

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

November 7, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

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

Present: Comrs. Smith, Miller, Hatcher, Tompkins, Frisbie, and Vette

Excused: Comr. King

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

2 and 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE/INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Res. 220-2019

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Smith to approve the agenda of the Nov. 7, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Oct. 17, 2019 Board of Commissioners Annual Session

Res. 221-2019

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Miller to approve the minutes of the Oct. 17, 2019 Board of Commissioners Annual Session as presented."

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Jim Coury of Marshall provided his background as a small tree farm owner, involvement with expanding trailways throughout the State of Michigan as part of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance and volunteer experience with Calhoun County Parks. He expressed his support of the proposed parks millage ballot language agenda item and explained how the millage, should it pass, could be utilized.

President of the Calhoun County Farm Bureau Andrea Boughton stated that at their September annual meeting they discussed the proposed parks millage and while they enjoyed the parks and recreation, it was decided not to support the millage because of the extra burden it would place on farmers.

Carl Gibson of Marshall stated that Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer clarified some questions he had and Mr. Gibson expressed his support for the parks millage. He added that he believed there really would be value to farmers to have the millage. He also stated that he was concerned about the potential cost to place the millage on the March 10, 2020 ballot. Mr. Gibson shared that he appreciated the effort by Calhoun County to expand its park resources for both urban and rural residents.

Jesse Jacox of Emmett Township and a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission stated that the Commission had looked at every way possible to support the parks and they felt that the millage was logical and reasonable solution to fund the parks system. He explained that during one weekend the previous summer 690 kayakers utilized the Kalamazoo River, and that if the County invested in recreational opportunities, it would draw people to the parks.

Homer Village Manager Art Kale stated that he was a member of the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance along with Comr. Tompkins, and that he encouraged the Commissioners to support the proposed ballot language and give the citizens of Calhoun County an opportunity to decide whether the millage was something they wanted.

Gregg Strand of Marshall reiterated Mr. Kale's thoughts and explained that the Commissioners were not being asked to support the millage at this time, but simply to approve the proposed ballot language to allow the millage to go to a vote and let the citizens decide.

Mitch Robbins of Marshall stated that he was there in support of the millage being put to a vote as he believed that citizens were in support of continuing the statewide trail through Calhoun County to generate income and addition recreational opportunities.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sheriff Matt Saxton stated that Chief Deputy Jon Garlick retired after 25 years of service. He shared that the No Shave November campaign had begun to allow the staff to grow facial hair to raise money to support three of the Sheriffs Office's employee programs. Sheriff Saxton explained that there had been some movement at the State level regarding the items that the Governor had vetoed from the budget. He stated that out of the \$1M in cuts to Calhoun County, \$600,000 would come out of his budget: one being the Secondary Road Patrol dollars; and the other being the County jail reimbursement program.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. MEDC Sackrider Farms Site Readiness Grant Public Hearing

Res. 222-2019

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Miller to Open Public Hearing.”

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

Comr. Frisbie declared the Public Hearing Open.

Community Development Director Jen Bomba explained this was a public hearing required by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to receive public comment regarding a grant opportunity that Battle Creek Unlimited received. The grant would be used to create a master plan for economic development on tracts of land that were planned and zoned for future industrial or large commercial businesses to identify and resolve potential obstacles that could hinder the development. Ms. Bomba stated that this project was being referred to as the Sackrider Farms Readiness as the Sackrider family owned a large portion of the property being considered in the vicinity of I-94, Michigan Ave. and 11 Mile Rd. She explained that Calhoun County Community Development would act as the Grand Administrator on behalf of Battle Creek Unlimited.

Battle Creek Unlimited Vice President Robert Corder added that Battle Creek Unlimited applied for the grant during the Summer and because the State received so many requests, they were able to secure additional funds. He explained that because it was a Community Development Block Grant that Battle Creek and Calhoun County were approved for, they sought assistance from the County to act as the Grant Administrator. Mr. Corder stated that he looked forward to working with the County on the project.

There were no public comments.

Res. 223-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Smith to Close Public Hearing.”

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

Comr. Frisbie declared the Public Hearing Closed.

2. Approval of MEDC Sackrider Farms Site Readiness Grant Application Submittal

Res. 224-2019

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the MEDC Sackrider Farms Site Readiness Grant Application as presented.”

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

3. MEDC Marshall Mega Site – Site Readiness Grant Public Hearing

Res. 225-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Miller to Open Public Hearing.”

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

Comr. Frisbie declared the Public Hearing Open.

Community Development Director Jen Bomba explained that there were eight Community Block Grants awarded in Southwest Michigan and the County was lucky to have received two of those grants. She stated that the County was partnering with Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MAEDA) on the Marshall Mega Site Site Readiness Grant. Ms. Bomba explained that this property was approximately 1,700 acres that would also be assessed for potential obstacles for future development.

MAEDA CEO Scott Fleming explained that the property for this grant was located in Marshall Township, which had been contacted by multiple companies over the past few years with development interests that would create a large number of jobs. He stated that the problem with the property was the lack of infrastructure including water and sewer and the goal was to utilize the grant in order to address the issue and attract large companies to stimulate the economy faster.

There were no public comments.

Res. 226-2019

“Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Miller to Close Public Hearing.”

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

4. MEDC Marshall Mega Site – Site Readiness Grant Application Submittal

Res. 227-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Miller to approve the MEDC Marshall Mega Site – Site Readiness Grant Application as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Bay County Resolution Opposing BOC Election Legislation

B. Resolutions

1. Government of Michigan Investing Cooperatively Resolution

2. Official County Seal Approval
3. Calhoun County Board of Health Member Reappointments

{a} Reappointment of Mary Jo Byrne as Chairperson to the Calhoun County Board of Health
(Term effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021)

{b} Reappointment of Mark Crawford to the Calhoun County Board of Health and appointment to Vice-Chair
(Term effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022)

{c} Reappointment of Sonja Elder to the Calhoun County Board of Health
(Term effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022)

Res. 228-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Consent Agenda of the Nov. 7, 2019 Board of Commissioners’ Apportionment Session as presented.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Vette shared that the November Employee of the Month was the Road Department’s Engineering Technician Tim Cook. She explained that he was nominated because he is always willing to help, has a cheerful can-do attitude, is passionate about his work and is always willing to go above and beyond his job duties. Comr. Vette stated that Mr. Cook enjoys working for the Road Department because of the various tasks and he enjoys working outdoors.

Comr. Tompkins stated that the Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) met Friday, Nov. 1 and held an extensive discussion on the proposed language for the Senior Strategic Project Fund. He explained that they were unable to come to a consensus on that language and potential language changes were discussed and that it would be discussed again at the December meeting.

Comr. Frisbie provided an update regarding the recent EEE spraying that took place and the frustration surrounding communication tactics. He stated that he and Deputy Health Officer Brigitte Reichenbaugh attended a State meeting where they had an opportunity to speak with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Team and he provided suggestions on their ability to improve the process and the use of an incident command system (ICS).

Comr. Vette stated that Summit Pointe held their Nov. board meeting and that she serves as Chair and Administrator/Controller Scott serves as Treasurer. She shared that NovaCare Rehabilitation's director Scott Frank joined the board and that she felt he would do a good job.

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 reminded everyone that Monday, Nov. 11 was Veteran's Day, that County offices would be closed and encouraged everyone to thank veterans for their service. She added that the County had a newly created GIS story map that explores the Memorial Path at Fort Custer National Cemetery. She provided an additional update on the Summit Pointe Board meeting, sharing that the Board approved a bid award for a new Payroll/HR software and a contract with Rehmann Robson for general ledger consulting services. The Board also approved the CEO's goals for the following year and received good news that Summit Pointe had made their last payment of their settlement to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to resolve their obligations based on the State's recent audit. Ms. Scott shared that there had been several good examples of County leadership the past several weeks and thank Human Resources Director Kim Archambault for continuing to offer training for the County's Supervisors, the most recent being focused on Positive Culture in the workplace. She thanked Brad Wilcox, the Risk Management Committee and members of the Sheriff's Office for conducting Active Shooter Training in the County Building on Friday, Nov. 1. Ms. Scott shared that the County's Health Fair took place earlier that day at the Justice Complex where flu shots were available. She concluded by mentioning that Judge Jaconete convened the 15th Annual Graduation Ceremony for Mental Health Treatment Court earlier that day and urged the Commissioners to attend future ceremonies.

B. New Business

1. Pennfield Charter Township Law Enforcement Services Agreement

Ms. Scott stated that this item was a renewal of the contract with Pennfield Township to provide law enforcement services and that the Sheriff's efforts demonstrated another good example of County leadership through such partnerships with local municipalities.

Sheriff Saxton explained that the contract was a five-year extension of the previous contract and that the Sheriff's Office began providing service to Pennfield Township in 2004 and that it was a good partnership that was no cost to the County.

Res. 229-2019

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Law Enforcement Services Agreement with Pennfield Charter Township as presented."

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

2. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Grant Application

Administrator/Controller Scott explained that this item was a grant acceptance from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs in accordance with County's grant policy. She stated that the funds would be used for a local artist to erect a sculpture in the County's new courtyard. Ms. Scott explained that the grant was for \$6,500 and required a dollar for dollar match.

Res. 230-2019

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Frisbie to accept the grant award of \$6,500 from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and authorize the County/Administrator to sign the Grant Agreement for Arts Services on behalf of the County."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 4, Comrs. Tompkins, Vette, Hatcher and Frisbie. No – 2, Comrs. Smith and Miller. Excused – 1. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Approval of Parks Millage Ballot Language

Ms. Scott explained that this was a request for the approval of the ballot language for the proposed parks millage to appear before a vote of the people on either March 10, 2020 or a subsequent election date. She stated that it was a collaborative effort that started with the Parks and Recreation Commission and numerous other individuals, some of whom the Board heard from earlier in the meeting. Administrator/Controller Scott introduced the Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Annette Chapman.

Annette Chapman provided her background including that she was the Parks Director for the County from 1997 to 2007 and that it had always been a struggle to find funding to support Calhoun County's parks. She explained the importance of and provided a history of the County parks and shared that the Commission had worked diligently to find funds in an effort to maintain them but by the end 2020 sustainable funding would no longer exist. Ms. Chapman stated that on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission they requested that the residents be allowed to have a voice regarding the proposed millage.

Community Development Project Manager Doug Ferrall clarified that the only General Fund dollars that the parks program received was the cost of his position. He shared that it currently cost \$70,000 annually to maintain the parks and that the County received \$20,000 annually in revenue which left a \$50,000 deficit. He explained that they had struggled to find alternative sources to fund the parks and that sustainable funding would end by the end of 2020. Mr. Ferrall shared that many other counties could rely on funding through entrance fees, campground fees and fairgrounds to support their programs and that that was not an option for Calhoun County. He went on to share that 16 other Michigan counties had been successful in passing millages to support their park programs and that 50% of the funds would go to the County and the remaining 50% would be dispersed to local municipalities. Mr. Ferrall explained

that he understood the additional tax would be burdensome to some individuals and that after much deliberation, .2 mills was the lowest they could propose in order to successfully maintain and grow the parks system.

Comr. Miller stated that the City of Marshall had a boardwalk along the river and asked if the boardwalk needed to be repaired could the City use the parks millage funds to complete those repairs.

Mr. Ferrall explained that yes, if the repairs needed to be made and were above and beyond what the City had budgeted for the boardwalk, they could utilize those funds to make the repairs.

Comr. Smith stated that he felt that the ballot language was unclear regarding the rules and conditions on how the money would need to be spent and how the taxes would be levied.

Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer stated that they included the stipulations in the narrative of the agenda item for the Commissioners' review and that statutorily they could not specifically list exactly how the funds would be spent as ultimately it was at the Board's discretion on how taxes would be allocated.

Ms. Scott clarified that this was only the first step in getting approval to send the language to the Elections Office and that if approved, the Parks and Recreation Commission and local municipalities would educate the public about how the money would be spent prior to the election.

Comr. Smith asked if the voters passed the millage, then could the Commissioners vote no on levying the tax.

Mr. Dyer stated that legally, yes, the Commissioners could vote not to levy the tax, but he was unsure why they would vote against something that their constituents voted in favor of.

Comr. Miller reiterated that he had been receiving mixed feedback from his district but that he would be voting in favor of the language to give his district the opportunity to decide.

Mr. Ferrall stated that he would be visiting local municipalities, should the language pass, to help address how the funding could be utilized.

Comr. Frisbie stated that in the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings they discussed rural areas that didn't have parks how they could use the fund such as potentially combing funds with other rural communities to create a central park location.

Comr. Tompkins asked how communities would maintain the new parks going forward.

Comr. Frisbie stated they would need to have a long-term plan.

Comr. Tompkins thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for all their work and asked how many people were on the commission and if the vote to approve the language was unanimous.

Vice Chair Chapman stated that there were 12 members on the commission and that two did not vote in favor, noting that they were members of the Calhoun County Farm Bureau and had been appointed to the Commission as opposed to other members who typically volunteer to serve on the Commission.

Comr. Tompkins inquired about potential rural townships that may not be interested in receiving funds for parks.

Comr. Frisbie stressed the importance of the parks system becoming self-sustainable and not relying on grants which primarily focus on building new parks and not necessarily sustaining them. He stated that he would be voting in favor to allow the citizens a chance to vote on the proposal.

Res. 231-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Miller to approve the proposed language to place a .20 mill Parks millage on the ballot for a vote of the people at the March 10, 2020 election or subsequent election in 2020, as presented, and authorize the County Clerk and Calhoun County Administration to take all steps required by law to accomplish the same.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 4, Comrs. Vette, Hatcher, Frisbie and Miller. No – 2, Comrs. Smith and Tompkins. Excused – 1. Motion **CARRIED**.

4. CCPHD Family Planning – Additional Title X Funds Award

Administrator/Controller Scott explained this item related to the Health Department and it could be categorized more as a budget adjustment and not a grant award acceptance. She stated that the Health Department was receiving an additional \$30,000 in grant funding to expand family planning services which required Board approval to adjust the budget as it exceeded the \$20,000 authority that the County has to adjust the budget accordingly.

Res. 232-2019

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to accept additional Title X funds of \$30,000 for the Calhoun County Public Health Department's (CCPHD) Family Planning Program in order to expand services and promote the program and approve the subsequent budget adjustment.”

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

5. Policy #340 – Employee Benefits

Ms. Archambault stated that the changes in the policy were driven by the School Nurse program. She explained that the request was to change their pay to align with a calendar year rather than the school year. She stated that it would not affect their pay rate but would allow

them to offer services such as immunizations, trainings and other services throughout the summer months.

Res. 233-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Miller to approve changes to the Employee Benefits Policy #340 as presented.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

There was none.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Tompkins stated that he agreed with everything that Sheriff Saxton stated earlier in the meeting regarding the potential budget cuts and hoped that an agreement would be reached soon to resolve the issue and encouraged State legislature to work together. He thanked all the Veterans that have served and are serving in honor of Veteran’s Day and wished Comr. Vette a Happy Birthday.

Comr. Hatcher wished Comr. Vette a Happy Birthday.

Comr. Frisbie stated that tomorrow he would be attending the last Board of Commissioners Budget Committee meeting to work through final 2020 budget planning steps.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. Claims Payable for October 11, 2019 through October 31, 2019 in the amount of \$8,373,249.55

Res. 234-2019

“Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Smith to approve Claims Payable for October 11, 2019 through October 31, 2019 in the amount of \$8,373,249.55 as presented.”

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Tompkins shared that on Friday, Nov. 8 the Homer All-In Community Breakfast would take place at Homer Community Schools from 7:30-9:00 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9 the Albion Township Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Albion firefighters would take place from 5:00-7:30 p.m. and on Friday, Nov 15 the Albion Chamber of Commerce would be holding its monthly Eggs N’ Issues breakfast at the American Legion from 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Comr. Frisbie reminded everyone to drive carefully during the first snowfall.

17. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY

Res. 235-2018

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Hatcher to retire to closed session to discuss labor negotiations strategy.”

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

The Board retired to Closed Session at 8:25 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:04 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

slh

Chairman

Clerk to the Board