

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 6, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02 p.m., Thursday August 6, 2020 via Zoom Meeting and aired live on YouTube.

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

Present: Comrs. Tommy Miller, Gary Tompkins, Kathy-Sue Vette, Rochelle Hatcher, Jake Smith, Steve Frisbie and Derek King

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, Human Resources/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Road Department Managing Director John Midgley, Communications Manager Lucy Blair and Deputy Clerk Susan Connolly

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

After a moment of silence Comr. Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Res. 118 -2020

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Vette to approve the agenda of the August 6, 2020 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the July 16, 2020 Board of Commissioners Regular Session

Res. 119-2020

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Minutes of the July 16, 2020 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

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

## 6. CITIZENS' TIME

Melinda Weaver, Deputy County Treasurer, advised the Board of her cell phone number shown in the Zoom participant list just for identification purposes.

Judith Douglas, who was not successful in participating via Zoom during the meeting, submitted via email dated Friday, August 7, 2020, the following public statement and requested it be included in the record for Citizens' Time, in relation to the Proclamation honoring National Women's Suffrage Month:

### Acceptance of Calhoun County Proclamation

Think of it!! The right to vote. We take it for granted; some of us don't even bother to vote. The Women's Rights Movement began in 1848. Seventy-two years later, women gained the right to vote. That right has been ours now for one hundred years.

On behalf of the Battle Creek Branch of AAUW, the American Association of University Women, thank you so much for this Proclamation honoring National Women's Suffrage Month. One hundred years ago, in August of 1920, the 19th Amendment was passed, and women were given the right and responsibility to add their voices to the dialogue making choices for our country and for its government.

What may surprise you is that AAUW was not immediately involved in this voting issue so many years ago. Our story began in 1881 when a small group of college educated women joined together for the purpose of encouraging more women to pursue higher education and helping them to advance in their careers. In 1885, one of our first research projects was to debunk the prevailing myth that college impaired a woman's fertility. We've come a long way since then, supporting the efforts of such women as Dr. Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize, and Judith Resnik, the second American woman in space. Throughout our history, we have awarded countless grants and scholarships, nationally and locally, to help advance causes for women and, coincidentally, for humanity.

Now, back to the suffrage issue....Although many members of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, as we were first called, supported the principal of women's suffrage, they did not express that support, because it deviated from the stated mission of the group. If they supported suffrage, they feared they would be stretched too thin and would be unable to attract new members or conserve their membership. Remember, there were few college graduates who were women, and possible members, at the time. Through the years, however, members began to accept that, as educated women, they had a civic responsibility which could only be carried out if they had the right to vote. Consequently, in 1914, the members supported a resolution that called for the branches to "study the issue." When the Association met the following year, after that short time of cautious study, they supported the issue of women's suffrage by a vote of 247 to 19.

Their resolution read:

Recognizing that, under our government, education in both its academic and social aspects, is controlled by the electors, be it Resolved that we, as a body of college women dedicated to the promotion of education and desirous of furthering our ability for usefulness, favor suffrage for women.

Five years later, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution passed, ensuring that no one would be denied the right to vote because of sex.

Our Battle Creek Branch of AAUW was very young at the time, having been formed in 1917, but I'm sure there was great rejoicing at this act.

Today, in our community, we continue to provide scholarships, award grants, encourage reading and learning, and even host a candidates' forum occasionally. I would like to think that we always vote.

We are so honored to accept this Proclamation from the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners on behalf of not only the Battle Creek Branch of AAUW, but on behalf of all those brave women who rallied, picketed, and were jailed in their fight to ensure that all our citizens have the right to vote.

Thank you very much!

Judith Douglas, President-elect  
August 6, 2020

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Helen Guzzo, Calhoun County Senior Services Manager, noted that the countywide Senior Millage ballot proposal passed on Tuesday, August 4 with a vote of 82 percent approval rating. She thanked the commissioners and the county administrator for their support. Helen also thanked Richard Lindsey and Sherii Sherban from the Senior Times who chaired the Renew for Seniors campaign and a Senior Millage Allocation Committee member Diane Peters who was treasurer. Helen Guzzo stated that in 2010 the millage passed with a 79 percent approval rating.

Helen Guzzo stated the Miriam Burch Adult Day Care Center has not reopened; it is the only program that is not back and running. She added that the Heritage Commons in Marshall and the Forks Senior Center in Albion are currently closed but are engaging members with calls. She also noted that the Senior millage has expanded its funding of food distribution programs and Meals on Wheels.

Ms. Guzzo added that on July 27 the County Purchasing Department issued a Request For Proposals for Senior Millage strategic projects from a new fund that uses unbudgeted personal property tax reimbursement and FireKeepers Revenue Sharing Board revenues. She noted that the County is making seven hundred thousand dollars available for projects, between five thousand and twenty fifty thousand to support creative one-time solutions and one-time enhancements to programs and so this is not an ongoing program.

Doug Ferrell, Parks Manager, advised that the Parks millage ballot proposal passed at 61 percent approval. He noted that he met with the Parks and Recreation Commission for initial discussion about the election results and to get a plan moving forward. Mr. Ferrell indicated that over the next few the weeks and months he will be meeting with Kelli Scott and Finance to finalize the millage plans for 2021.

Chairman Frisbie congratulate the clerks on how well the countywide election was handled. He congratulated those who had opposition in the Primary Election as well.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Presentation

Res. 120-2020

Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Counties Steve Currie gave a presentation about the organization's work during the pandemic and current legislative priorities.

Mr. Currie outlined the makeup of the MAC Board of Directors, noting that they continue to hold Board meetings virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed the various Executive Orders related to social gatherings and reminded the Commissioners to consider attending the upcoming MAC 2020 virtual conference.

2. Presentation of audit by Nathan Balderman of Rehmann

Res. 121-2020

Nathan Balderman of Rehmann presented the County's 2019 Audit, which was completed and submitted to the state by the deadline of June 30, 2020.

Mr. Balderman noted that despite the necessity to conduct the audit remotely this year, Calhoun County was able to complete their audit without an extension request, which was not the case for several other counties in the region.

"Moved Comr. Tomkins, second by Comr. Vette to accept the audit by Rehmann as presented."

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

3. National Women's Suffrage Month Proclaiming August 2020 as "National Women's Suffrage Month" In Celebration, Recognition and Honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution

Comr. Smith read the proclamation into record:

WHEREAS, the bold, courageous and powerful women who fought for the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920, deserve special celebrations, especially on the 100th anniversary of its ratification in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment did not guarantee suffrage for all women, including Native Americans who did not gain the right to vote until 1924. For Asian Pacific Islander Americans it was 1952. African-American and Latin Americans suffered voter suppression until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and 1975; and

WHEREAS, the fact that today women are active in local, state and national government and are running for office in unprecedented numbers reminds us that we all follow in the footsteps of these resolute American suffragists: and

WHEREAS, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution has played an important role in advancing the right of all women

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims August 2020 as "National Women's Suffrage Month", celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States;

Signed,

Steve Frisbie  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

Res. 122-2020

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Vette to proclaim August 2020 as the National Women’s Suffrage Month as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. City of Albion Resolution to Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis

B. Resolutions

1. Appointment of and Contract for County Representative for Remonumentation Grant

Res. 123-2020

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Vette to approve the consent agenda as presented.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette provided an update on the executive committee for Summit Pointe, noting that Board Member Deb Davis resigned since she no longer resides in Calhoun County. Commissioner Vette also noted that Ms. Davis had been serving as the secretary, and that at the August Board meeting Dr. Terence Lunger was elected to fill the position.

Commissioner King stated the Board of Commissioners Budget Committee had a virtual meeting on August 6. He stated the budget for 2021 will reflect a reduced level of revenue due to the pandemic. He stated there has been positive feedback to the FireKeepes Local Revenue Sharing Board from local units of government for the extra allocations of \$5,000 per municipality this year.

Commissioner Miller reported on livestock shows related to the Calhoun County fair and its cancellation this year.

Commissioner Frisbie noted that the budget process was nearly completed for the Health Department for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners prior to the department’s fiscal year start on October 1.

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 shared her excitement for the success of the renewal of the Senior Millage and the new Parks Millage. The work of Helen Guzzo, Doug Ferrell, Richard Lindsey and Jen Bomba and others were recognized.

She reported that the SWMBH Substance Use Disorder Policy Oversight Board met July 20 and that Calhoun County is represented by Commissioners Vette and Tompkins.

Ms. Scott stated that the Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MAEDA) Board met on July 21 and that subsequent to that meeting a new CEO, James Durian was announced.

Scott reported that the Summit Pointe Board met on August 4 and approved contracts to implement new financial software and related to a national grant along with the acquisition of real property in a closed session.

She added that the Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) Board met on July 31 and approved a new timeline for the 2020 grant application process, which was delayed due to COVID-19 and school districts being closed. She noted that the NAHF Board hopes to have that process completed by the end of November.

B. New Business

1. Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Intergovernmental Contract

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott stated that this was a three-year renewal of the existing contract with SWMBH and that no substantive changes were included. She reminded the Board that this contract sets forth the Policy Oversight Board that approves annual PA2 alcohol tax budgets that provide for substance use disorder prevention and treatment services to county residents. She added that there were 8 counties within a state-designated region required to contract with a regional entity such as SWMBH to oversee federal and state funding as well as the local PA2 tax dollars.

Res. 124 -2020

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the renewed Intergovernmental Contract between Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Regional Entity (“SWMBH”), Barry County, Berrien County, Branch County, Cass County, Calhoun County, Kalamazoo County, St. Joseph County and Van Buren County, as presented, and authorize the County Board Chair to sign the contract.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6. Comr. Smith – Abstain. Motion **CARRIED**.

2. 2019 Act 51 Financial Report

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott stated that the Act 51 Report for the Road Department for the fiscal year ended December 2019 was required to have Board approval. She noted that Act 51 governs the state appropriations to road agencies and that MDOT requires the county Board to certify the submission. She added that this report summarizes the financial condition of the Road Department and its operations for the previous year.

Res. 125-2020

“Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Vette to approve the submission of the Calhoun County Road Department Annual Financial Report (Act 51) to the State of Michigan, as presented, and authorize the County Board Chair to sign the contract.”

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

### 3. Calhoun County June 2020 Financials

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott mentioned that the presented financial statements are through June, halfway through the fiscal year. She noted that as previously reported, on the revenue side the County is approximately 1.5 million dollars lower than last year, mainly due to COVID-19. Scott added that expenses are also down by approximately six hundred thousand dollars, noting the savings from items such as limited building occupancy and furloughs.

#### Res. 126-2020

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the June 2020 Financial Statements, as presented.”

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

### 4. 2020 Mid-Year Budget Amendments

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott stated that the annual mid-year budget amendment was being brought before the Board according to Policy 275, and that line item detail for both the General Fund and other budgetary funds requiring adjustments were included with notes provided by Deputy Controller Megan Banning. She noted that in summary the County’s General Fund adjustments would not require use of Fund Balance as long as the Coronavirus (CARES Act) funding applied for would be approved. She also called attention to numerous notes indicating line items affected by the reduction of county services to the public during COVID-19, especially reduced state and local revenues.

#### Res. 127-2020

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Vette to approve the FY 2020 Mid-Year Budget Amendments for the General Fund and several Special Revenue funds, as presented.”

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

### 13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Julie Pioch, Regional Director of the County’s MSU Extension office, commended Calhoun County’s leadership for successful communication throughout the COVID-19 response period and noted that the collaboration shown within the Joint Operations Center was noticeably more effective than



arrangements she has seen in other counties. She noted that there will be a Youth Virtual Option within 4-H to showcase the projects for the fair for judging in mid-August.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Miller announced that Burlington Township passed a new two-mill road millage. He added that he hoped the County would work with each township representative going forward. Comr. Miller commented he is waiting for a response from the County's Corporation Counsel to questions he has asked.

Comr. Frisbie congratulated Comr. Miller on his victory in the Primary Election on August 4. He also congratulated Kelli Scott and the Finance Team for financial and employee decisions related to the pandemic.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res. 128-2020

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Vette to approve Claims Payable for July 10, 2020 through July 30, 2020 in the amount of \$3,573,729.63 as presented."

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

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Chairman

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Clerk to the Board