

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

April 12, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 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. Jake Smith, Steve Frisbie, Derek King, Tommy Miller, Gary Tompkins, Kathy-Sue Vette, and Rochelle Hatcher

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, 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. King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Res.056-2022

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Miller to approve the agenda of the April 12, 2022, Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 17, 2022, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.057-2022

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2022, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Daryl Cummins with Tekonsha Fire Department expressed concerns regarding road and bridge infrastructure.

Residents of Battle Creek and Homer Township shared concerns regarding road projects and tree removal.

Pam Lasley introduced herself noting her pending appointment with the Calhoun County Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC).

Executive Director Tha Par pf the Burma Center thanked the Board for their consideration to approve the Center’s ARPA funding request for a facilities improvement project that will help the Burma Center to become ADA compliant.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS’ COMMENTS

Sheriff Steve Hinkley introduced Sergeant Rob Owen who was nominated for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Michigan National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and noted others honored within a recent law enforcement award event.

Senior Services Manager Helen Guzzo provided an update from the Senior Services Department and mentioned items listed on the Board of Commissioners meeting agenda.

Calhoun County Land Bank Authority Executive Director Krista Trout-Edwards shared information of the upcoming community advisory committee meeting on April 23 for the Washington Heights neighborhood.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. 2022 Equalization Report and Resolution

Comr. Frisbie introduced Matt Hansen, Equalization Director, and Tom Scott, Deputy Equalization Director. Mr. Scott provided an overview of the 2022 report and resolution.

Res. 058-2021

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Miller to approve the 2022 Equalization Report and Resolution as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

B. Proclamation – Limb Loss Awareness Month

Comr. King read the Proclamation on the record:

LIMB LOSS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the Amputee Coalition in celebration of Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month (LLLDAM), April 1-30, 2022. Themed, “Your Ordinary is Extraordinary,” LLLDAM spotlights the limb loss and limb difference community and the vital need to support efforts that advance equitable medical access, care, and coverage; and

WHEREAS, the obstacles that people living with limb loss and/or limb difference must overcome are no easy feats. As they adapt to a new way of living, amputees experience victories daily in simple areas of life. During 2022 LLLDAM, celebrate the small and big wins within our community. LLLDAM would like our community to know, “Your Ordinary is Extraordinary;” and

WHEREAS, by approaching each day of life with the fundamental willpower to thrive, our community members champion human strength by persisting. COVID-19 has exacerbated mental, physical, emotional, and social problems for all humans, and while our community members experienced grave setbacks during this time, they still find ways to thrive. It may seem so ordinary as amputees go about their lives, but their ordinary is extraordinary; and

WHEREAS, locally, Kingdom Builders Worldwide hosted on April 7, 2022, their first event in partnership with AMP Strong Warriors and the Disability Network to recognize Limb Loss Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County acknowledges April 2022 is designated Limb Loss Awareness Month and celebrated around the world as a time to recognize those living with limb loss and limb difference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Steve Frisbie, Calhoun County Board Chair, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as Limb Loss Awareness Month.

Dated this 12th day of April 2022

Signed by Steve Frisbie, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.059-2022

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the *Proclamation – Limb Loss Awareness Month*, as presented."

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

C. Proclamation – National County Government Month

Comr. Vette read the Proclamation on the record:

**NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH - APRIL 2022
"COUNTIES THRIVE"**

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs serving more than 315 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe, and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties provide public 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, wellbeing, and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Larry Johnson, NACo is demonstrating how "Counties THRIVE," especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; 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 continues to provide important services to help our community thrive, including key initiatives in the following areas:

- **Technology** – The Calhoun County Broadband Task Force is striving to equip all of our residents with broadband internet access and bridge the digital divide
- **Health** – The Calhoun County Public Health Department has provided successful leadership in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing its strategies and prepare for future needs in order to improve our residents’ overall health and well-being
- **Readiness** – Calhoun County’s Human Resources Department has increased training for our leadership and for all employees to support our workforce in gaining the skills they need to be healthy, to be inclusive and to be equipped to serve residents during this ever-changing workforce climate.
- **Infrastructure** – The County Board of Commissioners has appropriated significant federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward facility improvements, workplace redesign and COVID-19 supporting policies to strengthen our resilience for both physical and human infrastructure. Voters approved a new Parks Millage in 2020 that has helped improve both County-owned and other municipal parks in new ways to increase recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors.
- **Vulnerable communities** – Initiatives such as developing a countywide public transit system, appropriating ARPA funds to address housing needs through the Calhoun County Land Bank’s leadership, help those behind in taxes through the Treasurer’s leadership, services provided by our Veterans Affairs and Senior Services Offices, and our COVID-19 Joint Operations Center partnering with the City of Battle Creek are examples of goals to increase equity, strengthen the safety net and ensure that our residents have the help they need
- **Economic opportunities** – The County’s Community Development Office has increased their support for economic development agencies and other local governments across the county to create conditions for all of us to compete in the 21st century economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Steve Frisbie, Calhoun County Board Chair, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools, and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Dated this 12th day of April 2022

Signed by Steve Frisbie, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.060-2022

“Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Vette to approve the *Proclamation – National County Government Month*, as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Resolutions from Other Counties to Be Acknowledged:
 - a. Iron County re: Return to In-Person Work for State Employees
 - b. Grand Traverse County re: Auto Insurance Reform
 - c. Grand Traverse County re: Support for Ukrainians

B. Resolutions

1. Calhoun County Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) Appointment
 - a. Pamela Lasley, to fill remainder of Jill Booth's term (Term ending April 30, 2023)
2. Calhoun County Board of Public Health Reappointment
 - a. Mark Crawford, Public Health Board Vice-Chair (Term ending December 31, 2023)
3. Contract with ERG Environmental Services and Revocation of Prior Bid Award
4. Local Road Project Agreements with Burlington Township to Return to Gravel R Drive South and 9 ½ Mile Road
5. Amendatory Michigan Department of Transportation State Trunkline Maintenance Contract #2021-0340/A1

Res.061-2022

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Consent Agenda of the April 12, 2022, Board of Commissioner's Equalization Session, as presented."

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Tompkins shared that the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Board met for their first annual meeting with the election of officers.

Comr. Tompkins stated that the Senior Millage Allocation Committee met at the Burma Center and heard an overview of the Burma Center's services.

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 that the Broadband Task Force held its regular monthly meeting on April 7. She reminded the Board that the County has engaged national consultants CTC Technology and Energy to conduct a feasibility and cost study, and the Task Force learned about the project timeline and finalized project objectives.

Kelli Scott reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission met on April 7 and discussed 2021 millage allocation reports and 2022 allocation requests. She added that Deputy Community Development Director Doug Ferrall provided information about ongoing grants for the development of the Ott Biological Preserve and Kimball Pines parks, and janitorial and lawn maintenance contracts.

Administrator/Controller Scott expressed her condolences to Comr. Tompkins whose father recently passed away.

B. New Business

1. Contract Amendment for Supplemental Senior Millage Funding for Senior Services, Inc. for the Handy Helper Program.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott explained that this funding will come out of the Senior Millage fund balance, and that the Handy Helper program helps older adults with simple home maintenance and home chores up to a program limit of \$400.

Ms. Scott added that because heavy demands for snow plowing in January and February 2022 for recipients in the Meals on Wheels program, the Handy Helper program has already helped 69 older adults and this supplemental request will prevent the establishment of a waitlist for program services for the rest of the year.

Res.062-2022

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Contract Amendment for Supplemental Senior Millage Funding for Senior Services, Inc. for the Handy Helper Program, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

2. PA2 Alcohol Tax Budget Amendment for Prevention Services for FY 21/22.

Ms. Scott reported the PA2 Alcohol Tax budget, together with State Block Grant funds through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), supports residential and outpatient treatment, and prevention services for Calhoun County residents to address and prevent substance use disorders.

Kelli Scott added that this amendment will provide for additional funds already approved by the County Board in 2021 to be dedicated to the two prevention services providers in Calhoun County, whose funding would otherwise be reduced from what they requested due to shortfalls in state funding.

Res.063-2022

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Miller to approve the PA2 Alcohol Tax Budget Amendment for Prevention Services for FY 21/22, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Abstain - 1, Comr. Smith.
Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Health Department Authorized Staffing Allocation Request.

Kelli Scott explained that the CCPHD, aligning with the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment, recognizes the importance of expanding services within the community to increase access to care, reduce substance abuse harms, improve maternal and child health, and communicate the value of public health. County Administrator/Controller Scott noted the request of one Health Educator II and one Public Health Nurse is necessary to assist in staffing the new mobile unit that was approved by the Board of Commissioners previously and is still on order.

Res.064-2022

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Health Department Authorized Staffing Allocation Request, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher. Motion **CARRIED**.

4. Prosecuting Attorney's Office Authorized Staffing Allocation Request.

Ms. Scott reminded the Board that in March of 2020, the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the Prosecutor's Center for Excellence to conduct a Staffing and Workload Analysis of the Calhoun County Prosecuting Attorney's Office with the goals of recommending appropriate staffing levels, improvements, and efficiencies in response to the PA Office continued concern over their staffing levels.

Scott added that following the consultants' report, County Administration is recommending and the Internal and Board of Commissioners Budget Committees support an increase of two (2) APA positions and funding of one (1) current vacant, unfunded paralegal position for a net increase of three (3) total positions.

Prosecutor Dave Gilbert was present to answer any questions by the board.

Res.065-2022

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Prosecuting Attorney's Office Authorized Staffing Allocation Request, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher. Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Information Technology Department Authorized Staffing Allocation Request.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott noted Assistant County Administrator, Brad Wilcox, has been working on a reorganization plan for the Information Technology (IT) Department which has increasingly taken on expanded responsibilities and duties spanning across the entire organization. She added that this proposed reorganization plan is also supported by County HR / Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, who assisted with updating all job descriptions and obtaining market wage data for all IT positions.

Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox and IT Director Dave Hackett were present to answer any questions.

Res.066-2022

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Smith to approve the Information Technology Department Authorized Staffing Allocation Request, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

6. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Appropriation Phase 4 Resolution.

Ms. Scott reported the American Rescue Plan Act, officially made into law in March of 2021, has allowed for allocations of Government funds to multiple entities, including Counties, across the Country in an effort to respond to the Public Health, social and negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kelli Scott noted Calhoun County has been awarded a total of \$26 million, to be used for response efforts that fall into specific categories including: Public Health Emergency Response, Negative Economic Impact, Services to Disparate Impacted Communities, Essential Worker Premium Pay, Government Services to the Extent of Lost Revenues, and Infrastructure for Water, Sewer and Broadband.

Administrator/Controller Scott provided a detailed description of each project being proposed for funding.

Comr. Smith expressed concerns regarding the process used to arrive at these recommended projects for funding and motioned to table the vote.

Res.067-2022

"Moved Comr. Smith, second by Comr. Miller to table the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Appropriation Phase 4 Resolution."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 2, Comrs. Smith and Miller.
No - 5, Comrs. Tompkins, Vette, Hatcher, Frisbie, and King.
Motion **DENIED**.

Res.068-2022

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Vette to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Appropriation Phase 4 Resolution, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
No - 2, Comrs. Miller and Smith
Motion **CARRIED**.

7. Road Department Contract Award for Union City Culvert Project.

Kelli Scott shared that the Calhoun County Road Department agreed to fund the replacement of the culvert on the Miller & Melody Drain under Union City Rd. between O Dr. S and P Dr. S in Burlington Township.

Ms. Scott noted two eligible bids were received and a third bid was not eligible as they are not an MDOT pre-qualified contractor.

Res.069-2022

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Road Department Contract Award for Union City Culvert Project, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

8. Veteran's Affairs Millage Renewal: Ballot Language Approval.

Ms. Scott shared the proposed resolution authorizes the renewal of an existing .10 mill tax to fund Veterans affairs services and financial aid which proposal renews the millage at the same rate as previously approved at the November 6, 2012.

Res.070-2022

"Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Veteran's Affairs Millage Renewal: Ballot Language Approval, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

9. New County 911 Funding Millage: Approval of Ballot Language.

Kelli Scott reported the CCCDA Board of Directors has proposed a new .98 mill county wide tax to fund 911 services which approval of the proposal only places the issue on the ballot for a decision by the electorate. The proposal is for a ten-year term.

Executive Director Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority Mike Armitage was present. Mr. Armitage noted operational needs for a uniform radio system for all first responders.

Commissioners discussed current radio communication concerns, reliability across the county and hardships a new millage would bring to their constituents.

Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer provided a legal explanation behind the proposed language presented.

Res.071-2022

"Moved Comr. Vette, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the New County 911 Funding Millage: Approval of Ballot Language, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 4, Comrs. Frisbie, King, Vette, and Hatcher.
No - 3, Comrs. Smith, Miller, Tompkins.
Motion **CARRIED**.

13. CITIZENS' TIME

Lane Landis of Homer provided correspondence related to road construction within Homer Township.

14. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Comr. Tompkins expressed appreciation for condolences related to the loss of his father.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res.072-2022

"Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Vette to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for March 10, 2022, through April 5, 2022, in the amount of \$11,352,102.90, as presented."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7, Comrs. Smith, Frisbie, King, Miller, Tompkins, Vette, and Hatcher.
Motion **CARRIED**.

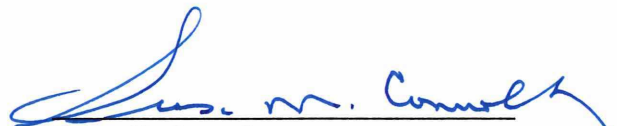
16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Tompkins announced numerous Easter events.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc


Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners