

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

February 15, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 15, 2018 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. Frisbie, King, Potter, Tompkins, Vette, Smith, and Reynolds (arrived 7:03 p.m.)

Staff Present: Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Finance Director Michele Johnson, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer and Deputy Clerk Shana Huerta

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was held followed by Comr. Smith leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Vette to approve the agenda of the February 15, 2018 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the February 1, 2018 Board of Commissioners Regular Session

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Smith to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2018 Regular Session as presented.”

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Attorney Tracy Tomak of Battle Creek announced her intent to run for the 10th District Court Judicial seat being vacated by the Hon. James D. Norlander which is an open seat for a six year term beginning January 1, 2019. Ms. Tomak expressed the importance of a balanced bench. Attorney Tomak stated she had a balance legal career, practicing in all of the courts for the past eleven years through her private practice, balanced life experiences, judgement, temperament, fairness and compassion. Ms. Tomak stated she was born and raised in Battle Creek and returned there in 2007 to open her law firm and help

people. She shared that a judicial position is the most humble of servant careers and asked for the Board's support in electing her the first female judge of the 10th District Court of Calhoun County.

Christopher Marzic of Battle Creek, employee of the Road Department and member of the Teamsters Union expressed his concern regarding issues occurring with pay and vacation time over the past couple months. Mr. Marzic stated he has been with the Road Department for five years, that this was the second contract he has worked under, and there had not been many major problems with pay or vacation time until recently. He said over the past six to eight weeks they have been experiencing issues with Paid Time Off (PTO) and Comp Time not counting as hours worked, as they had been in the past, resulting in employees not being paid the call-in rate but rather scheduled overtime to work on the weekend. Mr. Marzic asked why things suddenly changed without letters being sent out or a letter of understanding in the current contract. He continued by stating that when employees are called in now, they ask supervisors whether the pay will be overtime or call-in time and are being told that the supervisors cannot respond. Mr. Marzic concluded that they take a lot of time away from their family and friends and it was unacceptable that their pay was changed and he would not work on Saturdays or Sundays for straight time.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Juvenile Home Director Mike Gillum provided an overview of highlights that occurred in 2017. Mr. Gillum shared that it was a good year in regard to programming for the kids, staffing levels and training. He stated there were 456 admissions including both in-county and out-of-county kids and they were able to leverage some of their empty bed space to out-of-county kids to help maintain quality programming and staffing levels and train staff above and beyond state requirements. Director Gillum stated that 48% of the kids came from other counties and there were only 21 other counties in the State of Michigan that have juvenile facilities. He explained that Calhoun County's facility does a really good job programmatically which attracts other counties. Mr. Gillum stated that over the last five years they have increased their revenue from \$86,000 in 2012 to \$561,000 in 2017 which exceeded their goal by \$160,000 due to the relationships they have created and hard-working staff. He shared the average age of their youth was 15 years old, the facility has 42 beds, 30 for retention and 12 for treatment, and was built in 1957 making it one of the oldest facilities in the state of Michigan. Mr. Gillum stated that in November, they had their bi-annual full licensing review by the Department of Health and Human Services and passed with flying colors. Director Gillum shared they had a garden program where some of the treatment kids were able to go into the community and run a farmer's market, they held their 18th annual golf outing to help offset programmatic costs for their in-facility store, and received great support from the community for their Angel Tree. In closing, Mr. Gillum invited the Commissioners to visit the facility for a site visit.

Prosecutor David Gilbert commended the Juvenile Home and how well it is run and stated they were doing a great job and said that the Prosecutor's Office is working with school districts in Marshall and Albion to find a diversion program for kids so they don't end up in the Juvenile Home. Mr. Gilbert congratulated three of his attorneys for their longevity. They were Assistant Prosecutors Jim Jordan with five years of service, Rachel Delmont with 20 years and Tamara Towns with 20 years.

Sheriff Matt Saxton recognized the Road Department staff for their hard work in keeping roads clear during the recent snow storm. He stated that there were only 27 accidents on Friday that deputies

needed to respond to with most of those happening on I-94 or I-69. Mr. Saxton also thanked his staff for responding to the accidents as they are not safe conditions. The Sheriff shared that he is Chair of the Dispatch Authority and earlier that day they recognized two retiring employees. They were Jeanine Wright who retired after 19 years and Bill Troskey after 35 years of service.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was none.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. Gogebic County Resolution #2018-01 Opposing HB 5096-5098

Res. 20-2018

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the Consent Agenda of the February 15, 2018 Regular Session as presented.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Tompkins stated the Senior Millage Allocation Committee met February 2nd and approved a request from the City of Marshall for \$3,000 for the Marshall/Albion Connector, a contract amendment from the Marian E. Birch Adult Day Care to allow bathing services to be added at a cost of no more than \$5,000 per fiscal year, and a report from Dan Pontius, General Manager of Nutrition at Senior Services of Southwest Michigan on the positive impact of home delivered and congregate meals.

Comr. Vette shared that at their last Summit Pointe Board Meeting Summit Pointe’s Megan Taft and Battle Creek City Police Officer Josh Chapman of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) of Calhoun County presented. Ms. Vette explained that CIT is a community partnership of law enforcement and mental health agencies, addiction specialists, and individuals who live with mental health illness or addiction disorders and their families. Comr. Vette stated there were 20 officers from Battle Creek Police Department, Emmett Township, Sheriff’s Department, Albion Police and the Tribe that have gone through 40 hours of training on mental health symptoms, substance use disorder (SUD) and verbal de-escalation tactics. Ms. Vette stated she felt this was a very important program given the 18 school shootings that took place in 2017 and the most recent shooting in Florida and she was proud to be a part of it. She thanked the Board and Sheriff Saxton.

Comr. Frisbie shared that the 911 Board approved the first quarter billings for fees for service across the County and every entity in the County costs were reduced except for the City of Marshall whose call volume jumped significantly.

Comr. Potter stated that the information Commissioner Frisbie just shared was mentioned in the Board meetings that he attends and everyone expressed gratitude for reduction in costs.

Comr. King shared that he attended the Land Bank Authority Board meeting earlier in the day where he serves as the Secretary and the Land Bank spent \$2,800,000 in demolition of homes and planned to spend the remaining \$1,000,000 by September of 2019 on an additional 100 demolitions of blighted homes.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. County Administrator/Controller's Report

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott provided highlights from her written updated report that was sent out the previous day. Ms. Scott shared that the County has partnered with My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) for the last couple of years to create a new community six chair dental center that will be opening soon in Battle Creek at 3566 Capital Ave. S.W. The center will be a dental home for those that are underinsured or uninsured targeting Medicaid and Medicare enrollees. Administrator Scott explained that MCDC had done their due diligence and concluded that there was a definite need in the County for the dental center, and that a grant received from the Battle Creek Community Foundation would help with the renovations and MCDC is paying the remainder of the investment needed and operating costs.

Ms. Scott shared that a committee comprised of County staff and two commissioners was being formed to select a law firm to represent the County in the growing state-wide opioid litigation effort and invitations were sent out for the Calhoun County Opioid Coalition Community Update meeting being held the following week to review data and initiatives around the opioid epidemic. Ms. Scott stated there has been a lot of effort to better track data and coordinate efforts in the response area with law enforcement and health officials throughout the County.

Administrator Scott highlighted that the Visitors Bureau Board met earlier in the week where they previewed the Business Plan for the upcoming year. She stated that the Hotel Accommodations Tax generates a little over \$1,000,000 a year just for the portion that goes to the Calhoun County Visitors Bureau supporting County-wide tourism and tourism in Battle Creek. Ms. Scott stated the Linda Freybler, CEO of Calhoun County Visitors Bureau also presented at the February Battle Creek Chamber Eye Opener event updates on tourism throughout the County and the new Certified Tourism Ambassadors (CAT) program that has trained over 100 people throughout the community on how to deliver excellent customer service and provide history on each of the communities.

B. New Business

1. Calhoun County Emergency Facility Use Agreement with Grace Health

Administrator Scott explained that the agreement has been in place for several years and would allow for the Health Department to use Grace Health's facilities on an emergency basis. She stated it was a contingency or mutual aid plan should the need arise for mass immunizations or other situations of that nature that would require a larger facility and Grace Health has that capacity. Ms. Scott stated that Grace Health would be reimbursed by the County, hopefully through grant funding that might be available for such situations.

Res. 21-2018

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Emergency Facility Use Agreement between Grace Health and Calhoun County as presented and authorize the Administrator/Controller to execute the contract on behalf of the County."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs County Counselor Training Grant Application

Administrator Scott explained that this item was in accordance with the grant policy requiring the Board's approval to request grant funding from the State to reimburse the Veterans' Affairs office for training.

Director of Veterans' Affairs Aaron Edlefson stated his staff are accredited service officers and are required to have so many hours of continued education to maintain their accreditation with the VA. Mr. Edlefson explained these fees were associated with the Spring Michigan Association of County Veteran Counselors conference at a cost of \$1,600 and the State was willing to reimburse that cost through the grant which would allow them to use the funds that were set aside for the training to assist veterans.

Res. 22-2018

"Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Potter to approve the County Counselor Training Grant Application as presented and authorize the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the County."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. MDOT Contracts 2015-0121 Amendment 1, 20150122 Amendment 1 and 2015-0124 Amendment 1

Administrator Scott explained that these were amendments to state contracts the County received in a special one-time funding grant for three different projects. She stated that two of the projects had funds left over and one of the projects exceeded budget and the amendments would allow the County to take the money not spent from the two projects and apply it to the project that was over budget. The three projects were 30 Mile Road, Raymond Road and Golden Avenue which was the project that exceeded budget and without the amendment the Road Department would be required to send the \$75,000 in unspent funds back.

Res. 23-2018

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the amendments to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Contracts 2015-0121, 2015-0122 and 2015-0124 as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

4. Calhoun County Road Department’s Grant Application to the Michigan MDOT’s Transportation Economic Development Fund Resolution

Ms. Scott stated this item also fell within the County’s grant policy and was to support a resolution for an application for federally funded Economic Development dollars for the reconstruction of F Drive North just west of 11 Mile Road in Emmett Township and will help support Flex-N-Gate’s expansion. Administrator Scott shared the \$295,000 had been awarded and the other 40% would be matched by funding from the Road Department’s bond proceeds.

Res. 24-2018

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the resolution to support the application to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Transportation Economic Development Fund for Category A grant funding for the reconstruction of F Drive N from .82 miles west of M-311 to M-311 as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Calhoun County Road Department’s Annual Road Mileage Certification

Ms. Scott explained this was the County’s annual road mileage certification report for 2017 and required for Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) funding from the State.

Res. 25-2018

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Annual Road Mileage Certification as presented and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Certification on behalf of Calhoun County.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

6. Emergency Planning Services Contract with BOLDplanning

Ms. Scott explained this was a request for approval on a contract with BOLDplanning for emergency planning services to help develop a business continuity plan for county-wide departments.

Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox stated the contracted services were for the development of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) or a playbook on how the County can deal proactively with any type of emergency instance like loss of infrastructure such as buildings or technology. Mr. Wilcox explained it would provide a step-by-step plan on how the County would continue in the event of the emergency situation and the County has had difficulty in the past with the project management required. He stated because of the importance in need for a plan it was transferred to the Risk Management Committee that recommended the need for a consultant to complete the work. Mr. Wilcox provided a brief history of the background of the proposed company BOLDplanning and recommended the Board approve the service contract in the amount of \$47,600.

Res. 26-2018

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Potter to approve the BOLDplanning proposal to provide emergency planning as presented and authorize the Board Chair to execute the contract on behalf of the County.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Bruce Dowding, employee of 16 years and Night Crew Leader of the Road Department stated that the staff at the Road Department is more divided now than they ever have been and said that he was disturbed to hear that the younger employees are looking for new jobs because of the issues being experienced at the Road Department. Mr. Dowding stated that the Board were the only people that could fix the issues.

Brandon Sweet of Marshall Township and an employee of the Road Department for a year and a half shared that the last contract expired in October of 2017 and the union was still undergoing negotiations and union representatives were told there would be no more payroll changes while the contract was undergoing negotiation. Mr. Sweet indicated that on the last pay period there was another change involving interpretation of their contract language in regard to call-in pay. Mr. Sweet stated that some employees receive call-in pay while others are denied for the same situation and he and his co-workers continue to ask for clarification and consistency and it was impossible to get. Mr. Sweet expressed there was division in the work place and everyone should be able to work together to serve the people of Calhoun County.

Sheriff Saxton shared that the first group from the CIT program was trained in September and there had been 66 instances since then where CIT officers were used. Mr. Saxton stated that 13 of those instances would have been arrestable offenses and would have been arrested prior to the training. Sheriff stated it was a tremendous asset and 25 more officers would be trained at the end of April with six of them being deputies and because of the size of the class there could be a second training. Mr. Saxton stated he spoke with the local Post Commander who didn’t send anyone to the first training because he didn’t feel it worked in St. Joseph and after sharing numbers from Calhoun’s success he is now sending Troopers to the second training.

Comr. Vette stated that Officer Chapman said they were working on communication and officers are calling each other to get advice regarding CIT situations.

Sheriff Saxton shared that the CIT officers are working together as a community and now non-CIT trained officers are taking advantage of it and requesting CIT trained officers once they arrive on scene and assess situations.

Comr. Frisbie asked how long the training was.

Sheriff Saxton responded that it was a week long and it was a struggle to have six officers in training at once and they may be able to get reimbursed for the overtime spent during that time.

Comr. Frisbie stated that he, the Sheriff and Chief Blocker had a conversation on how to incorporate it within other agencies like the Fire Department and EMS. Mr. Frisbie explained there was a one day eight hour course that could be a potential and they were continuing to look at how they could implement CIT.

Comr. King stated that the Sheriff was a little reluctant at first to start the program because of the cost but sent one or two to the first training and now the program has grown because the heads of the agencies are spreading the word.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Tompkins thanked the City of Albion for allowing him to be a judge at their Cardboard Classic Sled Race. Mr. Tompkins shared that the 33rd Annual Community Action Agency's Walk for Warmth would take place on at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 24th at First United Methodist Church in Albion.

Comr. Frisbie stated that one of his board members, Ann Flynn from Community Action Agency will be in Albion to speak at that event. Mr. Frisbie stated that if enough funds were raised that Consumers Energy would match those funds.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. County Claims Payable for January 26, 2018 through February 8, 2018 in the amount of \$2,885,837.46

Res. 27-2018

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the County Claims Payable for January 26, 2018 through February 8, 2018 in the amount of \$2,885,837.46 as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Tompkins stated that the Greater Albion Area Chamber of Commerce would be hosting its Eggs and Issues program the following morning from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the American Legion Post and the upcoming Sunday the 32nd Annual Men Who Cook event, hosted by Citizens to Beautify Albion would be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church on Haven Road. Comr. Tompkins will be a cook and invited everyone to attend. He stated that the American Red Cross would be holding a scholarship blood drive at Homer High School on Thursday, February 22nd from Noon until 5:45 p.m. and the First Annual Black History Month Music Celebration would be held on February 26th at the Bohm Theatre at 7 p.m.

Comr. Frisbie shared that from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd the Pennfield Exchange will be hosting a pancake supper to benefit the Pennfield Robotics Club.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

slh

Chairman

Clerk to the Board