

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

**June 15, 2023**

Commissioner Marchetti called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers on Thursday, June 15, 2023. Commissioner Howie offered the Invocation. Chair Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ryan Laylin.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Matthew Newton, Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow and Deputy Finance Director James Tito.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment occurred.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Chair Jones, to amend the agenda to add New Business item – J. FY 24-28 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contracts (Title IV-D Funding). Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Chair Jones, to approve the June 15, 2023, Cass County Committee of the Whole Agenda as amended. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Locke moved, seconded by Commissioner Barrera, to approve the May 18, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Rose Street Advisors Relationship Manager Ben Cohen offered an overview of Michigan PA 152 which required the board to select an option to share the premium contributions for medical, dental and prescription insurance.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioners Locke, Howie and Lee shared a Committee Report.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

Commissioners Jones, Marchetti and Barrera provided district reports.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Newton shared the Administrator's Report.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Financial Director Jennifer Rentfrow offered the Finance Report.

## **VETERAN'S REPORT**

Veteran's Services Officer Karee Krause shared the Veteran's Report.

## **COUNTY PARTNERS**

Road Commission Manager Bob Thompson provided an update on Road Commission Operations.

Gerry Bundle, Transportation Authority Director, addressed the financial needs of the Transportation Authority. He informed commissioners that the Transportation Authority would request a countywide millage at the February 2024 Presidential Primary Election. Beginning in October of 2023, however, the authority would need financial assistance from the county.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Sheriff Behnke offered an update.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Appointments**

- i. Reappoint Korie Blyveis to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a term expiring June 1, 2025
- ii. Reappoint Naomi Ludman to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a term expiring June 1, 2025
- iii. Reappoint Amy Huser to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for a term expiring June 1, 2025
- iv. Reappoint Nathan Robinson to the Historical Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2026
- v. Reappoint Amy Davidhizer to the Historical Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2026

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to move New Business item A. Appointments to the next regular board meeting.

### **B. Policy Revisions**

- i. Paycheck – Rescind
- ii. Parking – Rescind
- iii. County Building Parking – Revised
- iv. Maintenance Supervisor Additional Compensation – Rescind
- v. MERS Purchase of Service – Rescind
- vi. Deferred Compensation Plan – Revised
- vii. Restroom – Rescind
- viii. Claims – Revised
- ix. Fraternalization

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to move New Business item B. Policy Revisions to the next regular board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

**C. Resolution – PA 152**

Commissioner Marchetti stated that the resolution listed the county chose the 80/20 option in order to comply with PA 152.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to move New Business item C. Resolution – PA 152 to the next regular board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

**D. Silver Creek Police Services Contract**

Chair Jones, seconded by Commissioner Howie, to move New Business Item D. Silver Creek Police Services Contract to the next regular board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

**E. FY 24 Budget**

Finance Director Jennifer Rentfrow distributed the budget while Administrator Matt Newton offered a narrative. Administrator Newton informed commissioners they did not expect a deep dive but wanted to provide commissioners time to review the budget. The budget presented had not been adjusted from the numbers entered by elected officials and department heads. The current numbers led to a projected shortfall of more than \$3 million.

Commissioners agreed to adjust the June 22, 2023, BOC Workshop Agenda to include budget discussions.

**F. Budget Amendments**

Commissioners agreed to move New Business item F. Budget Amendments to the next regular board meeting.

**G. Spark Grant Resolution of Support**

Parks Director Scott Wyman presented details on a \$ 1.2 million grant application that would provide an observatory, nature center and restroom upgrades at Lawless Park. The board agreed to approve a resolution of support for the grant application.

**H. Resolution – Step Level Increases**

Discussion occurred on allowing the County Administrator to approve step level increases for existing county employees. Chief Judge Bealor explained the request was to put a process in place. It did not mean that immediate step increases (raises) would occur.

Commissioners agreed to move New Business item H. Resolution – Step Level Increases to the next regular board meeting.

**I. Master Plan Commitment Agreements**

Commissioners agreed to move New Business item I. Master Plan Commitment Agreements to the next regular board meeting.

**J. FY 24-28 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contracts (Title IV-D Funding)**

Commissioners agreed to move New Business item J. FY 24-28 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contracts (Title IV-D Funding) to the next regular board meeting.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners Barrera, Lawrence and Marchetti shared comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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

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Chair Jeremiah Jones

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Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register