

LAPEER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
****FIRST MEETING OF THE OCTOBER SESSION****
October 26, 2023
9:00 A.M.

Chairman Kohlman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers on the lower level of the County Complex Building. Commissioner Haggadone opened the meeting with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present:	Tom Kohlman	District #1
	Kevin Knisely	District #3
	Brad Haggadone	District #4
	Truman Mast	District #5
	William Hamilton	District #6
	Bryan Zender	District #7
Absent:	Gary Howell	District #2

AGENDA

The agenda and draft minutes from the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and October 2, 2023 Budget Hearings were reviewed.

295-2023

Motion by Knisely, supported by Haggadone, to accept the agenda with the addition of the first public time, a discussion regarding the Community Mental Health CEO Position, the Lapeer County MSU Extension Agreement for services, and the deletion of a closed session. Motion carried.

296-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Knisely, to approve the September 28, 2023 Regular Board minutes as presented. Motion carried.

297-2023

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Zender, to approve the September 28, 2023 Regular Board minutes and the October 2, 2023 Budget Hearings as presented. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Dana M. Miller, County Treasurer introduced Jeff Lewis, Owner, and James Rutherford, GIS Coordinator of North Arrow Technologies.

Moses Sanzo, County Controller/Administrator introduced the newly appointed Animal Control Chief, Stephanie King.

PUBLIC TIME – four people spoke during public time.

298-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to establish an Information Technology (I.T.) Committee as a regular sub-committee of the Board effective immediately, and that the following members be appointed:

Committee Voting members:

Tom Kohlman – Chairman

Kevin Knisely – Commissioner

Bill Hamilton – Commissioner

Moses Sanzo – Administrator/Controller

Jackie Arnold – Chief Financial Officer

John Bustle – Buildings & Grounds/Parks Director

Jeremiah Brown – IT Services at 911 Dispatch

Non- voting member:

Mike Bartley – Founder/Owner of ASI

Motion carried.

299-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Corrections Grant, so that the Thumb Area Regional Community Corrections Advisory Board (TARCCAB) can provide Community Corrections Service, for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, as submitted; and further, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said Grant. Motion carried.

300-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), in the amount of \$5,542.00, at no additional cost to the County General Fund; and further, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said Grant. Motion carried.

301-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to accept the Fiscal Year 2024 Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA) award for various senior programs and services, and to authorize the Health Department Director to electronically sign the contract, and that a copy be forwarded to the County Clerk, to be entered into the Official Record as an exhibit. Motion carried.

302-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to authorize the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department to submit the Corrections Officer training Grant for the 3rd calendar year, at no additional cost to the County General Fund. Motion carried.

303-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, to adopt the 2023 Lapeer County Apportionment Report (L-4402) as prepared by the Equalization Director; and further, to authorize the report to be sent to the State of Michigan. Motion carried.

304-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, to authorize payment to Shifman Fournier, in the amount of \$1,575.00, for labor related legal services rendered through September 30, 2023, to be paid from line item 101-239-801.020. Motion carried.

305-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, to authorize payment to the Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA) in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the local match contribution for Fiscal Year 2024, to be paid from line item 276-102-957.000. Motion carried.

306-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Goodland Township’s PA 116 Application submitted by applicant, Keeping Farms, LLC, for Section No. 24 Town No. 8N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-009-024-004-20, approximately 36 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

307-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #01 submitted by applicant, Keeping Farms, LLC, for Section No. 24 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-024-003-10, approximately 73 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

308-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #02 submitted by applicant, Keeping Farms, LLC, for Section No. 24 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-024-001-10, approximately 72.22 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

309-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #03 submitted by applicant, Spencer Living Trust Gordon & Elaine, for Section No. 11 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-011-012-00, approximately 157 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

310-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #04 submitted by applicant, Spencer Living Trust Gordon & Elaine, for Section No. 14 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-011-013-00, approximately 78 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

311-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Knisely, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #05 submitted by applicant, S & B Farms, LLC, for Section No. 5 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-005-014-00, approximately 74 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

312-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Knisely, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #06 submitted by applicant, S & B Farms, LLC, for Section No. 14 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-014-005-00, approximately 77.5 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

313-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Knisely, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #07 submitted by applicant, S & B Farms, LLC, for Section No. 17 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcel #44-001-017-004-20, approximately 186 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

314-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, pursuant to motion 290-2023 of the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, to enter into the official record the following action taken at the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole:

“Motion by Howell, supported by Hamilton, that the Lapeer County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of Almont Township’s PA 116 Application #08 submitted by applicant, S & B Farms, LLC, for Section No. 18 Town No. 6N, Range 12E, Parcels #44-001-018-020-00 and #44-001-018-021-00, approximately 152 acres for a period of 10 years, and on October 12, 2023 recommends approval of said application. Motion carried.”

Motion carried.

315-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to approve the purchase of the proposed office furniture for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, at a cost not to exceed \$11,856.00, from the contingencies budget line for said department. Motion carried.

316-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to add Commissioner Haggadone as the third member of the Recycling Sub-Committee (aka Solid Waste Planning Committee), with the other members being Commissioners Howell and Kohlman. Motion carried.

317-2023

Motion by Mast, supported by Knisely, to approve North Arrow Technology Incorporated to convert Lapeer County’s mapping information into the new Esri Mapping Software at a cost not to exceed \$80,000.00, to be paid for from Delinquent Tax Fund, at no additional cost to the County’s General Fund. Motion carried.

318-2023

Motion by Mast, supported by Hamilton, pursuant to the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to amend the Table of Organization for the Probate/Family Court Office to add one additional part-time (up to 29 hours/week) Probation Officer position (#TBD, Pay Grade 18) to meet the needs of the Truancy/Delinquency Program due to the increase of referrals and caseload, to be funded 75% by the Child Care Fund budget; and further, to authorize the posting and filling of said position. Motion carried.

319-2023

Motion by Mast, supported by Zender, pursuant to the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to authorize the Health Department to amend their Table of Organization to add and hire two temporary non-regular part-time General Clerk positions (#TBD, Pay Grade 13, up to 28 hours per week) for the purpose of scanning/digitalizing old paper records for a period of 6-months, to be paid from a workforce grant, and at no additional cost to the County’s General Fund. Motion carried.

320-2023

Motion by Mast, supported by Hamilton, to authorize the Health Department to amend their Table of Organization to add and hire one regular part-time Sanitarian or Registered Sanitarian position (#TDB, Pay Grade 18 or 19, up to 28 hours per week) for the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program (SESC), to meet program needs and compliance requirements, which will be paid from a workforce grant and at no additional cost to the County's General Fund. Motion carried.

321-2023

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Knisely, based on the recommendation of the Policies and Procedures Committee, to adopt the Lapeer County Social Media Policy, as submitted, and to authorize the County Administrator to proceed with notification to all staff and the appropriate unions pursuant to their bargaining labor agreements, with the intended implementation date of the new policy to be effective on November 16, 2023 or as deemed appropriate by the Administration Office. Motion carried.

322-2023

Motion by Knisely, supported by Zender, to accept the sole bids from Family Building Company and authorize the Building and Grounds/Parks Department to proceed with the Upgrades to the County Parks projects as advertised in the Request for Proposal and as specified in the attached Bid Tabulations by 2A Architects, as follows:

Torzewski County Park	Bid Amount \$ 244,000.00
General Squier Memorial Park	Bid Amount \$ 253,000.00

And further, to note that there were eight contractors who pulled the blueprints for the proposed projects but only one submitted bids, which were complete, and that the project be paid from Fund 281 (expense category 2.11). Motion carried.

323-2023

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Haggadone, pursuant to the recommendation of the Broadband Committee, to adopt the following Resolution:

LAPEER COUNTY
RESOLUTION 2023-R10
BROADBAND MIDDLE MILE PROJECT

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, have gone on the record that high speed broadband is a top infrastructure priority; and,

WHEREAS, broadband is the only true future proof internet access technology available today, is an essential component of everyday life in the 21st century, and is defined as a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload; and,

WHEREAS, in Lapeer County alone 62% of households reported not having any connectivity to broadband at their homes; and,

(Resolution 2023-R10 continued)

WHEREAS, in Lapeer County, 77% of Broadband Survey respondents with internet access reported not having the minimum of 25mb download/3 mb upload speeds to be considered a broadband connection; and,

WHEREAS, in Lapeer County, 98% of Broadband Survey respondents with internet access reported not having the modern standard of 100mb download/20mb upload speeds to be considered a broadband connection; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need for reliable high speed broadband internet access at homes and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the digital divide is exacerbating the homework gap and learning for students without broadband access at home; and,

WHEREAS, educators are burdened with having to develop instruction for students both with and without high-speed broadband at home; and,

WHEREAS, lack of broadband access stifles entrepreneurship and attraction of both businesses and talent; and ,

WHEREAS, lack of broadband access negatively impacts economic development, property values, personal prosperity, education, health and safety and overall quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, farmers rely on high-speed broadband to monitor their crops, maintain their essential and costly equipment as well as tracking commodity prices, promoting agri-tourism and selling their products; and,

WHEREAS, having broadband access enables cost savings in many areas of personal commerce, yielding hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in overspending by those without broadband; and,

WHEREAS, communities without broadband have difficulty leveraging capabilities like TeleHealth, online banking, virtual meetings, working remotely and distance learning; and,

WHEREAS, broadband access can combat the isolation experienced by our seniors and those living alone by enabling them to stay connected to family and friends; and,

WHEREAS, broadband is an essential infrastructure that has heretofore been allowed to operate as an unregulated monopolistic utility resulting in a lack of competition; and,

WHEREAS, the broadband coverage data reported by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Form 477, is self-reported by incumbent service providers and aggregated to the census block level making the data unreliable and lacking in the granularity needed for accurate coverage inferences; and,

WHEREAS, special assessment districts are not allowed for communication infrastructure; and,

(Resolution 2023-R10 continued)

WHEREAS, wireless solutions are a line of site technology that cannot reach everyone; and,

WHEREAS, 5G is a wireless technology that only enhances existing internet service and requires high speed fiber optic cable towers every 328 feet; and,

WHEREAS, building large scale cell towers is prohibitively expensive and must be fed by fiber optic anyway; and,

WHEREAS, satellite isn't a viable solution due to low data limits, high lag times and diminished or dropped connectivity; and,

WHEREAS, data caps make true unlimited access to high-speed connectivity unaffordable; and,

WHEREAS, "Unlimited" data plans throttle speeds down to a crawl at unreasonably low use thresholds necessitating expensive data add-ons to maintain a level of connectivity with minimal lag time and buffering; and,

WHEREAS, incumbent internet service providers (ISPs) such as Verizon, Comcast, Charter, Frontier, SBC and AT&T not only lobby against measures supporting expansion of Michigan's high speed fiber network into less densely populated areas but also refuse to expand into or provide access to their high-speed fiber optic infrastructure in these under and un-served communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners urges Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, Michigan's State Legislators and Michigan's Congressional Delegation to support affordable and reliable high-speed broadband access.

Roll Call vote: Hamilton, aye; Howell, absent; Knisely, nay; Mast, nay; Zender, nay; Haggadone, aye; Kohlman, nay. 2 ayes, 4 nays, 1 absent. Motion failed.

324-2023

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Zender, pursuant to the recommendation of the Broadband Committee, to authorize the release of an RFI (Request for Information) to potential ISP providers (internet service providers) in order to determine interest in the proposed broadband project. Motion carried.

325-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, to authorize the publication of the required budget hearing notice in a newspaper of general circulation regarding the proposed 2024/2025 biennial budget, which will be held on November 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; and further, to give the November 9, 2023 Committee of the Whole the authority to act regarding approval of the 2024 and 2025 biennial budgets through the adoption of the annual General Appropriations Act Resolution, both of which was previously specified in the adopted revised budget calendar. Motion carried.

326-2023

Motion by Mast, supported by Knisely, to enter into the record the County's Audit Motions for September 28, 2023, October 6, 2023 and October 20, 2023 and also the Road Commissions Audit Motion for disbursements dated October 5, 2023 and October 19, 2023. Roll Call vote: Mast, aye; Howell, absent; Knisley, aye; Zender, aye; Haggadone, aye; Hamilton, aye; Kohlman, aye. 6 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

The Board was given notice of up-coming terms which expire December 31, 2023.

Building Authority – 1 three-year term327-2023

Motion by Knisely, supported by Zender, to appoint James Hebb to serve on the Building Authority, for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried.

District Library Board – 2 four-year terms328-2023

Motion by Knisely, supported by Hamilton, to appoint Kari Kohlman and John DeAngelis each to serve on the District Library Board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried.

Genesee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Region V Planning and Development Commission (GLS Region V) 1 one-year term329-2023

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Knisely, to appoint William Hamilton to serve on the Genesee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Region V Planning and Development Commission (GLS Region V) for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Veterans Affairs Committee – 2 *Newly added positions – four-year term330-2023

Motion by Knisley, supported by Haggadone, to appoint Gabriel Lossing for a four-year term, expiring December 31, 2027 and Gary Howell to a one-year partial term ending December 31, 2024, to allow for staggered terms. Motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding the process for hiring the new CEO of Community Mental Health.

331-2023

Motion by Mast, supported by Haggadone, to reject the appointment of the recommended candidate as the Executive Director made by the Community Mental Health Board on October 19, 2023, pursuant to MCL 330.1226, Mental Health Code, Section (k), subsection (3), which requires 2/3 votes of the County Board of Commissioners. Roll Call vote: Mast, aye; Zender, nay; Haggadone, aye; Hamilton, aye; Howell, absent; Knisely, aye; Kohlman, aye. 5 ayes; 1 nay; 1 absent. Motion carried.

332-2023

Motion by Zender, supported by Hamilton, to approve the Agreement for Extension Services, as submitted by Lapeer County MSU Extension; and further, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said agreement. Motion carried.

PUBLIC TIME – Four people spoke during public time.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

At this time, the Commissioners had an opportunity to give brief reports on meetings and conferences that they have recently attended, as well as upcoming meetings and events, along with statements regarding public time comments.

ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER UPDATES

Moses Sanzo, County Controller/Administrator inquired of the Commissioners how they would like to proceed with the Schedule of Meetings through the end of the year.

333-2023

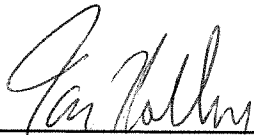
Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, to cancel the meeting scheduled for November 22, 2023, and to add a Regular Board Meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 30, 2023. Motion carried.

334-2023

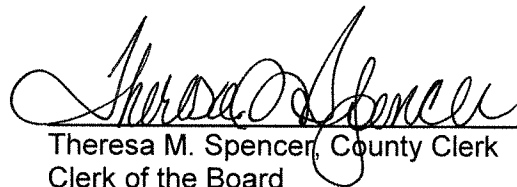
Motion by Zender, supported by Knisely, to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 28, 2023, and to add a Regular Board Meeting to be held at 9:30 a.m. on January 4, 2024. Motion carried.

335-2023

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Haggadone, to recess the meeting. Motion carried. 11:06 a.m.



Tom Kohlman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners



Theresa M. Spencer, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board