

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

February 20, 2020

The County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 20, 2020, in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Marchetti called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner File provided the Invocation. Commissioner Dyes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Ausra, Annie File, Skip Dyes, Mike Grice, Roseann Marchetti and E. Clark Cobb.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Benjamin.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

St. Joseph County Commissioner Allen Balog announced his candidacy for 59th District State Representative.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve the February 20, 2020 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Cass Kickstart to Careers Board Member Becky Moore provided information on the program that was implemented in the fall of 2019.

Board Member Ron McAdam provided an update on the Economic Development Corporation Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, 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-29-20) A motion to approve Claims dated February 7, 2020.

(M-30-20) A motion to approve the February 2, 2020 Board of Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes, the February 6, 2020 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes, and the February 7, 2020 Board of Commissioners Workshop Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners File, Grice, Cobb, Marchetti, Dyes and Ausra.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners File, Dyes, Marchetti, Grice and Cobb furnished committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Jeff Carmen provided the Administrator's Report. Administrator Carmen also announced that demolition continued on the Historic Courthouse.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke offered an update on Public Safety in Cass County.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Marchetti stated the next the Appointments Committee would next meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2020.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report was included in the board packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M-24-20

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the Agreement for FOP/Animal Control. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

M-31-20

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to approve quarterly adjustments. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-32-20

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to appoint Edwin Johnson to the Economic Development Corporation Board for an unexpired term ending September 30, 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-33-20

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to appoint David Kring to the Economic Development Corporation Board for an unexpired term ending September 30, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-34-20

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to appoint Dianna McGrew to the Cass County Planning Commission for a three-year term ending July 31, 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-35-20

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, February is National Black History month, and;

WHEREAS, Cass County is home to more than 52,000 residents and more than 4,000 are African Americans, and;

WHEREAS, Cass County was a station on the Underground Railroad, and;

WHEREAS, Cass County's Civil War era Quaker Community welcomed escaped and freed slaves with grants of land, many of which are still owned by descendants of the original owners, and;

WHEREAS, Annually the Underground Railroad as well as the repelling of the Kentucky Raiders is an important celebration in our county, and;

WHEREAS, Our Black and African-American brothers and sisters are part of our modern story as leaders and important members of our county community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Cass County Board of Commissioners upholds and endorses February as Black History Month, and encourages all members of the Community to participate in events surrounding Black History Month and to celebrate all of our heritage in Cass County.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (6): Commissioners Grice, Cobb, Marchetti, Dyes, Ausra and File.

No (0): None.

Absent (1): Commissioner Benjamin.

Resolution R-35-20 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allen Balog offered information about his personal history as well as his qualifications for State Representative.

MSU Extension employee Tyler Augst introduced himself as the newly appointed MSU Extension Government and Community Vitality Educator for Southwest Michigan. He will work out of the Van Buren County Office but provide services to Cass County.

Sheriff Behnke announced the following events: Rabies Clinic 9:00 a.m. until noon Saturday, February 22nd; Cass County All Stars versus the Brookside Bobcats Thursday, March 26th; and, the Cass County All Stars versus the Detroit Lions Saturday, April 17, 2020 at Ross Beatty High School.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael announced the Wax Museum at the Bonine House as presented by the Sam Adams 5th Grade Class on March 31, 2020. She also thanked the Cass Kickstart to Careers Board.

Animal Control Director Ron Butts announced that the Miss Cassopolis Court would attend the rabies clinics to provide assistance to residents and to the shelter staff.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Dyes, Grice and Marchetti provided announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Roseann Marchetti, Chairperson

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register