

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 23, 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 Dennis Ross from Nevins Lake 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, Deb Ballard, Sara Burkholder, Dan Buyze, Todd Sattler, various library board members, Lisa Petersen, Monica Tissue-Daws, Jake VanBoxel, Ray Holloway, Terri Legg and Elisabeth Waldon.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Miller to approve the April 25, 2022, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Beach, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Monica Tissue- Daws, Montcalm County Friend of the Court, addressed the board regarding the ARPA Committee's recommendation to award \$460,000 to local units of government for park projects, which the Committee of the Whole rejected at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and instead proposed giving \$50,000 to each municipality for park projects. Ms. Tissue-Daws stated that this is in excess of \$1,000,000 over the amount the ARPA Committee was given to distribute for parks projects. Ms. Tissue-Daws stated that this is not the intent of ARPA funding and she urged the board to compensate, in a premium pay fashion, the county employees that worked thru COVID.

Sara Burkholder, Pierson Township Clerk, addressed the board regarding Pierson Township's request for ARPA funds for their parks project. She stated that they requested \$100,000 for their project and is very hopeful the Board will consider their request.

Terri Legg, United Way Executive Director, addressed the board regarding the United Way's requests for 211 funding. United Way has seen a decrease in their funding, as much as a 60% decrease in 2021. She stated that she requested \$200,000 from the ARPA Committee and emphasized that every single resident is eligible for 211 assistance.

Dan Buyze, Pierson Township Supervisor, addressed the board regarding the proposed \$50,000 to each municipality in Montcalm County. He stated that it is his understanding that municipalities that didn't even request funding will be receiving it. He encourage the board to instead fund the project for the municipalities that requested it and have legitimate projects that need funding.

Jake VanBoxel, City of Stanton Manager, addressed the board regarding the County not awarding the City of Stanton any ARPA funding for their Veteran's Memorial Park's request. It is his understanding that the request was not granted based on their Grant Application. Stanton's request was for \$200,000 to help pay for the second ballfield, which was not in the original grant, and a playground. Mr. VanBoxel stated that 190 children are in the youth baseball league and those children currently have to travel each week because there are not enough ballfields available.

Ray Holloway, Stanton City Commissioner, addressed the board in support of the City of Stanton's request for \$200,000 in ARPA funding for Veteran's Memorial Park.

At 4:10 p.m. Joe Verlin, Gabridge & Company, was in attendance to present the board with the 2021 County Audit Report. Mr. Verlin walked the Board thru the audit report and offered to answer any questions the board members had.

Commissioner Kohn asked Mr. Verlin how the fund balance oscillates throughout the year. Mr. Verlin explained that cash flow varies throughout the year due to tax collection times. He stated that Montcalm County is in a healthy position at this point in time.

At 4:40 p.m. Sharon McInnis was in attendance to present the Board with the County Libraries Combined Report. Commissioner Petersen thanked Ms. McInnis and all of the other librarians for each putting together a report for their library.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with an AAAWM Contract Amendment Request. AAAWM has proposed an amended contract that would move \$5,000 from Commission on Aging's allocated funding for Transportation Services and allow for its use for the homemaker program instead. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve for signature the AAAWM contract amendment. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with a proposed resolution opposing legislation that would reduce the county's fees that Zillow pays. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2022-06 A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HB 4729, 4730, 4731 AND 4732 – ZILLOW BILLS:**

**WHEREAS**, Zillow has spearheaded legislation to undermine the integrity of the Register of Deeds and Treasurers offices across the state of Michigan greatly reducing revenues needed to fund the daily operation of both offices; and

**WHEREAS**, Zillow, a for profit corporation, is asking the State of Michigan legislature to pass legislation that will provide them ALL the records of the Montcalm County's taxpayers from both the Register of Deeds and the Treasurer's offices at a huge discount or in some instances 100% free of charge; and

**WHEREAS**, Zillow will then sell those records for profit putting our constituents at a higher risk of fraud or theft while placing the burden to fund the offices on the taxpayers of Montcalm County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Association of County Treasurers and the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, both bipartisan organizations, unanimously oppose these bills.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners stand in solidarity with the Montcalm County Register of Deeds and the Montcalm County Treasurer to oppose HB's 4729, 4730, 4731, 4732 and stand up to corporations that data' mine records for profit while placing the burden on Montcalm County taxpayers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution in opposition to the above bills be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senate Majority Leader, and the Governor of the State of Michigan.

Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with an ARPA request for the Pandemic Readiness Building. Todd Sattler, Drain Commissioner, was in attendance and presented the board with the recommendation to move forward with the project and award a contract.

Discussion took place on the amount that EMS originally agreed to put towards this building prior to the ARPA money becoming available. It was agreed to give permission for the building to move forward and to iron out the funding down the road.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to authorize the Drain Commissioner to move forward on the Pandemic Readiness Building project utilizing ARPA funding and other sources, and to award the project to Horn Construction in the amount of \$1,520,147.00. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with a request from Sara Burkholder, Pierson Township Clerk, regarding Pierson Townships new park project and request in the amount of \$110,000. This park will be for able bodied and disabled children, as well as adults and seniors.

Ms. Taeter informed the board that the ARPA committee took 2 hours on going through all of the requests before they made their recommendations. It wasn't that Stanton, Pierson or Crystal was being overlooked, but instead the three big park funding requests were going to be revisited on a second round.

Chairman Carr stated that he does not feel it is right to award any jurisdiction any more than the \$50,000 that was agreed upon at the last meeting. He feels that every municipality should get the same amount and then they can come back and reapply for more at a later date.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to table Pierson Township's ARPA park funding request. Motion carried with Commissioner Bresnahan voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant report number 0532022 in the amount of \$914,594.72. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve consent agenda items 6 through 13 and move stated action:

Controller	Resolution 2022-05, 2022 Equalization Report	Place on file
Controller	April Dodge Report	Place on file
Controller	April Medical Examiner's Report	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm Planning Commission Minutes	Place on file
Controller	Solid Waste Management Committee Minutes	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm Planning Commission Minutes	Place on file
Dept. of Treasury State of Michigan	Preliminary State Equalization Report for 2022 MI Public Service Commission's Approval to Increase Rates	Place on file Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the FY 2023 Community Corrections grant application for Community Corrections funds to the State Office of Community Corrections. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the Community Hope Counseling for female cognitive program agreement and authorize the appropriate signatures. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Miller to hire West Michigan Glass Coatings to put security film on all exterior glass doors and windows of the Court Complex in the amount of \$17,076.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to contract with Shain Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. to replace the entire roof section #4 of the court complex in the amount of \$242,238.00, payable out of the ARPA funds. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to use Hurst Mechanical for all RTU replacements for the Sheriff's Department/Jail and the Court Complex at a contracted price of \$1,826,469.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve for signature the Care Management/Waiver Programs Purchase of Service Agreement Amendment. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to allow Jacob Snyder to donate 213.5 hours of sick time from his sick bank to Sergeant Olson's sick bank as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to use \$1,450,000 of ARPA funds to grant \$50,000 to every township, city and incorporated village.

Discussion took place on the work the ARPA Committee did and how the recommendations were made. Commissioner Johnston stated that he does have some concerns with giving every jurisdiction the same amount of money with no regard to the population and the fact that villages fall within a township and the ability of the two to double up if they so choose.

Commissioner Baker called the question. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Baker, Beach, Painter, Miller and Carr. Nays: Commissioners Johnston, Kohn, Petersen and Bresnahan. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve warrant number 05092022 in the amount of \$5,498,470.34. Motion carried.

Commissioner Petersen stated that Commissioner Kohn completed his scoring on Brenda Taeter's evaluation. There was a total possible score of 360 possible and Ms. Taeter received a 317, which is a 4.5 out of 5.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to place the May 9, 2022, Committee of the Whole minutes on file. Motion carried.

Deb Ballard, Equalization Director, presented the board with the 2022 L-4029. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the 2022 L-4029 Tax Rate Request as presented by the Equalization Director. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, informed the board that she will be gone the rest of the week.

Chairman Carr stated that Mark Lehman, Greenville City Mayor, reached out to him today and stated that he does not care to look back at things in the past, but if the county needs anything from the city to please reach out to him.

Public comments were offered. Brenda Taeter informed the board that there is a request from Mike Fitzpatrick, Montcalm County Fire Association, for new 800 Mhz radios for the Fire Departments.

Commissioner Petersen wanted to commend and thank Brenda Taeter and the controller's office staff for a clean audit.

Dan Buyze thanked the board for the ARPA plan and the funds awarded to each jurisdiction. He stated that it is a good demonstration of democracy.

Jake Van Boxel thanked the board also for the ARPA funds that will be given to the City of Stanton.

Commissioner Kohn stated that it has to be transparent where the money goes. Brenda wants to know how to proceed from here. She needs to know how to respond to requests now and if there are any deadlines?

Chairman Carr stated that he feels every single jurisdiction should have to request the \$50,000 and state what they will be using it for. If a jurisdiction has a need for additional funding then he feels they should apply for the additional funding with an explanation. No action was taken on Chairman Carr's public comment.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, County Clerk

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Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman