

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

March 30, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Special Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, March 30, 2017 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chair King called the meeting to order and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll.

Present: Comrs. Dunn (arrived at 8:38), Smith, Frisbie (arrived at 8:35), King, Potter and Tompkins

Excused: Comr. Reynolds

Comr. King welcomed the members of the Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation

Present: Art Kale, Joe Sobieralski, Kelli Scott and Vic Potter

Absent: Amy DePrez, Mark Montross, Susan Baldwin

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott and Deputy Clerk Chris McComb

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Potter to approve the agenda of the March 30, 2017 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners."

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

3. CITIZENS' TIME

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott stated she attended the Michigan Association of Counties Conference at the beginning of this week. She stated the State's message is that the 2018 budget is looking good but 2019, 2020 and beyond have more fiscal challenges. She stated they are promoting the service delivery model and contracting with each other and stressing that government will need to work together to achieve efficiencies. Scott thanked everyone for attending as this joint Board and EDC meeting is a first, as we've never had these two groups together before. She stated that Senator Nofs and Representative Bizon are supportive of this initiative. She noted we were told we need to apply now for the State to consider next April when the funding cycle begins.

#### 4. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

##### A. Public Hearing Regarding the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application

###### Res. 57-2017

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Tompkins to open the Public Hearing regarding the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5, Excused – 2 (Dunn and Reynolds). Motion **CARRIED**.

Community Development Director Jen Bomba explained that Albion College wants to expand their Equestrian Center. She stated it is a fabulous facility that could be competing for horse shows as part of a regional circuit if expanded. She stated the City of Albion has already been awarded funds like what we are asking for to do the segment of the Iron Belle Trail which is often identified as the gap in this trail. She stated Albion College and the City of Albion came to the county and asked us help with their proposal, which Senator Nofs encouraged. She stated the goal is to obtain sixty-five acres adjacent to college owned land that has access to M99. She stated this property would improve public access to recreation activities and the proposal is consistent with the County Parks Master Plan. She explained that the property would be minimally developed and used as a trail hub with kiosks. She noted that during every five year parks plan update, they have always been asked for horse trails. Bomba stated that at this time all we are asking for is to acquire the property, and that the grant request is for state funding of \$231,900. She stated we have been guaranteed a 26% match by Albion College, or \$81,500 for total project cost of \$313,400. She stated there is no financial commitment from County or EDC. She stated there is some maintenance required by the DNR, same as any of our parks, but it will be minimal and the college and the city are very supportive and would offer collaborative upkeep services. Bomba stated that most of the county parks are located in urban areas inside Emmett Township so this allows us to expand into the east side of the county. She stated she has letters of support from Albion Township and Albion EDC and is expecting one from Albion City. She noted the property is in Albion Township and they are also very supportive. She stated we are required to send the project to Regional Planning Commission for review to let them know things that are happening in the region. She stated this project will have a huge impact on the region, creating additional recreation and tourism. She also noted the private/public partnership with the college is also a great thing to establish.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the college is looking at a multi-million dollar investment in the equestrian center. She stated the addition is being done in a phased approach but and includes us applying for this grant now. She stated that the college will continue to look for sources of funding even if the grant doesn't go through and they are also tentatively planning to create an RV park. She stated the accessibility to M99 and easy connectivity to the trails will make this project much more successful.

###### Res. 58-2017

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Frisbie to close the Public Hearing regarding the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (Reynolds). Motion **CARRIED**.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the Michigan Department of a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application Resolution

Res. 59-2017

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (Reynolds). Motion **CARRIED**.

**Economic Development Corporation Approval**

“Moved Member Potter, second by Member Sobieralski to approve the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 4, Excused – 3 (DePrez, Montross, Baldwin). Motion **CARRIED**.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Board Chair

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Clerk to the Board