File:	Commissioner Laylin
Commissioner Dyes:	Commissioner Grice
Commissioner Marchetti:	Commissioner Marchetti
Commissioner Benjamin:	Commissioner Grice
Commissioner Grice:	Commissioner Grice
Commissioner Jones:	Commissioner Grice
Commissioner Laylin:	Commissioner Laylin

With four votes, Commissioner Grice was elected Vice Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Conservation District Director Korie Blyveis offered an update that included an employment opportunity.

Michigan State University Extension Director Julie Pioch commended Clerk/Register McMichael for handling the opening of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the January 6, 2022, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to amend the agenda to remove resolution R-228-21. Discussion followed. Motion to amend the agenda carried by voice vote. Chair Dyes then called for a vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Grice 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-1-22) A motion to approve Claims dated December 24, 2021.

(M-2-22) A motion to approve the December 16, 2021 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones, Laylin and File.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Laylin, Marchetti, Benjamin and Jones offered Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Marchetti discussed changes to the committee application. She also stated that three seats on the Economic Development Commissioner and the Woodlands Board would soon expire.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Carmen presented the Administrator's Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Road Commissioner Director Robert Thompson informed commissioners that county plows started at 5:00 a.m. after a snowfall. He went on to discuss County Road intersections with a high number of crashes. The intersection of Pokagon Highway and Dailey Road had the highest number of crashes in the county.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-3-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Van Buren Conservation District for the 2022 Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant Program. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-4-22

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting date and time schedule. Discussion followed. Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to amend the meeting start time to 5:00 p.m. and to remove the August 4, 2022, Regular Meeting Date. Motion to amend motion M-4-22 carried by voice vote. Chair Dyes then called for a voice vote to approve the motion as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-5-22

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to approve the Agreement between the Marcellus Township, the County of Cass and the Office of Sheriff, Cass County to run from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion – Board of Commissioners Assignment List

Administrator Carmen distributed a list of boards and commissions. Discussion followed regarding determining which boards were appointed by the Chair, which required a motion approved by the board or, if any commissioner may attend. Discussion followed. Commissioner Grice suggested the board maintain status quo but should contact Chair Dyes with any changes or concerns before the end of January.

Chair Dyes asked commissioners to set goals for the next year.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jones asked that the Vice Chair be more involved with meetings. Any meeting the Chair attended, the Vice Chair should also attend.

Commissioner Marchetti announced that Daniel Schoonmaker would attend the next board meeting via Zoom to discuss his role as facilitator of the County Solid Waste Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Skip Dyes

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register