

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 21, 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, Eric Smith, Ron and Tabetha Ray, Armon Withey, Helen Kennedy, Jerry Garner and Elisabeth Waldon.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Miller to approve the October 26, 2022, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

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

Public comments were offered. Jerry Garner, Trufant, addressed the board regarding an acre and a half of property on North Paris Rd, Trufant, being filled with mobile homes, campers, tractors and lots of other items, to the point that the road is now down to a single lane. Mr. Garner would like something done in regards to the Junk Ordinance. He stated that the Road Commission staff has indicated that they will not be able to even get a snow plow down the road.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Miller to enter into a Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m. for the purpose of an Appeal to the Construction Ordinance. Motion carried.

Ronald and Tabetha Ray, Crystal, were in attendance to request a variance to the Construction Ordinance for property at 2819 South Shore Drive, Crystal, MI. Mr. Ray explained that he would like to tear down an old cottage and building a new home. He stated that he would like to shorten the distance from the property line down to 4 feet.

Commissioner Petersen stated his frustration that the Board of Commissioners have to deal with these variances in Crystal Township because Crystal Township does not have zoning. He stated that the Commissioners have no knowledge of the area and he feels it is more appropriate for the Township to deal with these variances instead of the Board of Commissioners.

Phil Baxter, from the Building Department, stated that he has visited this site and it does allow for more space than other variance that have been issued. He did state that fire resistance construction will be required on the east side of the home due to the proximity of the neighboring home. Discussion took place on the shed placement being closer to the property line than the home.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Miller to come out of Public Hearing at 4:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the construction variance for Ronald and Tabetha Ray, 2819 South Shore Drive, Crystal, MI. Motion carried.

Ryan Dreyer, Commission on Aging Director, presented the board with an amended Care Management/Waiver Programs Purchase of Services Agreement to correct the price per unit from \$6.25 per unit to \$5.50 per unit. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to approve the Care Management/Waiver Programs Purchase of Services Agreement as amended. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Miller to approve warrant report number 112122 in the amount of \$375,920.72. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve consent agenda items 3 through 7 and move stated action:

Controller	AAAWM Care Management/Waiver POS Agreement	Place on file
Controller	Reliance Caregiver Respite Program Agreement	Place on file
Controller	AAAWM Contract No. 61-76-FY22.4 Amendment	Place on file
Controller	October Dodge Report	Place on file
Controller	October ME Report	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Petersen to enter into a contract with Graphic Sciences, under the State of Michigan pre-qualified bidding arrangement, to complete the digitizing project in the Probate and Juvenile Offices, not to exceed \$35,000 from ARPA funding. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Beach to allow the County Controller to create a submission requesting the LATCF funding of \$50,000 in 2022 and \$50,000 in 2023. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Painter to move Kalie VanLeeuwen to a full-time Kennel Attendant status and hire an additional part-time Kennel Attendant for up to 29 hours per week. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant number 11072022 in the amount of \$1,088,792.71. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Painter to place the November 7, 2022, Committee of the Whole minutes on file. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk, informed the board that signed recall petitions were filed last week against the Belvidere Township Supervisor and Cato Township Supervisor, Clerk and one Trustee. As of now, it does appear that there will be sufficient signatures to move forward, but certification will take place after the officeholder's appeal period has elapsed.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the board with the list of commissioner appointments for 2023 for their review and consideration. She also distributed the Montcalm County Board of Commissioner By-Laws and Rules of Procedures that will need to be adopted.

Ms. Taeter also informed the board that she has received correspondence on the Opioid Settlement. She stated the attorney's are asking for the Board's permission to allow them to intervene on the County's behalf in the Ottawa County lawsuit that is holding up the disbursement of the already

determined settlement. Ms. Taeter was given permission to give the attorney's direction to intervene on the board's behalf.

Public comments were offered. Stephanie Rectenwal, Eureka Township Republican Precinct Delegate, stated that she is trying to become more informed and involved in county government and asked that the board meeting times be changed to a later time so that more people can attend meetings.

Commissioner Baker addressed the board regarding Animal Control needing to be fully staffed.

Commissioner Petersen stated that he too feels like something needs to be done regarding Animal Control and after the first of the year discussions need to take place to make sure Animal Control is fully staffed. He also stated that he would like to see a letter sent to Crystal Township asking them to adopt a zoning ordinance.

Chairman Carr stated that he believes that variances will still come before the Board of Commissioners if the requests fall under the setback distances as it is the County Building Ordinance that is being appealed.

Commissioner Petersen stated that something needs to happen with the Crystal Township appeals to the Construction Ordinance.

Commissioner Johnston stated that he has been discussing a small zoning ordinance with the Crystal Township officials and no movement has happened.

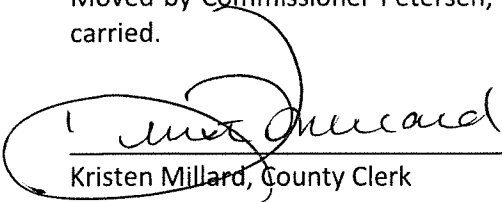
Commissioner Petersen also brought up the County Junk Ordinance and questioned where the board is with updating that based on what the legal opinion was. Brenda Taeter stated that the most recent legal opinion indicated that the county would need to be zoned in order to have a valid junk ordinance. She stated that in other counties the townships all adopted similar junk ordinances to make enforcement easier.

Moved by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Bresnahan to authorize Commissioner Petersen to attend the next Township Supervisors meeting to discuss the issue of blight and the need for consistency countywide. Motion carried.

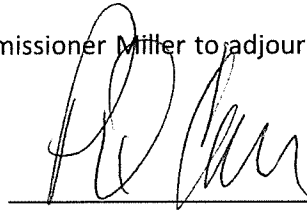
Commissioner Petersen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Armon Withey addressed the board regarding countywide zoning.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Miller to adjourn at 5:18 p.m. Motion carried.



Kristen Millard, County Clerk



Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman

