

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 20, 2022

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022, in Commissioner Chambers. Due to COVID-19 concerns, public participation was offered via Zoom.

Chair Dyes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Marchetti provided the Invocation. Cassopolis Middle School student Isabel Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ryan Laylin.

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors present introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the January 20, 2022, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Daniel Schoonmaker discussed the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum.

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-6-22) A motion to approve Claims dated January 7, 2022.

(M-7-22) A motion to approve the January 6, 2022 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice and Jones.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Laylin.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners Marchetti, Benjamin and Jones offered Committee Reports.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Marchetti stated that the Appointments Committee was seeking applicants to serve on the Woodlands and Economic Development Corporation Boards.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Deputy Administrator Matthew Newton presented the Administrator's Report.

FINANCE REPORT

The finance report was included in the board packet.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided a Public Safety Update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Michigan State University Extension Director Julie Pioch introduced Lorenne Witham as the 4-H Program Coordinator.

Market Van Buren Executive Director Zach Morris and Economic Development Manager Riley Lukomski shared an update on completed and ongoing projects.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

Judge Carol Bealor thanked the Information Technology Department for their support. She announced the courts delayed jury trials until the month of February due to the surge of Covid cases. She also informed commissioners that Sarah Mathews took over the role of Court Administrator/Friend of the Court Director while Ravan Bakeman was hired to serve as the Deputy Friend of the Court.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-8-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint James Dodd to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term ending December 31, 2023. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-9-22

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve hardware update costs for three (3) 9-1-1 workstations at a cost of \$37,582.33 to be paid from the 9-1-1 fund balance. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-10-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION OF CASS COUNTY SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

WHEREAS, All children in Cass County should have access to the highest quality education possible; and

WHEREAS, Cass County recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in Cass County to be successful students; and

WHEREAS, quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of Cass County; and

WHEREAS, Cass County is home to a multitude of high-quality public and non-public schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home; and

WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and

WHEREAS, Cass County has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children; and

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Cass County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize January 23-29, 2022 as Cass County School Choice Week, and we call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

The motion carried by voice vote.

M-11-22

Chair Dyes stated that motion M-11-22 was removed from the agenda and would appear at a later date. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to postpone the motion. Motion to postpone carried by voice vote.

R-12-22

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING MATERIALS MANAGEMENT COUNTY ENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL WITH THE WEST MICHIGAN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS FORUM

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the need to adopt sustainable materials management as a modern alternative to solid waste management throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is incentivizing counties to educate stakeholders on forthcoming opportunities and potential requirements through the EGLE Materials Management County Engagement Grant; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum (WMSBF) has submitted a proposal to execute the grant on behalf of Cass County; and

WHEREAS, the grant award shall cover the full cost of the proposal with no additional costs to Cass County; and

WHEREAS, the WMSBF shall utilize the grant to perform the following tasks:

1. Research and data collection in support of the EGLE Mega Data Project.
2. Outreach to and host educational activities for public and private stakeholders in the region, including correspondence with the 30+ Cass County communities.
3. Research and interviews with relevant stakeholders to create an assessment of future material management needs in Cass County, as outlined in the grant requirements.
4. Deliver a report of findings to the Cass County Board of Commissioners and other authorities.
5. Facilitate discussions among regional partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners to approve the Proposal for Materials Management County Engagement to permit West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum to seek and execute the EGLE Materials Management County Engagement Grant on its behalf.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Marchetti, Benjamin, Grice, Jones, File and Dyes.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Laylin.

Resolution R-12-22 carried by voice vote.

R-13-22

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

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CASS COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the oversight and approval of county-wide capital projects and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to procedurally develop the County's capital project needs; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Projects Committee will be responsible for reviewing requests/plans for future capital projects and monitoring capital projects underway; and

WHEREAS, the Committee will engage in other related projects as determined by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on major capital projects/expenditures and issues impacting the County of Cass.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners to establish the Capital Projects Committee. The Capital Projects Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners, a member of the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Chair, the County Administrator or their designee, the Finance Director, the County Treasurer, the County Clerk/Register, the Facilities Director, and Department Heads or County Partner Professionals as may be applicable for each project under review.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Benjamin, Grice, Jones, File, Dyes and Marchetti.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Laylin.

Resolution R-13-22 carried by roll call vote.

Chair Dyes appointed Commissioner Laylin to serve on the Capital Projects Committee.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Marchetti shared the number of meals provided by the Edwardsburg Food Pantry during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Commissioner Grice stated that the Feed the Hungry surpassed their goal to raise \$20,000 by collecting over \$40,000.

Chair Dyes had Clerk/Register McMichael introduce her daughter, Isabel Kennedy, who was observing the meeting in preparation for FFA Competition.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Skip Dyes

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register