

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

February 15, 2024

Vice Chair Samuel Barrera called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers on Thursday, February 15, 2024. Chair Jones offered the invocation. Commissioner Marchetti led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: RJ Lee, Ryan Laylin, Roseann Marchetti, Samuel Barrera, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie and Joyce Locke.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: James Lawrence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti asked that item F. Elected Official & Chief Deputy Salary Policy be removed from the agenda and sent back to the Policy Committee. She announced that the Policy Committee would next meet on March 14, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the February 15, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda with the deletion of item F. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the January 18, 2024, Committee of the Whole Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Report was in the packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Commissioners Bylaws and Rules of Procedures

Administrator Newton explained that the Board of Commissioners Bylaws and Rules of Procedure were amended at the January 2024 Workshop.

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Chair Jones, to place the item on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

B. Resolution Designating One-Year Term for Chair

MCL 46.3 provided that the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners serve for a two-year term. In order to account for the one-year term that the Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners served, the board was presented with a resolution to formally approve a one-year term. Commissioner Marchetti noted a mistake in the resolution language. Administrator Newton stated that he would correct the error before the resolution appeared on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to place item B. on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

C. Election Inspector Salary

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael requested the board approve a new line item in order to fund temporary election inspectors necessary to work early voting. McMichael requested \$30,000 to fund inspectors for nine days of early voting prior to the February 27, 2024, Presidential Primary Election, and the August 8, 2024, Primary Election, that fell in FY 2024.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to place item C. on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

D. Interlocal Agreements for IT Services

Administrator Newton requested that board members approve IT Service Interlocal Agreements for the Medical Care Facility and the Road Commission. The proposed agreements would provide \$78,900.00 in increased revenues to the County to offset costs to provide the services noted in the agreements and to provide for upgrades to refine service offerings.

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to place item D. on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

E. Mileage Reimbursement Policy

Administrator Newton explained that the updated mileage reimbursement policy would allow for uniform application of mileage reimbursement across the county and would ensure a consistent practice in how travel was handled.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to place item E. on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

G. FY 24 Budget Amendments

Administrator Newton requested the board approve three proposed budget amendments for FY 2024. Finance Director Rentfrow added explanations on the budget amendments.

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to place item G. on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

H. Medical Examiner

Sheriff Behnke explained that Dr. DeJong stepped down as Chief Medical Examiner for Western Michigan University Homer Stryker Medical School (WMED). As required by MCL 52.501a, commissioners approved the new Medical Examiners and Deputy Examiners.

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to place item H. on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

I. Prosecutor's Office Wage & Salary Discussion

Prosecutor Fitz and Chief Assistant Prosecutor Mary Foster shared a presentation on issues regarding wages within the Prosecutor's Office.

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to create a committee to explore a law enforcement millage. An official vote to create the committee would appear on the March 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Commissioners Laylin, Marchetti and Howie would serve on the committee. Administrator Newton would also sit on the committee.

It was also agreed that Administrator Newton would prepare and send out an RFP for a class/comp study. Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to create a committee to draft the RFP that would include all elected officials as well as Commissioners Lawrence, Howie and Locke.

F. Opioid Settlement Funding Plan

Chief Judge Bealor and Woodlands employee Bob Weber offered a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Opioid Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

M-024-24

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to enter a Closed Session to discuss the February 9, 2024, confidential written legal opinion from the County's legal counsel, which was subject to attorney-client privilege and to include County Administrator Newton, Finance Director Rentfrow, and Clerk/Register McMichael.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Marchetti, Laylin, Barrera, Jones, Howie, Locke and Lee.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Lawrence.

Commissioner Laylin left the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

The meeting entered closed session at 6:44 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 7:31 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Marchetti made an announcement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Samuel Barrera, Vice Chair

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register