

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

May 19, 2022

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 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 File 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: Deputy County Administrator Matthew Newton, Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Visitors present introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CCIEA Union President Fern Smith commented on the serious situation with MERS for non-union employees. She expressed concern over the county losing high ranking non-union employees due to the change in pension.

Attorney Referee Leigh Feldman shared comments about the county changing the pension plan.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve the May 19, 2022, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda 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-103-22) A motion to approve Claims dated May 13, 2022.

(M-104-22) A motion to approve the May 5, 2022 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

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 announced an opening on the Historical Commission. She asked commissioners to share the opening when visiting townships.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Deputy Administrator Matthew Newton stated that the report was in the board packet.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was included in the packet.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke shared the public safety update.

COUNTY PARTNERS

None.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

Judge Bealor shared an update from the Cass County Courts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

M-105-22

Vice Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve FY2023 Community Corrections Applications and Plan. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-106-22

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve revised Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure. Discussion followed. Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Vice Chair Grice, to amend the motion to keep the invocation in board meetings. Discussion followed. Motion to amend carried by voice vote. Discussion followed. Motion to approve the amended motion carried by voice vote.

M-107-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve Boards and Commissioners Per Diem and Mileage Policy. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-108-02

Chair Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to Rescind No Smoking Policy and adopt Smoke & Vape-Free Workplace Policy. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-109-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Vice Chair Grice, to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND THANK CASS COUNTY
EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE PROVIDERS**

WHEREAS, Cass County has many early childhood care providers who care for infants, and toddlers; and

WHEREAS, early childhood care providers are important members of our community who offer a safe environment, and loving care to children and give assistance to families who need their help; and

WHEREAS, early childhood care providers in Cass County make an awesome contribution which providing social, emotional, and educational support to the children in their care; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2022 a Child Care Provider Appreciation Event will be held at Southwest Michigan College from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in honor of our Cass County Early Childhood Care Providers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby offers appreciation for their valuable service and applauds our County's early childhood care providers for their efforts

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-109-22 carried by roll call vote.

M-110-22

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve lodging and mileage expense in the amount of \$282.10 to permit Solid Waste Planning Commission member Susan Donoho to attend Recycling Conference. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-111-22

Vice Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the purchase of Zoom Webinar for BOC Meetings. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote. Commissioner Benjamin abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

M-112-22

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve purchase of two personal watercraft (jet skis) for the Sheriff's Department Marine Division in an amount not to exceed \$41,000. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-113-22

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Laylin, to approve Budget Amendments as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-114-22

Commissioner Laylin moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve Technology & Security Services Quote from Conference Technologies in the amount of \$15,446.00. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

CLOSED SESSION

M-115-22

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to enter a closed session to discuss a confidential written legal opinion that is subject to attorney-client privilege and to include Clerk/Register Monica McMichael and Attorney Karl Butterer and any other party as may be designated by the Board Chair.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion M-115-22 carried by roll call vote. Chair Dyes announced that business may be conducted after the closed session. The meeting moved to closed session at 5:53 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 6:27 p.m.

MOTION

Commissioner Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to suspend the rules to add an agenda item to approve a contract. Motion to suspend the rules carried by voice vote.

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Vice Chair Grice, to approve the contract between the Cass County Board of Commissioners as presented and authorize Chairman Dyes to sign the contact on behalf of the board.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to amend Section 1 Part O to add: ", subject to the board's approval". Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

Commissioner Benjamin moved, seconded by Vice Chair Grice, to strike out the following in Section 4: "...made in August every year which will be effective beginning next fiscal year." Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

Discussion followed. Motion to approve the contract as amended carried by voice vote.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Laylin stated that Robert Parrish asked the board to approve a light-limiting ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Skip Dyes

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register