

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**May 7, 2020**

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 2020 via Zoom.

Chair Marchetti called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Ausra, Annie File (joined the meeting late after technical difficulties), Skip Dyes, Mike Grice, Roseann Marchetti, Robert Benjamin and E. Clark Cobb.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)**

None.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the May 7, 2020 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PRESENTATIONS**

The presentation would occur later in the meeting once Cass County Medical Care Facility Interim Director Christian Lutes joined the Zoom Meeting.

## RESOLUTIONS

### R-57-20

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

**WHEREAS**, Darlene Roush is a graduate of Cassopolis High School and Southwestern Michigan College; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene and her husband Steve were married in July of 1978; they have a daughter Beth (Andy) Cripe and two grandsons, Sam and Luke Cripe; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene began her career with the Cass County Treasurer's Office on April 4, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, During the years Darlene has been a Clerk in the Treasurer's Office she has been a treasured employee and co-worker. Always willing to help and share her immense knowledge of Michigan's Land and Title Laws, surveys, government records and drawing out legal descriptions. Darlene's expertise in preparing property tax bills and dog licenses to print and her efficient and organized methods were an asset to the Treasurer's Office. Her hard work and diligence have greatly benefited the Cass County Treasurer's Office and she will be greatly missed; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene looks forward to spending more time with her husband, daughter and son-in-law and two grandsons, family and friends, scrapbooking, crafting, repurposing furniture and gardening.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners thank Darlene Roush for her years of dedicated service to Cass County and wish her all the best on her retirement from the Cass County Treasurer's Office on May 8, 2020.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Commissioner File was not yet connected via Zoom.

Resolution R-57-20 carried by roll call vote.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chair Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, 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-58-20)** A motion to approve Claims dated April 17, 2020.

**(M-59-20)** A motion to approve the April 16, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Cobb, Marchetti, Dyes, Ausra, Benjamin and Grice.

No (0): None.

Commissioner File was not yet connected via Zoom.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

County Administrator Jeff Carmen provided the Administrator's Report. Finance Director Becky Moore shared information on the financial outlook that included how COVID will effect revenues.

## **PRESENTATION**

Cass County Medical Care Facility Interim Director Christian Lutes provided an update on the facility.

## **SHERIFF BEHNKE PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**

Sheriff Behnke informed commissioners that the number of calls for service were similar from April 2019 to April 2020; however, the nature of the calls was different. Calls for attempted suicide and domestic disputes doubled. Dispatch reported an increase in motor vehicle thefts, burglaries and suspicious situation calls. The Sheriff also reported that the jail population was at forty inmates and was COVID free.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE**

County Treasurer Hope Anderson, Prosecutor Victor Fitz and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael provided updates.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

COVID-19 Update: Chair Marchetti provided a COVID-19 Update that included Cass County data with 36 confirmed cases and 2 deaths. She thanked Emergency Operations Director Dave Smith for providing daily COVID-19 updates.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **R-60-20**

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

### **MEDICAL CARE FACILITY MILLAGE**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan has 440 nursing homes and there are 15,600 nationwide. The Cass County Medical Care Facility is recognized in the top 10% by both the state and Federal Governments; and

**WHEREAS**, we have provided care based on the same model since the 1970's and there is a need for outpatient rehabilitating services, adult day care, assisted living services and independent living services and these needs are real and will continue to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, there has not been a millage for the Medical Care Facility since 1996 and the operating reserves have been depleted and combined with the age of the physical plant, there is a need for additional funding.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cass County Board of Commissioners place the following proposal on the ballot:

“Shall there be approved up to a five tenth (0.5) mill levy, [Fifty (50) Cents per Thousand Dollars (\$1,000)] in State equalized value of real and personal property in Cass County for a period of five (5) years, commencing December 1, 2020, to be used to defray the costs of operation of Cass County Medical Care Facility as well as funding for Cass County Medical Care Facility to expand service options for the community. It is anticipated the revenue collected by Cass County as a result of this proposal will be One Million One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,165,000) in the first calendar year of the levy.”

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (7): Commissioners Marchetti, Dyes, Ausra, Benjamin, File, Grice and Cobb.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-60-20 carried by roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Dyes stated that he would attend a Health Board Meeting in person next week with proper safety protocol in place.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roseann Marchetti, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register