

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**June 4, 2020**

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 4, 2020 via Zoom.

Chair Marchetti called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner File provided the Invocation.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Ausra, Annie File, 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)**

Sheriff Behnke explained that the motion to approve the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe was partially funded by grant money.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Ausra, to approve the June 4, 2020 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**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-66-20)** A motion to approve Claims dated May 29, 2020.

**(M-67-20)** A motion to approve the May 21, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

County Administrator Jeff Carmen provided the Administrator's Report.

### **SHERIFF BEHNKE PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**

Sheriff Behnke extended condolences to the family of George Floyd. He went on to state that the Cass County Sheriff's Office condemned the actions of Minneapolis Police on May 25, 2020, that led up to the death of George Floyd. Cass County Deputies are trained on proper de-escalation practices and proper restraint techniques. The type of restraint used in the George Floyd case is not used or practiced by Cass County Officers.

The Sheriff then offered the number of calls for assistance handled by County Dispatch. He also detailed the racial population of the County Jail. With 79% Caucasian, 17% African American and 4% Hispanic, he believed it reflected the overall racial makeup of the County.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE**

Treasurer Hope Anderson and Prosecutor Victor Fitz offered updates.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

COVID-19 Update: Chair Marchetti reported that, per Dr. Wile of the Van Buren/Cass Health Department, COVID cases were tracked by zip code; however, that data was not public information. She also relayed Dr. Wile's message that Southwest Michigan was not a hotbed for the virus.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**R-68-20**

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

**2020 L-4029 RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, it is the statutory duty of Cass County Board of Commissioners to authorize the levy of the County's millage rate for 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the county millage is affected by M.C.L. Section 211.34d, Headlee Rollback, that has limited the County to 5.8177 mills for 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the County millage is not affected by P.A. 5 of 1982, Truth in Taxation, at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Treasury has notified Cass County on monies to be received under the Convention Facility Liquor Tax of \$130,573 and Health and Safety Fund Act Revenue of \$0 for a total of \$130,573 which further reduces the County millage rate to 5.8177 mills due to M.C.L. Section 211.34d and P.A. 5 of 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to levy a maximum of 5.8177 mills, which includes 4.6215 allocated mills, 0.9969 mills for Council on Aging, 0.1993 mills for E911 Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the County can levy the full millage rate of 5.8177 only after fulfilling the public requirements of M.C.L. Section 211.34d and P.A. 5 of 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cass County Board of Commissioners has fulfilled the requirements of M.C.L. 211.34d.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that after much deliberation and consideration of the County's budgetary needs for 2020, the Cass County Board of Commissioners has decided, in the best interest of the County, to levy 5.8177 mills, which is 4.6215 allocated mills, 0.9969 mills for Council on Aging, 0.1993 mills for E-911 Services.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-68-20 carried by roll call vote.

**M-69-20**

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to approve the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe and vehicle equipment at a cost of \$41,855.00, to be paid out of the Motor Pool Fund 661-000-148.000. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners Dyes and Benjamin offered comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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