

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 20, 2024**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 302 – ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
**COUNTY COMPLEX**  
**255 CLAY STREET, LAPEER, MI 48446**

Chairman Gary Howell called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Conference Room 302 in the Administration Office on the Third Floor of the County Complex.

Members Present: Commissioners Gary Howell, Truman Mast, and William Hamilton.

Others: Moses Sanzo, County Administrator/Controller; Jackie Arnold, CFO; and Doreen Clark, Administration Office Manager; Stephanie King, Chief Animal Control Officer; Russ Adams and Carla McCormick, Lapeer EMS.

**AGENDA**

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 22, 2024 Policies & Procedures Committee meeting were reviewed.

**Motion by Mast, supported by Hamilton, to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2024 Policies and Procedures Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**EMS - DRAFT BALLOT LANGUAGE**

Mr. Russ Adams and Carla McCormick from Lapeer EMS was present to further review the draft renewal ballot language for the countywide EMS Services ballot language, which also includes a small increase. This version includes the statutory language for being a renewal and the new additional amount, which cannot be expired in order to be considered a "renewal." He also reported that they are still meeting with a few DDA/TIFA district representatives to determine if any will be capturing a portion of the millage funds. He stated that the City has expressed they will be capturing, but the Village of Otter Lake meeting is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>. Lengthy questions and discussion followed. It was a consensus of the Committee that this matter be placed on the April 11<sup>th</sup> COW Agenda and that EMS provide their final ballot language prior to that meeting. Moses stated that he will then have the County's legal firm also review it. The deadline for ballot language is: April 11<sup>th</sup> COW (final draft review); April 18<sup>th</sup> (EMS Approval); April 25<sup>th</sup> (BOC Full Board Approval); Deadline to County Clerk is May 12<sup>th</sup>. Further discussion followed regarding the impact of the Headlee Rollback. Mr. Adams stated he will provide a document with the bullet points on the proposed rates and rollback impacts.

**Motion by Mast, supported by Hamilton, to refer the draft proposed ballot language for county-wide emergency medical services to the April 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole, contingent upon the final figure adjustments by Equalization Department and a legal review by the County’s corporate counsel, The Kelly Firm. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REVISED DRAFT ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

The revised draft Animal Control Ordinance with the changes and clarifications from our legal counsel, The Kelly Firm, was reviewed and discussed. The clarifications included ground feeding to deter people from feeding stray cats in more populated areas, defining accessory structures, and a few others were reviewed based on discussions from the previous committee meeting. Questions and discussion followed. It was noted that Chairman Kohlman would not be present at the next Committee of the Whole so it can be forwarded directly to Full Board.

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to recommend to the April 25, 2024 Full Board Meeting, and based on the recommendation of the Policies and Procedures Committee and the County’s legal counsel, The Kelly Firm, to approve and adopt the revised Lapeer County Animal Control Ordinance and Fee Schedule, as attached and to authorize the publication of said ordinance on the County’s website and a notice in a local newspaper of general circulation; and further, that the ordinance will be effective 30-days following said posting and notice. Motion carried unanimously.**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OPPOSING P.A. 233**

Committee Chairman Howell reviewed the draft Resolution Opposing Public Act 233 of 2023 which would support the statewide ballot initiative, Citizens for Local Choice, a grassroots coalition of local officials and community organizers across Michigan working to amend the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act and repeal Part 8 of PA 233 to restore local control of land use to ensure reasonable regulation in our widely diverse communities. He also recommended that the Board use this same type of formatting for all future resolutions to be consistent. Questions and discussion followed.

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to recommend to the Full Board, pursuant to the recommendation of the Policies and Procedures Committee, to adopt the following Resolution Opposing Public Act 233 of 2023 and to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chair to sign said resolution:**

**LAPEER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Resolution Opposing Public Act 233 of 2023  
Resolution NO. 2024-R06**

**WHEREAS,** citizens, through their local governments are best able to assess the needs of their communities and should be allowed to determine what plans and projects are appropriate; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Michigan legislature has passed, and the governor has signed Public Act 233 of 2023, which strips away local control of utility scale wind and solar projects and places control with the Michigan Public Service Commission; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Lapeer County Board of Commissioners, will do everything it legally can to prevent special interests from taking away local control from our citizens.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners expresses its strong disapproval of Public Act 233 which takes away local zoning control from our communities; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners supports the statewide ballot initiative, Citizens for Local Choice, a grassroots coalition of local officials and community organizers across Michigan working to amend the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to, among other things, repeal Part 8 as added by Public Act 233 of 2023 which would restore local control of land use to ensure reasonable regulation in our widely diverse communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to all Michigan counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Governor, and all of our State Representatives and State Senators that represent Lapeer County.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOME SCHOOLING**

Commissioner Hamilton reviewed the draft Resolution in Support of Home Schooling. This matter was referred to the Committee for consideration. Brief questions and discussion followed.

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to recommend to the Full Board, pursuant to the recommendation of the Policies and Procedures Committee, to adopt the following Resolution Opposing Public Act 233 of 2023 and to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chair to sign said resolution:**

#### **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LAPEER COUNTY AS A "FREEDOM TO HOMESCHOOL" COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2024-R03**

**WHEREAS,** it is the parent(s) fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of *their children*, this right is protected by the U.S. Constitution and Michigan Constitution; and,

**WHEREAS,** Article VIII, Section 1 of the Michigan Constitution states: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged"; and,

**WHEREAS,** Section 380.10 of the Michigan Revised School Code states: "It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children"; and,

- WHEREAS,** parental rights include, however are not limited to, making decisions regarding children’s education and health care in a manner consistent with their family values, and parents must do so to promote *their* children’s general health and well-being as well as their right to direct the education of *their* child, be it public, homeschooling, private or parochial education; and,
- WHEREAS,** according to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Due Process Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment protects parental rights. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that they are fundamental rights; and,
- WHEREAS,** parents have every right to seek accountability, choice, and transparency in *their children’s* education, and that Government officials must be held accountable for what’s promoted to children; and,
- WHEREAS,** no single form of education can meet the needs of all students or families; and,
- WHEREAS,** the lower a student-to-teacher ratio is, the greater the ability to individualize education for an individual student becomes, as well as a better outcome; and,
- WHEREAS,** Homeschooling offers profound flexibility in how education is delivered to students, as well as open ended opportunities to customize and individualize education around learning styles, interests, moral and religious beliefs and life goals of the student; and,
- WHEREAS** no teacher or institution can know or love a child more than a child’s parent(s); and,
- WHEREAS** Statistics show that Homeschooled students have consistently shown above-average results on all standardized tests and are likely to be at least one grade ahead of public-school students; and,
- WHEREAS,** State Superintendent Michael Rice has asked the Michigan Legislature for a Homeschool Registry. This is a violation of Parental rights and privacy that would result in placing barriers that would have an intimidating adverse effect while placing obstacles and unnecessary restrictions on those wishing to Homeschool their children in Lapeer County; and,
- WHEREAS,** Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has stated she supports “monitoring” the private homes of Homeschoolers to inspect their private properties, a blatant violation of our 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** by the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners, that the County of Lapeer, Michigan, be, and hereby is, declared to be a “Freedom to Homeschool County,” and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that this board affirms its full support for the right of parent(s) to educate *their children*, and that freedom of educational choice will lead to the best possible outcome for each individual student.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners call upon our Lapeer County Sheriff and Lapeer County Prosecutor to defend our 4<sup>th</sup> amendment constitutional rights on this matter and specifically any efforts by the those outside our county that may result in any attempt to force warrantless searches of the homes and properties of Homeschool families.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners shall not authorize or appropriate new funding, resources, employees, agencies, contractors, buildings, detention centers or offices for the sole purpose of enforcing any statute, law, rule, order, or regulation that restricts the rights of parents to Homeschool *their children*.

**BE IT FURTHER ESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan State Senators; Ruth Johnson and Kevin Daley, Michigan State Representatives; Greg Alexander, Phil Green, Jamie Greene and the other 82 County Board of Commissions in the State of Michigan, U.S. Congress Representative, Lisa McClain, U.S. Senators; Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, Lapeer County Sheriff Scott McKenna, Lapeer County Prosecuting Attorney John Miller, and all County Department Directors.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **DOCUMENT/RECORDS RETENTION POLICY**

Moses Sanzo, County Administrator, gave an update and advised the Committee that there were some language in the draft Policy that came from the previous meeting that needed to be added to include District Court and a clarification with regards to Health Department and reviewed those changes.

It was a consensus of the Committee that there were no objections to the revisions and that the appropriate attachment with the reflected corrections be included and forwarded to the Clerk's Office when the draft motion from the last meeting goes before the Full Board.

### **OTHER BUSINESS – VETERANS SERVICES DRAFT BALLOT LANGUAGE**

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to amend the Agenda and include discussion on the draft ballot language for the Veterans Affairs Services millage. Motion carried unanimously.**

Administrator Sanzo gave an update regarding the draft Veterans Services Ballot Language for the August primary. He stated that he sent our legal counsel, The Kelly Firm, the draft language from Pete Kirley, Veterans Affairs Director. They are still in the process of reviewing it, and Veterans will be getting a clarification from his Board and will then send out letters to the local DDA's/TIFA districts to determine if they will be capturing any of the millage monies. Questions and discussion followed.

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to recommend and refer to the April 25, 2024 Full Board Meeting, the final draft Veterans Services Millage ballot language contingent upon the appropriate figures from the Equalization Department, review by our legal counsel, and approval by the Veterans Affairs Board. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

**Motion by Hamilton, supported by Mast, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. 4:07 p.m.**

Gary Howell, Chairman  
Lapeer County Policies and Procedures Committee

Minutes prepared by: Doreen Clark, Office Manager