

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

June 21, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 21, 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, Smith, Reynolds, and Vette

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, Communications Manager Lucy Blair and Deputy Clerk Shana Huerta

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the agenda of the June 21, 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 June 7, 2018 Board of Commissioners Regular Session

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018 Regular Session as presented.”

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Lane Landis of Homer Township expressed concern with the fairness on how local townships receive road improvements, specifically local farmers. Mr. Landis explained that he has 10 vehicles used at his farm and has paid a significant increase in gas taxes to the State. Mr. Landis questioned the current 70/30 split versus Act 51's 50/50 split regarding township contributions and stated that townships would like to contribute more toward road improvements but were already getting hit hard. Chair King stated that he would be glad to address Mr. Landis' concerns once the meeting was concluded.

Creighton Burrows of Marengo Township stated that B Drive has brand new blacktop and is full of cracks, which will create potholes if the cracks are not filled. He stated that he would be going to the township to address the same issue.

Todd Ruddock of Charlotte expressed concern regarding an accident that involved the Road Department on April 18, 2018. Mr. Ruddock stated that his vehicle was damaged in the accident and he experienced \$8,513 in expenses including total loss of the vehicle, towing, storage and rental costs. Mr. Ruddock added that he felt that the County's insurance company refused to adequately compensate him for his expenses. Mr. Ruddock invited the community to visit CCRC on Facebook to voice their concerns.

Daisy Howe of Clarence Township stated she disagreed with the 70/30 split between the townships and the County and Clarence Township was one of five townships that had millages and Clarence's millage was being renewed through a resolution rather than a vote. Ms. Howe stated that there was not any work being done in that corner of the County and that the Road Department was behind in maintenance. Ms. Howe stated that a couple of the roads were getting debarred and that a County truck drove up and down her road six times and filled one pothole. Chair King stated that he would be happy to explain Policy 509 to Ms. Howe once the meeting concluded.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sheriff Saxton stated that the Sheriff's Office had a retirement celebration that afternoon for Corrections Deputy Tom Lewis. Mr. Saxton shared that Tom started with the Sheriff's Office in 1999 and was an asset to the jail and the citizens of Calhoun County and thanked Tom for his service. Sheriff Saxton shared that their Emergency Response Team Fundraiser would be held Saturday night at Backroads Saloon and that it would be a comedy night including the County's and Battle Creek's Emergency Response Teams. Mr. Saxton stated the event would raise money for training items and would begin at 7:00 p.m., with two headliners, and that the cost was \$15 per person.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Presentation – Stephan Currie, Executive Director

Mr. Currie explained that he would focus on legislative priorities, including ensuring adequate funding for Michigan Courts. Mr. Currie explained that MAC is supporting legislation to increase 911 fees charged by the state, and legislation that ensures county tax dollars are not captured without a county's approval and ensures proper transparency on spending. Mr. Currie discussed that MAC was working on reforming Michigan's system of financing local government to create a more stable and sufficiently funded revenue stream for counties. He added that the Michigan Tax Tribunal case which will be reheard in August in Escanaba, if successful, would ensure that all three methods of property valuation are considered, prevent the consideration of deed-restricted properties, and enhance the training and qualifications of tribunal members. Mr. Currie also explained that MAC was supporting reform to ensure adequate funding for community mental health, investing in and properly managing Michigan's infrastructure, ensuring full state funding for any mandate incorporating 17-year-olds in the juvenile

justice system and reforming payments for foster child relative placements. He stated that regarding the budget that just passed the Governor recommended a 1% decrease for county revenue sharing and MAC was successful in getting a ½% increase, which must be used on debt. Mr. Currie also discussed an assessing reform bill that MAC opposes, which would put minimum standards restricting township supervisors from also serving as assessors in their communities and would require a Level 4 assessor to be utilized. He concluded by stating that he appreciated that Calhoun County was very active in the organization and knowledgeable of the MAC's activities.

B. 2017 Medical Examiner Annual Report – Dr. Joyce deJong

Dr. deJong provided the Board with the M.E. Office's 2017 annual report and explained that the first part of the report explained how the Medical Examiners' office operates and included highlights for the previous year, including the office being fully staffed and 95% of the Medical Examiner reports being completed within 30 days. Dr. deJong discussed the Calhoun County section of the report, explaining that the death statistics included covered all deaths that occurred in Calhoun County regardless of where the actual injury/incident occurred. She stated that Calhoun County had stable statistics but drug related deaths continue to increase, with 94% of them involving some type of opioid use. She pointed out that there was a contrast report in the back of the report that compares statistics to other counties, noting that Grand Traverse was the closest in the amount of deaths that occurred and yet Calhoun County had 44 accidental deaths while Grand Traverse had only 19. Dr. deJong stated they were working closely with the Medical Director of the Health Department to provide as much information as possible in an effort to assist with the crisis.

Comr. Vette stated her tour of the facility was amazing and hoped that the rest of the Commissioners would be able to take the tour and that she thought it was wonderful that Dr. deJong visited the Math & Science Center.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. Mackinac County Resolution to Oppose Amendatory Legislation to Public Act 93 of 2013
2. Kalkaska County Resolution to Oppose Amendatory Legislation to Public Act 93 of 2013
3. Supplemental Senior Millage Funding

Res. 92-2018

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the Consent Agenda of the June 21, 2018 Board of Commissioners' Regular Session as presented.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Tompkins stated that the Trailway Alliance met June 13th where they approved a new member, discussed ebikes in the trails and parks, and potential policies addressing speed limitation of the bikes, as well as the Albion City portion of the trail that is anticipated to be completed this summer. He stated there was a CareWell Services Council meeting that was scheduled for Monday, June 17th that was canceled due to lack of items.

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 introduced Lucy Blair as the County's new Communications Manager. Administrator Scott explained that they were working to fill several vacancies at department head level and seeking proposals from executive search firms in an effort to fill the Road Department Managing Director position. She shared that the Juvenile Home Director was also posted. Ms. Scott stated she attended a Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MAEDA) board meeting where she serves as Treasurer, and that the board approved the next year's budget. She shared that she attended a Battle Creek Rotary Club tree Planting Ceremony that afternoon at Historic Bridge Park and that the Community Development staff helped coordinate the trees being placed in the park. Administrator Scott stated she attended the Board of Public Health meeting earlier in the week where they worked on the budget, and announced that June 28th would be the official grand opening of the new My Community Dental Center. Ms. Scott concluded that the board for the State's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which also governs the County's Medical Care Facility, needed a new member and the information was on the County's website.

B. New Business

1. Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance

Administrator Scott stated that Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer worked with the Treasurer's office on the proposed amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance.

Jim Dyer stated that the change is limited to the timing in the requirement to renew license and currently licenses needed to be renewed by the end of February, and the amendment would allow the renewals to be on a rolling basis rather than all of them expiring at the same time. He explained that when licenses were renewed at the veterinarian they only received those records on an occasional basis and this would allow for timelier reporting of those renewals.

Res. 93-2018

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Vette to adopt the amendments to Section 5 of the Animal Control Ordinance concerning the Licensing of Dogs as presented.”

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

2. Veterans Affairs Scholarships at Western Michigan University and Kellogg Community College

Veterans Affairs Director Aaron Edlefson explained that in 2016 the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Scholarship was established at Kellogg Community College in the amount of \$10,000. He stated that the first year they awarded \$500; this year \$1,000 was awarded. Director Edlefson shared that because of the success that planning sessions were held and they decided to create an additional scholarship for Western Michigan University that would be funded through a \$35,000 endowment, in addition to contributing \$15,000 more to the KCC endowment. He stated they were working to continue the mission to help veterans and highlight the work that their office does.

Res. 94-2018

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the recommendation from Veterans Affairs to appropriate \$15,000.00 to Kellogg Community College (KCC) and \$35,000.00 to Western Michigan University to award Calhoun County Veterans Affairs scholarships to qualified veterans who are residents of Calhoun County and authorize the Board Chair to sign the contracts on behalf of the County.”

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

3. Michigan Department of Transportation Contract #18-5287

Administrator Scott explained that the contract would allow the County to replace a Webster Street bridge over the Kalamazoo River in Homer Township. Ms. Scott explained that it was a \$1M project that required a 5% match of \$57,000 by the County. Ms. Scott related this project to the recent news from the Road Department where a culvert failed on D Drive North in Emmett Township, stressing the importance of local bridge funding to help offset the unbudgeted costs for failed culverts such as that on D Drive North.

Res. 95-2018

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Michigan Department of Transportation Contract 18-5287 as presented and authorize the Board Chair and the County Administrator/Controller to sign on behalf of the County.”

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

4. Engineering Reimbursement, Form 2044

Ms. Scott explained this was a request to accept engineering reimbursement of \$10,000 from the state and was an annual submission that required board approval in accordance with Act 51 and explained that Kristine Parsons, Interim Director of Engineering, was the licensed professional engineer.

Res. 96-2018

“Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the submission of the Engineering Reimbursement, Form 2044, to the State of Michigan as presented.”

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

5. Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) FY 2019 Local Funding Resolution

Ms. Scott explained that this item addressed funding received from BCATS and was related to money contributed by the Road Department and cities to the operating costs of BCATS. She stated this year the County would receive \$19,815 which was a \$400 increase from the previous year and would help with the traffic count study.

Comr. Frisbie stated that the County’s participation in funding priorities with BCATS had increased over the past few years , and that those efforts were being rewarded because of that participation, and that the funding is producing great results.

Res. 97-2018

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study's Fiscal Year 2019 Local Funding Resolution as presented and authorize the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the County.”

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

6. Public Art Grant Application

Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox explained the project background, stating that the transformation of the County building and this portion of the project focused on putting in a parking lot where the old jail stood, allowing better accessibility to the building as well as new landscaping. He explained that the Board approved a landscaping contract with Abon Marche, who created a site plan including a centerpiece in the landscaping as a focal point. Mr. Wilcox explained that Abon Marche made them aware of the grant that would allow the County to request proposals from local artists to create the artwork and assisted the County in the preparation of application and the competitive process. Assistant Administrator expressed the importance of the art piece that would be placed in the courtyard that would enhance the beauty of the outside of the building, and serve as free art for the community to enjoy 24 hours a day. He added that the overall contribution from the County would be only \$10,000, which was less than 1 1/2% of total cost of project and had been previously budgeted.

Comr. Smith inquired about the plans for the landscaping and asked if there was an alternative plan. Mr. Wilcox explained that all of the plans submitted by Abon Marche included a circular meeting place with a focal point and it was a long-term investment in the property as well as being a place that would provide enjoyment for all who visited.

Comr. Potter asked the County didn’t get the grant would the idea be revisited. Mr. Wilcox explained that some of the seating or benching could be reworked if necessary.

Res. 98-2018

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the submission of the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs (MCACA) grant application for public art to be placed at the County Building in Marshall and authorize the County Administrator/Controller to sign the application on behalf of the County.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5: Comr. Tompkins, Comr. Vette, Comr. Reynolds, Comr. Frisbie, Comr. King. No – 2: Comr. Smith and Comr. Potter. Motion **CARRIED**.

7. May 2018 Financial Statements

Administrator Scott explained that this was the point in the year where Finance staff were collecting information on budget variances and would be building a mid-year budget amendment, which is typical each year. She explained that there were timing differences on some revenues, public safety revenues continued to be higher, and the Brembo grant revenue was booked back to the previous year. Ms. Scott stated that there were timing differences on the expenditure side but coming in as expected and that the County’s auditors would be presenting the audit from 2017 in August, following its timely submittal by the June 30 deadline.

Res. 99-2018

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Potter to accept the Calhoun County May 2018 Financial Statements as presented.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Lane Landis of Homer Township stated that he would like the Commissioners to come to Homer Township to enjoy their fruits and vegetables, their Amish and wholesome life. He stated that prior to several of the Commissioners coming on board, the townships and the County had a seven year road plan and he felt that currently there wasn’t a plan or the leadership in place and that the Board should be clamoring to be part of the solution.

Creighton Burrows of Marengo Township expressed concern over the cracks in the wall at the Hall of Justice in Battle Creek and that the contractors were not held accountable.

Tommy Miller of Marengo Township expressed concern over the closure of the road on 24 Mile Road between J Drive North and L Drive North. He stated that they closed the road between that section and could have been repaired it in the amount of time that it took them to install concrete barriers and signage.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Frisbie clarified his previous remarks during the New Business section, stating that the County was at fault for not receiving adequate BCATS funding because of the Road Commission, not the County, failing to adequately represent the County within the group.

Comr. King addressed comments that were made regarding Policy 509 and road match. Chair King explained that the County has a 70%/30% split with dedicated funding, instead of the 50%/50% match that previously was only budgeted at \$800,000 , and that there were 1,240 townships in the State and only 140 of them didn't contribute to road improvements. He added that 14 of the ones that don't contribute are in Calhoun County, which is a big contributor as to why some of the roads look the way they do. He reiterated that he would be glad to discuss the public's concerns before the closed session began. Chair King stated that Mr. Miller didn't agree with management at the Road Department and encouraged him to reach out to them as they have the knowledge to know when roads may be unsafe and they make decisions based on that.

Comr. Vette wished Comr. Frisbie a Happy Birthday that was to take place on the following day.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. County Claims Payable for May 31, 2018 through June 14, 2018 in the amount of \$3,104,297.66

Res. 100-2018

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Potter to approve the County Claims Payable for May 31, 2018 through June 14, 2018 in the amount of \$3,104,297.66 as presented."

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Tompkins announced that on Saturday June 23rd that a Fire Safety Expo would take place at the Fire Station in the City of Albion from 12 p.m. from 4 p.m. and Albion's Annual 17th Annual Red, White and Blues Cruise would take place on June 29th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Stouffer Plaza and on July 3rd the Albion American Legion would be holding its annual pig roast from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. followed by the Albion Fireworks.

17. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY

Res. 101-2018

"Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Frisbie to retire to closed session to discuss labor negotiations strategy."

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

The Board retired to Closed Session at 8:37 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:03 p.m.

18. Teamster's Local 214 Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification

Res. 93-2018

"Moved Comr. Potter, second by Comr. Reynolds to accept the Teamster's Local 214 Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification as presented."

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

slh

Chairman

Clerk to the Board