

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 24, 2023

6:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Sampson Coston from the Pine Grove Church in Stanton offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Baker, Johnston, Petersen, Painter, Mahar, Carr and Kohn. Members absent: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Michelle Becker, Josh Blanchard, Mark Sabin, Kim Kuhn, Michelle Jorgensen, Deb Ballard, Clay Thomas, Nicole Flowers, Chuck Hazekamp, Sara Burkholder, Kathy Bresnahan, Elisabeth Waldon, Helen Kennedy, Stephanie Rectenwal and additional audience members.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the April 10, 2023, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Kathy Bresnahan, Pine Township, apologized to the Board for accusing them of having an illegal meeting.

Clayton Thomas, Montcalm Township and retired Sheriff's Deputy, addressed the Board and thanked those that have made the effort to visit the county offices to personally observe the space each office occupies. He stressed the importance of board members talking with Department Heads to become familiar with what it is their office does and what their office needs are. He stated that he does not feel an item such as moving a county office and combining it with another office should be just added to the agenda at a meeting with no notice to the Department Head. Mr. Thomas stated that county offices can't be compared to each other because retention periods are very different. He asked the board members if they were aware that revenue would be lost by combining the two clerk's offices due to state and federal regulations. Mr. Thomas stated that Montcalm County is losing long-term employees at an alarming rate because wages are not competitive. He stated that if board members can't put in the time for an immensely important position, then they shouldn't run for the positions.

At 6:07 p.m. Mark Sabin, Chair of the Solid Waste Management Committee, was in attendance to request a scrap metal bin be placed at the Lakeview Recycling Site. Mr. Sabin explained that the Village of Lakeview is interested in serving as a pilot program to offer a scrap metal drop-off site at their current recycling site at 208 S. Lincoln Ave., Lakeview. Republic Services has provided a proposal to provide a 20-yard scrap metal container for a delivery fee of \$60 and will charge \$338 - \$399 to haul the full container to Greenville Steel or Albring Salvage Company in Edmore. The proceeds from the scrap metal are intended to offset the hauling cost and keep metal out of the landfills or other dumping areas. Mr. Sabin stated that Republic Services are allowing for immediate termination of the contract if the pilot doesn't work.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve an agreement with Republic Services for a scrap metal bin to be placed at the Village of Lakeview recycle site for the Solid Waste Committee and allow for signatures. Motion carried.

At 6:11 p.m. Deb Ballard, Equalization Director, and Nicole Flowers were in attendance to present the Board with the 2023 County Equalization Report as well as the L4024 Report of County Assessed and Equalized Values. Mrs. Ballard went thru the Equalization Report with the Board and stated that the county millages will not be rolled back this year. The taxable value has increased over 40% since 2010 and the assessed value has increased over 60% since 2010. Mrs. Ballard stated that the projected tax dollar gain for 2023 would be \$1,269,916.16.

Chairman Carr pointed out that the anticipated increase in the county operating millage would be approximately \$700,000.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-06, RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 COUNTY EQUALIZED REPORT AS SUBMITTED WITH THE ACCOMPANYING STATEMENTS:**

WHEREAS, the Equalization Department has examined the assessment rolls of the 20 townships and 3 cities within Montcalm County to ascertain whether the real and personal property in the respective townships and cities have been assessed in accordance with MCL 209.5 and 211.34 and

WHEREAS, based on its studies and review, the Equalization Department presented to the Equalization Committee the 2023 Equalization Data that equalizes the townships and cities valuations by adding to or deducting from the valuations of the taxable property in the 20 townships and 3 cities, and amount which represents the 2023 State Equalized Value, and

WHEREAS, the Equalization Committee has reviewed the data, and

WHEREAS, the attached report is the result of the foregoing process,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montcalm, that the accompanying statements be, and the same hereby are, approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montcalm as the equalized value of all taxable property, both real and personal, for each of the 20 townships and 3 cities in said County for a property value equalized at \$3,223,517,800 for real, and personal property values equalized at \$261,594,000 for a total equalized value of real and personal property at \$3,485,111,800 pursuant to Section 211.34 MCL, of 1948, as amended.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve and authorize for signature the 2023 L4024 Report of County Assessed and Equalized Values. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant report number 04242023 in the amount of \$1,117,148.03. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve consent agenda items 2 through 5 and move stated action:

Controller	Resolution 2023-047, MAC's 125 th Anniversary	Place on file
Controller	Amended Child Care Budget, DHS-2091	Place on file
Controller	March Dodge Report	Place on file
Controller	Medical Examiner Report	Place on file

Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk, informed the Board that Kim Kuhn was appointed as Montcalm County's Register of Deeds today and has taken her oath of office.

Chairman Carr informed the Board that the Republican Party is declining the use of the County's space in the Administration Building and will be utilizing the Sidney Township Hall for their meetings.

Public comments were offered. Michelle Jorgensen, Precinct Delegate from Day Township, addressed the Board and thanked Commissioner Petersen and Chairman Carr for their support. Mrs. Jorgensen stated her displeasure with comments Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, has made at previous meetings regarding safety concerns. Ms. Jorgensen stated that anyone could fall down the stairs during the day or get stuck in the elevator. She stated that the Republican Party has decided to call Sidney Township Hall their home over the next year. She encouraged the rest of the board to join the party and attend the monthly meetings.

Kim Kuhn, Sidney Township, newly appointed Register of Deeds, addressed the Board regarding her new responsibilities.

Sara Burkholder, Pierson Township, addressed the Board regarding the park pieces that they were able to purchase with the County's ARPA funds are now on site and are ready to be installed.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman