

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 Regular Meeting  
 Monday, July 10, 2023  
 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 Baker, Johnston, Petersen, Painter, Mahar, Carr and Kohn.  
 Members absent: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Armon Withey, Mike Williams, Andy Powell, Andy Doezema, Kim Kuhn, Doug Gietzen, Amy Thomas, Michelle Jorgensen, Lisa Petersen, Barbara Abrahamsen and Elisabeth Waldon.

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

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to approve the June 26, 2023, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Barbara Abrahamsen, Treasurer for the Greenville Senior Center, was in attendance and stated that parking lot of the Senior Center was completed on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the water problem that they were experiencing is all fixed and she thanked the Board for their faith in the Senior Center Board and for helping the seniors of this county.

Doug Gietzen, Maintenance Director, provided the Board with a bid from Griffith Builders for the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office remodel. Out of 15 builders contacted, Griffith Builders were the only one to submit a bid. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to enter into a contract with Griffith Builders Construction for the amount of \$28,750 for the remodel of the Circuit Court Clerk’s area and to include the addition of moving the Probate Court doorway. Funds are to come from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the Board with the 2023 budget adjustments. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the 2023 budget adjustments as provided by the Controller:

Account Number	Department	Account Name	Original Expense Approp	Adjusted Expense Approp	Net Change in Fund Increase/(Decrease)
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**Government Activity Funds**

**General Fund**

101-223.00-801.000	Audit	Consultants	30,000	40,500	10,500.00
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101-228.00-816.000-OARPA	Information Technology	Contracted Services	-	67,783	67,783.00
101-245.00-762.000	Survey/Remonumentation	Other Supplies	2,565	5,065	2,500.00
101-299.00-851.000	Jury Board	Postage	2,500	3,500	1,000.00
101-315.00-713.000	PA416 Secondary Road Patrol	Wages-Overtime	2,000	3,000	1,000.00
101-315.00-718.000	PA416 Secondary Road Patrol	Health Insurance	6,072	13,072	7,000.00
101-315.00-718.001	PA416 Secondary Road Patrol	Vision Insurance	75	146	71.00
101-351.00-816.000-RSATG	Jail	Contracted Services	145,000	228,296	83,296.00
101-351.00-835.000	Jail	Health Services	7,500	75,000	67,500.00
101-430.00-703.002	Animal Control	Wages-Permanent Full time	-	32,191	32,191.00
101-430.00-704.000	Animal Control	Wages-Permanent Part time	41,456	71,567	30,111.00
101-430.00-709.000	Animal Control	FICA	4,424	9,534	5,110.00
101-430.00-710.000	Animal Control	Unemployment	229	385	156.00
101-430.00-711.000	Animal Control	Medicare	1,327	2,230	903.00
101-430.00-716.000	Animal Control	Retirement-DC	4,574	7,689	3,115.00
101-430.00-718.000	Animal Control	Health Insurance	14,233	25,285	11,052.00
101-430.00-718.001	Animal Control	Vision Insurance	142	349	207.00
101-430.00-726.000	Animal Control	Workers Comp	2,794	6,800	4,006.00
101-430.00-760.000	Animal Control	Medical Supplies	1,500	5,000	3,500.00
101-430.00-767.001	Animal Control	Uniforms	500	1,500	1,000.00
101-430.00-851.000	Animal Control	Postage	100	2,100	2,000.00
101-000.00-439.000	General	Marijuana Tax	(219,201)	(311,223)	(92,022.00)
101-000.00-665.000-OARPA	General	Interest Income	-	(85,826)	(85,826.00)
101-000.00-699.000	General	Interfund Transfers In	(46,477)	(54,666)	(8,189.00)
101-301.00-681.000	Sheriff	Miscellaneous Revenue	(1,000)	(53,691)	(52,691.00)
101-351.00-572.000-RSATG	Jail	Misc State Grants - RSATG	(150,000)	(233,296)	(83,296.00)
101-711.00-630.005	Register of Deeds	Abstract Services	(20,000)	(31,977)	(11,977.00)
			<b>Total cost/(savings) of adjustments:</b>		<b>0.00</b>

**Fund 101**

**Total net change in Government Activity Fund balances: 0.00**

**Capital Project Funds**

**Building Improve and Construction Fund**

401-901.00-975.000	Building	Building	250,000	50,000	(200,000.00)
401-901.00-975.001	Building	Improvements	-	200,000	200,000.00
			<b>Total cost/(savings) of adjustments:</b>		<b>0.00</b>

**Equipment Purchase and Replacement Fund**

402-296.00-980.002-0ARPA	Computer Equipment	-	76,805	76,805.00
402-000.00-528.004	ARPA Revenue	(165,720)	(242,525)	(76,805.00)
	<b>Fund 402</b>		<b>Total cost/(savings) of adjustments:</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Park Capital Improvement Fund</b>				
408-758.10-975.001	Building Improvements	10,000	-	(10,000.00)
408-758.13-975.001-0ARPA	Building Improvements	15,611	35,611	20,000.00
408-000.00-528.004	ARPA Revenue	(15,611)	(25,611)	(10,000.00)
	<b>Fund 408</b>		<b>Total cost/(savings) of adjustments:</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total net change in Capital Project Fund balances:</b>				<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total net change in All Fund balances:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve warrant report number 07102023 in the amount of \$997,185.03. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to approve consent agenda items 4 through 10 and move stated action:

Controller	Resolution 2023-08, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Bylaws	Place on file
Controller	MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement	Place on file
Controller	FY2024 AAAMW Proposed Annual Implementation Plan	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm County Planning Commission Minutes	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm Solid Waste Management Minutes	Place on file
Controller	Michigan Municipal League Fund Trustee Election	Place on file
Controller	FY2023 Budget Review	Place on file

Motion carried.

At 4:12 p.m. Sheriff Mike Williams was in attendance to request an amendment to the Edmore Police Contract. Sheriff Williams explained that the Village of Edmore wants to reduce the coverage hours to an average of 30 hours per week, down from 40 hours per week, for the remainder of the contract. Sheriff Williams explained that the Village of Edmore requested this change and stated that it does help the Sheriff's Department as there has been difficulty filling road patrol positions and retaining deputies from leaving for employment with other agencies.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Baker to accept the Edmore Law Enforcement Services Agreement Amendments No. 1, and allow for signatures. Motion carried.

At 4:16 p.m. Andy Powell, Jail Administrator, was in attendance to provide the Board an update on several jail issues. Mr. Powell explained that he does know it is unusual to come before the Board prior to the budget process, but he feels there are many things that need to be brought to the Board's attention now so that they are on the radar.

Mr. Powell stated that the makeup of the inmates has changed over the years. Out of the 140 inmates currently in the jail, 109 of those inmates are incarcerated on felony and misdemeanor charges, 27 are on misdemeanors, and only 4 are on Friend of the Court warrants. He stated that the number of inmates that have drug dependencies has drastically increased over past years, which is a very big problem. Mr. Powell informed the Board that the jail did have an incident that recently occurred with an inmate assault on an officer, which included the inmate throwing gathered urine on the officer. He stated that all of these changes in the makeup of the inmates incarcerated, warrants his request of 2 additional corrections officers.

Mr. Powell stated that there are also medical concerns due to the condition the inmates are in when they come into the jail. He informed the Board that there is a nationwide movement for correctional facilities to provide and administer withdrawal drugs, such as Suboxone, to inmates and there is substantial costs associated with that. Mr. Powell stated that Suboxone is a controlled substance used to help with withdrawals from other drug addictions. Additionally, those that are on Suboxone experience withdrawals from the Suboxone, as well as withdrawal symptoms from Heroin and other drugs, while they are incarcerated. Mr. Powell stated that he feels the Board needs to be aware that if this national movement makes it's way to Michigan, the costs of the drug will be substantial, and the nursing contract will need to be increased.

Mr. Powell stated that currently the jail is allotted 23 corrections officers and in the 2024 budget he is asking for 25 full time officers. He stated that he is not experiencing the same difficulty filling corrections officers positions as the Sheriff is in hiring and retaining road patrol deputies. Having the Carson City Correctional Facility in the county has been helpful as the jail has been able to hire quality applicants for the positions they have posted.

Mr. Powell stated that he feels the jail contract with Dr. Gaffney needs to be increased now. Ideally, he feels the jail needs two RN's full time so there is always one there when inmates are brought into the jail. He stated that it will be necessary to double the hours with Dr. Gaffney's contract to help with the medication distribution.

Commissioner Petersen asked Mr. Powell if he would consider the jail as any type of law enforcement and to think back to his coaching. Mr. Powell stated that the jail is an important piece to the law enforcement puzzle, however the jail is not enforcing the laws.

Mr. Powell also addressed the Board regarding his pension. He stated that he is the only sworn Sheriff Deputy that is not in the defined benefit pension plan. Mr. Powell stated that if he were in the union, he would be in the defined benefit pension plan but because he is not in the union, the employees he hires get a better pension plan than he has. Mr. Powell is requesting that he be allowed to have the same pension plan as the COAM union.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the Board with the FY2024 Budget document. She stated that homework on the left-hand side. She informed the Board that the Prosecutor and Indigent Defense requested to meet with the Board this Wednesday. She informed the Board that the expenditure policy and the budget resolution is in the document, so they could read thru them. She pointed out that the highlighting is due to big changes, one of which is interest revenue. She stated that she did have to put \$200,000 of interest revenue and \$200,000 of fund balance in to balance the budget and that is partly due to page 12, the Treasurer is no longer going to be giving anything from the Delinquent Tax Fund to pay for the wage and benefits of her staff. She stated that she did have a conversation and the Treasurer is just simply not going to do it next year.

Other area's Ms. Taeter pointed out:

- There are more things highlighted that can be cut from the budget such as full-time interest for in house IT.
- Dr. Gaffney’s contract is asking for \$190,000 up from \$144,700. She thinks a major part of the increase is due to liability insurance.
- Pg 39 Animal Control is asking for vet bills to come from the General Fund Budget instead of donations.
- Pg 47 FOC appropriation fluctuates.
- Defined Benefit Pension is a huge expense. 25% of wages, defined contribution is only 5%.
- 3% wage increases across the Board. Wages are a big issue.
- She asked if the Board wants to have department heads attend Wednesday’s meeting or not. It was the consensus to have the board go thru the budget requests first and then the Board will decide who they want to meet with.
- She stated the Public Safety Complex Bond will be paid off on May 1, 2025.
- Sheriff FTE’s have not been budgeted if the millage doesn’t pass. Court funding is being put back to the Legislature.

Brenda also asked if the board would like to YouTube the budget sessions as they are a work session, not an actual board meeting. The consensus of the Board was to have them on YouTube for consistency and transparency.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to change the Budget Calendar and move the Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> work session to Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Motion carried.

Ms. Taeter informed the Board that there is a new metal recycling site in Lakeview and a new recycling site in Howard City as well. There will be a ribbon cutting and Ms. Taeter will get a flyer out to the Board later this week.

Undersheriff Andy Doezema was in attendance to discuss the Public Safety Complex Security Electronic System replacement that he presented at the last meeting. Mr. Doezema stated that the Board has asked him to go back and try to secure funding from Central Dispatch and the Law Enforcement Millage. Mr. Doezema brought the Board a revised breakdown of funding, which is determined by square footage:

ARPA fund designated for this project:	\$750,000
Body scanner grant reimbursement:	\$ 33,000
Completed project surplus funds:	\$50-\$100,000
MMRMA Grant Funds:	\$167,000
Commissary Fund:	\$175,000
Money identified since last meeting:	
Jail Improvement Fund:	\$ 9,000.00
EMS:	\$ 5,198.61
Central Dispatch:	\$ 6,833.56
Law Enforcement Millage:	\$19,715.13

Marijuana Fund/Capital Improvement/General Fund: \$159,252 to \$209,252

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to remove the Public Safety Complex Security Electronics System Replacement from the table. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to accept and approve the Security Electronics System sources of funding as presented by Undersheriff Doezema and to designate the remainder of funds to come from the Capital Improvement Fund, not to exceed \$210,000.

Under discussion Commissioner Kohn stated that he doesn't believe that the project was ever actually approved as Johnson Controls is the only vendor that bid and he was going to abstain from that motion due to owning stock in Johnson Controls.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to accept the bid from Johnson Controls for the Security Electronics System replacement in the amount not to exceed \$1,425,000. Motion carried with Commissioner Kohn abstaining.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Petersen stated that as a Board they need to be more aware of setting the annual work calendar because he felt that having the county open on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, but then the offices closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, should not have happened. He felt the offices should have been closed on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brenda Taeter stated that the union contracts are the reason the offices were open.

Discussion again took place on whether the budget workshops should be viewable on YouTube. Chairman Carr stated that he feels in the spirit of transparency then it should be viewable just as the board meetings are.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to adjourn at 5:21 p.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, County Clerk

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Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman