

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2022

4:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Sharon McGinnis, John Hoppough, Armon Withey, Ryan Dreyer, Olivia Blomstrom, Deb Ballard, Eric Smith, Helen Kennedy and Elisabeth Waldon.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Miller to approve the March 28, 2022, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Beach, supported by Commissioner Johnston to move Eric Smith, EMS Medicaid Wage Proposal Update, from Old Business to #1 under New Business and approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with the FY2023-2025 proposal to provide services under the Older Americans Act administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve the FY2023-2025 Proposal to provide services under the Older Americans Act administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. and allow for signatures. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with correspondence from JoAnne Vukin, County Treasurer, regarding a list of properties that will be offered for sale at public auction in August 2022. The county has until July 1, 2022, if they would like to purchase any of the properties. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Miller to place the list of properties to be sold at the tax sale on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve warrant report number 04252022 in the amount of \$1,222,857.68. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve consent agenda items 4 through 9 and move stated action:

Controller	AFSCME Agreement	Place on file
Controller	POAM Union Agreement	Place on file
Controller	COAM Union Agreement	Place on file
Controller	Department of Treasury Homeland Security Grant Agreement	Place on file
Controller	March Dodge Report	Place on file
Controller	March Medical Examiners Report	Place on file

Motion carried.

The 4:10 agenda item titled County Library Report will be moved to the May 23, 2022, Board meeting agenda.

At 4:11 p.m. Olivia Blomstrom was in attendance to give the Board a Montcalm Economic Alliance presentation. Ms. Blomstrom provided the board with the 2021 Annual Report. She pointed out that \$693,494 was given to small businesses as COVID relief. Ms. Blomstrom answered questions regarding municipality participation in the Alliance and expressed a desire to give the Board more regular reports regarding the Alliance's activities. Ms. Blomstrom was thanked for her report.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Petersen to award the window replacement contract for the Administration and out-buildings, to Badgerow Building & Remodeling of Greenville, MI, in the amount of \$189,405.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Johnston to convert the two part time corrections officer positions to one full time corrections officer position. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Miller to move the part time Driver position to full time at the current wage scale of \$13.50 to \$17.07, effective pay period to start on April 10th, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve the classification change of Amanda Troyer to CVSO II, to assist with appeals processing, covering claims when other staff use sick time and vacations, with an effective date of April 10th, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Bresnahan to increase the wages for Direct Service Aides by 15%. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Miller to reclassify the part-time Office Assistant in the County Clerk's Office to a full-time Office Assistant, and allow the County Clerk to post and fill the position. \$16,506.74 will be taken from the CPL Fund to cover the FY2022 additional expense and \$25,000 will be transferred annually from the CPL Fund to the General Fund to help offset the payroll and benefits costs of this position. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Beach to authorize the Controller's office to post and hire a part-time Kennel Attendant position. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Petersen to authorize the Controller and Building & Grounds Director to acquire the four desired vehicles for the Administration Building, Animal Control, and Building & Grounds. The vehicles will be purchased using ARPA funds from the revenue replacement transfer to the General Fund, expenses not to exceed \$80,000

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Miller to approve the budget adjustments as presented by the Controller/Administrator. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve warrant number 04112022 in the amount of \$2,870,185.40. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the April 11, 2022, Committee of the Whole minutes on file. Motion carried.

At 4:40 p.m. Deb Ballard, Equalization Director, was in attendance to present the board with the 2022 Equalization Report.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve the 2022 Equalization Report as submitted with the accompanying statements and adopt **RESOLUTION 2022-05**:

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 2022 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 2022 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 \$2,857,146,100 for real, and personal property values equalized at \$238,267,500 for a total equalized value of real and personal property at \$3,095,413,600 pursuant to Section 211.34 MCL, of 1948, as amended.

Motion carried.

Eric Smith, Emergency Services, gave the board a Medicaid Wage Proposal update as requested at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Smith informed the board that the new state budget legislation included funds to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rates to match Medicare rates for ambulance services. Mr. Smith provided the board with proposed non-union wage increases.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Beach to adopt the proposed non-union wage scale as presented by Eric Smith, Emergency Services, retroactive to January 2, 2022. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith informed the board that MSP has approved out Emergency Operations Plan.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk, requested some additional funds to have Jaye Christensen, retired Clerk employee, fill in on an as-needed basis. Ms. Millard is requesting a total of \$3,000 be approved from now thru the end of the budget year. Ms. Millard would like \$1,500 in wages from the General Fund and \$1,500 from the CPL Fund as Mrs. Christensen helps in Circuit Court, Vital Records and District Court with their reporting.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Beach to allow the County Clerk to continue to utilize Jaye Christensen on a temporary, fill-in basis thru the end of the budget year for a maximum of \$3,000. \$1,500 will be transferred from the General Fund and \$1,500 will be transferred from the CPL fund if needed. Motion carried with Chairman Carr voting no.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, gave the board several updates: she informed the board that all of the plaster work in the building has been complete; that a new custodian has been hired and is

doing an outstanding job; that the 4 new vehicles have been purchased and will be picked up this week; and she updated the board on various capitol improvement projects.

Chairman Carr asked Commissioner Bresnahan and Kohn if they would like to give an update to the board on the MAC Legislative Conference they attended recently. Commissioner Bresnahan thanked the board for allowing her to attend the conference stated that she really enjoyed the conference and found it informative. She was very taken by one speaker and stated that she feels the Board needs to make people that present to the Board feel comfortable and welcomed. She stated that the Board needs to remember that presenters may feel scared and intimidated to come before the Board and be conscious of that.

Commissioner Kohn stated that he attended an employment session and he feels like the county never talks about employee retention, which is very important. He also attended the ARPA session and another on Cyber Security that he found very informative.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Petersen addressed the board regarding the annual performance review of the County Controller/Administrator. It was agreed that Ms. Taeter's review will be handled similar to how it was done last year, with a list of questions distributed to each commissioner, Commission Petersen will do the tabulation of the responses and the review will be done in open session, per Ms. Taeter's request.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman