

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

April 9, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02 p.m., Tuesday, Apr. 9, 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, King, and Frisbie

Excused: Comr. Vette

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox, Human Resources Director Kim Archambault, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, 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. King leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Res. 50-2019

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the agenda of the Apr. 9, 2019 Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Mar. 21, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular Session

Res. 51-2019

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Smith to approve the minutes of the Mar. 21, 2019 Regular Session as presented."

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

There was none.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sheriff Matt Saxton invited the Commissioners to the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9 at North Avenue Church of God. Sheriff Saxton explained that there would be a catered dinner provided paid for with the funds raised for the Employee Award Program.

Road Department Managing Director John Midgely explained that the recommendation for the Primary and Local Paving Bid item on that night's agenda was to award the bid to Lakeland Asphalt. Mr. Midgely stated that Lakeland Asphalt was a pre-qualified MDOT contractor and their bid was \$228,000 less than the next bidder. Managing Director Midgely stated that staff had indicated that Lakeland's quality of work had improved over the past couple of years and that staff would be present to monitor work going forward.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. National County Government Month Proclamation

National County Government Month - April 2019
"Connecting the Unconnected"

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties provide health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, through National Association of Counties President Greg Cox's "Connecting the Unconnected" initiative, NACo is demonstrating how counties deliver "people-centered" services to our residents nationwide; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County offers numerous programs and initiatives focused on helping its citizens including the most vulnerable such as the Treasurer's Offices tax assistance initiatives, Calhoun County Veterans Relief and multiple Senior Services funded programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Steve Frisbie, Chair of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2019 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Signed,

Steve Frisbie

Chair, Board of Commissioners

Res. 52-2019

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the National County Government Month Proclamation as presented.”

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

2. 2019 Equalization Report

Equalization Consultant Roger McEvers explained that the Equalization Department recommended that every parcel of property be equalized as assessed. Mr. McEvers reviewed the year over year valuation summary, pointing out that the assessed value for all real and personal property in Calhoun County was approximately \$4.5 billion, representing a 3.8% increase over the previous year; and the County taxable value was \$3.7 billion, which was a 2.9% increase over 2018.

In regard to the history of equalized and taxable values, McEvers stated that the County was back to the same point as 2008, which demonstrates a strong real estate market. He added that the residential average market value per parcel was 6% greater than 2018, at an average of \$100,000. He pointed out that Albion City traditionally had the lowest average in the County but saw a 13% increase in 2018.

Mr. McEvers stated that the agricultural assessed value experienced a half-percent decrease with Albion Township at a 9.1% decrease, caused by an exemption on pollution control on pre-existing livestock buildings. He added that Burlington Township had a 10.2% increase attributed to \$2M in new construction.

Contractor McEvers explained that industrial property represented 13% of the total personal equalized value, which was a large decrease from 2015 when it was 50% of the total, and that utility personal property rose from 35% in 2015 to almost 63% for 2019. Mr. McEvers pointed out that in 2019 industrial personal property was now 1.7% of the County’s total real and personal property, decreasing from 9.1% in 2015.

Res. 53-2019

“Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the 2019 Equalization Report as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

There was none.

B. Resolutions

There was none.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Tompkins stated that the Calhoun County Planning Commission met on Monday, Mar. 25 and reappointed Dan Livingston for a three-year term. He added that the Commission recommended for approval the Bedford Township zoning tax amendment on solar energy systems, Lee Township zoning tax amendment on Ag District and Schedule of Regulations and three PA 116 applications in Burlington Township. Comr. Tompkins shared that the Senior Millage Allocation Committee met on Friday, Apr. 5 and Michelle Williamson and Chuck Asher from Community Action presented the services they offer to seniors. He added that the Committee approved supplemental funding in the amount of \$292,500 to eliminate the waiting list for the Minor Home Repair Program and a \$5,000 mini-grant application from Neighborhoods, Inc.

Comr. Miller stated that he attended a Marshall Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) board meeting and they discussed the project to replace the water main and gas lines in Downtown Marshall, with an expected start date of May 16 and completion date of Sept. 13.

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 stated that the county-wide transit study held its first "visioning workshop" on Thursday, Mar. 21, where consultants and key stakeholders discussed current and future transit needs in Calhoun County. Ms. Scott shared that Tom Tarkiewicz convened the regional City, Village and County manager's group ("border bandits") meeting on Thursday, Mar. 28 and discussed medical marijuana policies, potential economic development funding for roads and bridges and employee recruitment and retention ideas. Administrator Scott stated that Community Development reported the Recylcerama event took place on Saturday, Apr. 6 and was a huge success, with volunteers unloading more than 700 cars. Ms. Scott concluded her report by sharing that Road Department lifted the seasonal weight restrictions in Calhoun County on Monday, Apr. 8 that were put in place to protect local roads when they are most vulnerable during freeze and thaw cycles.

B. New Business

1. 2019 Extended Consultant Contract for Equalization Services for Roger McEvers

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott explained that this was an extended/amended contract for Equalization Contractor Roger McEvers for services provided to the County on an as-needed basis after his anticipated retirement in May. She expressed appreciation for Mr. McEver's leadership over the department and in helping with succession plans. She also acknowledged and thanked Deputy Equalization Director Tom Scott and Equalization Director Matthew Hanson, who were in the audience.

Comr. Frisbie thanked Mr. McEvers for his accomplishments.

Res. 54-2019

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Miller to approve the 2019 extended and amended professional services agreement with Roger McEvers for the period June 1 through December 31, 2019, as presented."

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

2. MDOT Contract #19-5092 Flashing Beacon Installation

Ms. Scott stated that this was a request for approval of a standard contract with MDOT for safety beacons to be installed in Pennfield and Emmett Townships. Administrator Scott explained that it was 90% federally funded and that the Road Department was only responsible for \$3,000 of the \$30,000 project.

Comr. Miller asked if the Road Department had used historical data to determine the need for the installation of the beacons.

Road Department Managing Director John Midgely stated that they had and the beacons were being installed because of accidents that had taken place at the intersections.

Comr. Frisbie further stated that the beacons were being installed and the rumble strips were being removed in an effort to address concerns from neighbors regarding the noise the rumble strips created.

Res. 55-2019

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Michigan Department of Transportation Contract # 19-5092 as presented and authorize the Board Chair and Administrator/Controller to sign the contract on behalf of Calhoun County."

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

3. Bridge Resolutions

Ms. Scott stated that this was an annual resolution from the Road Department for request of funding on the priority bridge replacement and repair projects. Administrator Scott explained that the 2019 request was for eight bridges (Raymond Road, 11 Mile Road, three Old 27 bridges,

15 Mile Road, 13 Mile Road and 14 Mile Road) and funding would take place in 2022 and required a five percent match from the County.

Res. 56-2019

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Smith to support the proposed improvement of eight National Bridge Inventory (NBI) bridge structures, approve the resolutions as presented and authorize the Road Department to seek funding assistance for the preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement of said structures through the State of Michigan Department of Transportation Local Bridge Program, which shall administer the project as part of the Local Agency Program, and to authorize the County Administrator to sign all documents necessary to carry out the administration of the Program on behalf of Calhoun County.”

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

4. 2019 Primary and Local Paving Bid

Ms. Scott explained that this item was the recommended bid award to Lakeland Asphalt that Managing Director John Midgely discussed during Elected/Appointed Officials Comments.

John Midgely explained that the Road Department received several bids and Lakeland was low bidder by \$228,000. He added that he was very confident that the Road Department could ensure the quality by being onsite at the road projects and in the plant. Mr. Midgely stated that it was a requirement that Lakeland complete the remaining 2018 work before they started 2019 work.

Ms. Scott clarified that the Road Department only worked with pre-qualified bidders and that the Engineers’ expected bid was just under \$2M and Lakeland’s bid was 10% lower than the anticipated bid amount. She explained that the second closest bid was 13% higher than Lakeland’s and that she was confident that Mr. Midgely was very focused on ensuring accountability and the quality of work performed.

Comr. Miller expressed concern that Lakeland Asphalt was allowed to bid based on previous issues with work and stated that he was not supporting the recommendation.

Res. 57-2019

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the award of the 2019 primary and local paving bid to Lakeland Asphalt as presented.”

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

5. Resolution for Transportation Economic Development Grant Application

Ms. Scott explained that this item was a resolution of support for the Road Department to seek funding assistance in 2021 through the Transportation Economic Development Fund for work along Raymond Road from Michigan Avenue to G Drive North. Administrator Scott stated that it was a \$350,000 grant that required a \$150,000 match.

Res. 58-2019

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Smith to support the improvement of Raymond Road from G Drive North to Michigan Avenue, and seek funding assistance for said improvements through the Michigan Department of Transportation’s Transportation Economic Development (TED) Fund Category F Grant Program.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Sheriff Saxton stated that earlier that day he extended a promotion offer to Deputy Chris Young to become Sergeant and he had accepted effective Friday, May 3.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Tompkins stated that he attended the Senior Services Senior Fair that was held on Thursday, Apr. 4 and that it was a great success with 600 to 700 seniors in attendance. Comr. Tompkins thanked the Senior Services staff for all of their hard work.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

A. Claims Payable for March 15, 2019 through April 2, 2019 in the amount of \$6,494,512.12

Res. 59-2019

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Smith to approve Claims Payable for March 15, 2019 through April 2, 2019 in the amount of \$6,494,512.12 as presented.”

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Tompkins stated that on Thursday, Apr. 9, Starr Commonwealth’s 3rd Annual Night of the Starrs would take place at its Historical Albion Campus from 6-9 p.m., the next Homer’s All-In Community Breakfast would be Friday, Apr. 10 from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at Homer Schools and Friday, Apr. 19, Albion’s Eggs N’ Issues would be held at the Albion Department of Public Safety Station Number One from 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Comr. Frisbie stated that his friend was a retired Pharmacist and volunteered by collecting medication at the Recyclerama event on Saturday, Apr. 6 and that over 800 lbs. of prescription medication was accepted with 7,000 doses of controlled substances. Comr. Frisbie congratulated Sheriff Saxton on the recent announcement that Haley Atkins and Sheriff's son Landon Saxton were recently named Pennfield Exchange Club's Students of the Year.

Comr. Tompkins stated that Sheriff Saxton attended the Albion/Homer Substance Abuse Coalition that morning and received an award for his outstanding service combatting drug abuse in Calhoun County.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

slh

Chairman

Clerk to the Board