

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, July 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 Ron Toliver from the Crystal Congregational Church 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, Eric Smith, Pastor Ron Toliver and a member of the Republican Party.

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

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

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the Board with a request to increase the pay for the seasonal parks employee from \$14 per hour to \$15 per hour for doing an excellent job and taking on a few additional items. The increase was already built into the FY2023 budget last year. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to authorize the Controller to increase the hourly wage of the seasonal parks employee from \$14/hr to \$15/hr effective July 16, 2023. Motion carried.

Michelle Becker, Controller's Office, provided the Board with a request from the Planning Commission to appoint Michael Falcon to fill a citizen at large vacancy on the commission, with the term to expire December 31, 2025. Commissioner Petersen stated that this may be a mute-point as the Planning Commission has met and may be recommending that the Planning Commission be dissolved at the upcoming August Board of Commissioners meeting. When asked what the change of heart was, Commissioner Petersen stated that there was some realization that the Planning Commission really isn't as effective as once thought, as the Planning Commission really has no authority. Additionally, once disbanded, the County can choose to go in a different direction, such as forming an Economic Growth committee in its place. Commissioner Baker inquired if there was any discussion about intra-governmental agreements, such as townships next to each other working together to apply for grants. He stated that in the past the Planning Commission did assist with such things and it was helpful.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to approve the appointment of Michael Falcon to serve on the Montcalm County Planning Commission with the term to expire 12/31/2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant report number 07242023 in the amount of \$746,739.86. Motion carried.

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

Controller	Village of Edmore Police Agreement	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm County Planning Commission Minutes	Place on file
Controller	Emergency Services Update	Place on file
Controller	June Medical Examiner Report	Place on file
Controller	June Dodge Report	Place on file

Motion carried.

Doug Gietzen, Maintenance Director, provided the Board with a written update on the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office renovation. Brenda Taeter gave a verbal report to the Board. Mr. Gietzen’s written report was as follows:

- Griffith Builders came in on Tuesday (7-18-23) and demo’d existing mail room wall, built new wall and drywalled it, to create a larger office in that space.
- They also built and installed frame for new door at the end of the counter for security of office space and hung a temporary door with temp. lockset.
- They also cut in the doorway between Stephanie’s office and Kris’ new office (law library) with a temp. door and lockset as well.
- The drywall mudding will start tomorrow (Friday) and should be done mid next week.
- The painting I don’t have time frame as yet, so I haven’t scheduled Millard’s for carpeting yet.
- Security Window for counter has been measured and they told me 2-3 weeks before they could install.
- We will need to make contact with Johnson Controls, early next week to schedule moving of some swipes and latches in the near future (late Aug.).
- We are moving items, ie...shelving and documents as the clerk makes them available for moving.
- New mail room should be ready with data port Friday 7-21.
- All in all, I feel the contractors and Kris and her entire staff are working well to get this move done in a manner that doesn’t keep them from serving the public, as well as make the early Sept. deadline.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk, answered questions regarding the Vital Records/Election office move. She stated that Mr. Gietzen and the Maintenance staff has been very helpful.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, reminded the Board of the budget hearing on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman