

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

September 17, 2020

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 17, 2020 via Zoom.

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

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Ausra, Annie File, Skip Dyes, Mike Grice (entered meeting at 6:35 p.m.), Roseann Marchetti, Robert Benjamin and E. Clark Cobb.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Jeff Carmen, Finance Director Becky Moore and Clerk/Register Monica McMichael.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

John Winfrey of Merit Network requested to speak with the county regarding an easement at the Medical Care Facility to provide fiber internet to Southwest Michigan.

CCIEA Union President Fern Smith asked the board to postpone resolution R-127-20. The resolution replaced a union position with contracted work and the union was not consulted.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner File, to approve the September 17, 2020 Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Discussion followed. Motion to approve the amended agenda carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

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-123-20) A motion to approve Claims dated September 11, 2020.

(M-124-20) A motion to approve the September 3, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioners File, Benjamin, Cobb and Marchetti offered committee reports.

PROPOSED FY2021 BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to open the Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote. Finance Director Becky Moore explained the budget process. The FY2021 budget included a deficit of approximately \$600,000. She explained that the Administrator's Office planned to continue working with elected officials and department heads on efficiencies and new ideas throughout the budget year. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Benjamin moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to close the public hearing and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Marchetti stated that the committee had not met. She then informed commissioners she would provide a list of committees for review.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Jeff Carmen provided the Administrator's Report.

SHERIFF BEHNKE'S PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sheriff Behnke provided an update on CCSO operations.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael offered an update on the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Prosecutor Fitz was present for questions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Marchetti stated that the Finance Report was included in the board packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-68-20 amended

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to approve the following 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 6.7982 mills for 2020 and;

WHEREAS, the county millage is not affected by P.A. 5 of 1982, Truth in Taxation due to complying with Section 16 of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act 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 6.7982 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 6.7982 mills, which includes 4.6215 allocated mills, 0.9969 mills for Council on Aging, 0.1993 mills for E911 Services, 0.4805 allocated mills for Drug Enforcement, and 0.5000 mills for Cass County Medical Care Facility and;

WHEREAS, the county can levy the full millage rate of 6.7982 only after fulfilling the public requirements of M.C.L. Section 211.34d and P.S. 5 of 1982 and;

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

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 6.7982 mills, which is 4.6215 allocated mills, 0.9969 mills for Council on Aging, 0.1993 mills for E-911 Services, 0.4805 mills for Drug Enforcement and 0.5000 mills for Cass County Medical Care Facility.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

R-125-20

Commissioner Ausra moved, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, to adopt the FY2021 General Appropriations Act.

WHEREAS, the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (Public Act 2 of 1968) provides a system of unified procedures for the preparation and execution of budgets for units of local government; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator has prepared a recommended budget as required by Public Act 2; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to provide for the solvency of county fiscal operations by adopting an Appropriations Act as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, held a public hearing on the FY 2021 and FY 2022 budget on September 17, 2020, after proper notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this General Appropriations Act is adopted for October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 and October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 and provides by departmental activity, the budgets as approved and amended by the Board this date; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Appropriations Act reflects the application of \$584,973 and \$670,379, respectively from General Fund fund balance for a FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022 balanced budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the budgets of the Other Funds as attached; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget reflects a reasonable allocation of available resources to the various County departments, boards and agencies, and allows for all mandated services, programs and activities to be performed at or above reasonable, necessary and serviceable levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every appropriation is subject to all County policies as well as the conditions set forth in this resolution and that any modification, addition, or deletion, of such amounts hereby adopted shall be done in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners grants authority to appointed Boards and Commissions to manage their assigned budgets as adopted herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is understood that revenues and expenses may vary from those which are currently contemplated and may be changed from time to time by the Board of Commissioners during the 2021, and 2022 fiscal years as deemed necessary. Consequently, there may be a need to increase or decrease various portions of the approved budget and/or impose a hiring freeze and/or impose reductions in force due to unforeseen financial changes; therefore, the Board of Commissioners reserves the right to impose a hiring freeze at any time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those positions included in the budget and programs which are supported partially or in whole by grant, cost sharing, reimbursement, or other source of outside funding are only approved contingent upon the County receiving the budgeted revenues. Upon notification that budgeted funding of a position or program shall not be received, the Elected Official or Department Head shall immediately notify the County Administrator and that position shall be immediately removed if funding is exhausted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator shall oversee the preparation and maintenance of accounts in every office to enforce this Act as adopted and that the Board of Commissioners permits the County Administrator to execute transfers between line items of departments so as to eliminate the necessity for budget amendments except between distinct departmental activities.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (5): Commissioners Cobb, Marchetti, Dyes, Benjamin and File.

No (2): Commissioners Ausra and Grice.

Resolution R-125-20 carried by roll call vote.

M-126-20

Commissioner File moved, seconded by Commissioner Dyes, to approve the MSU Workplan for FY 2021. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-127-20

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to postpone resolution R-127-20. Motion to postpone carried by voice vote.

M-128-20

Commissioner Dyes moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to approve the Mapping of Broadband Coverage and Speed Memorandum of Understanding By and Between Cass County and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to commence on date of signature and end no later than December 31, 2021. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

R-129-20

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin, to postpone resolution R-129-20. Motion to postpone carried by roll call vote.

R-130-20

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

FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division and County of Cass has been submitted to the Cass County Board of Commissioners for approval;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cass County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the County of Cass hereby accepts and binds the County of Cass to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and authorized Roseann Marchetti and Jeff Carmen to execute the Agreement.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-130-20 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Southwestern Michigan College Board Chair Tom Jerdon and President Dr. Joe Odenwald spoke in support of Southwestern Michigan College.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Ausra offered a comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Roseann Marchetti, Chairperson

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register