

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**December 14, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Chairman Kohlman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Commission Chambers on the lower level of the County Complex Building. Commissioner Mast opened the meeting with a prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Commissioners Truman Mast, Bryan Zender, Brad Haggadone, William Hamilton, Gary Howell, Kevin Knisely, Tom Kohlman

Others: Moses Sanzo, County Controller/Administrator, Jackie Arnold, Chief Financial Officer, Lynette Groves, Secretary/Deputy County Clerk

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Knisely, to approve the agenda with the addition of a motion regarding the Community Mental Health CEO Position, Solid Waste direction to the County Controller/Administrator, change in appointment to the Recycling Committee, a change to an end date of a Veterans Affairs appointed term, and the deletion of a closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by Howell, supported by Mast, to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

**Elected Official/Department Head Updates**

Lauren Emmons, C.E.O., Community Mental Health gave a brief update regarding his Department.

Stephanie King, Animal Control Division Chief gave a brief update regarding her department.

Emil Joseph III, Friend of the Court wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and stated that he would be giving a statistics report after the first of the year.

**Public Time** – two people spoke during public time.

Motion by Howell, supported by Haggadone, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to approve the Attorney-Client Fee Agreement between the County of Lapeer and The Kelly Firm, PLC, for General/Legal Counsel Services for a period of three years, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026; and further, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said agreement. Motion carried.

Motion by Zender, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said the Grant Agreement for the Fiscal Year 21 Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement (CFDA# 97.067), that were approved and accepted to reimburse the County for the renewal of the NIXLE Alerting services through March of 2024 (258-2023). Motion carried.

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Zender, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to accept the 2024 Animal Welfare Fund Grant administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and rural Development Michigan Department Agricultural Rural Development (MDARD); and further, to authorize the County Controller/Administrator to electronically accept the grant and a copy be forwarded to the County Clerk to be entered into the official record. Motion carried.

No action was taken regarding the appointments to the Agricultural Preservation Board.

No action was taken regarding the appointments to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

No action was taken regarding the appointments to the Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

#### **Emergency Management Advisory Council - two-year term**

Motion by Knisely, supported by Haggadone, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to re-appoint Jeremy Howe, Mike Vogt, Kathy Haskins, Kimberly Goldorf, Phil Kaatz, Jeremy Compau, Ted Sadler, Mike Boskee, and Marilyn Szost (alternate for Kathy Haskins), to serve on the Emergency Management Advisory Council, for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025. Motion carried.

No action was taken regarding the appointment to the Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA) Executive Board.

Motion by Knisely, supported by Hamilton, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to authorize payment to Shifman Fournier, in the amount of \$1,740.00, for labor related legal services rendered through November 30, 2023, to be paid from line item 101-239-801.020. Motion carried.

Motion by Zender, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to authorize the renewal of the Workers Compensation Service Agreement with Comprehensive Risk Services, LLC, for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025, for the annual amount of \$29,850.00 each year (with the cost to be shared 38% as Lapeer County's portion and 62% as Lapeer County Medical Care Facility's portion) for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025, to be paid from line item 101-242-713.000, with the understanding that this motion authorizes the Finance Department to process the payments as outlined; and further, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said agreement. Motion carried.

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to approve the following documents from Municipal Employees' Retirement System related to placing the seven (7) County Commissioners from the other Elected Officials division 13 into their own separate Defined Contribution Division, which includes a Division Benefit freeze to Defined contribution with the conversion option, per the request of the Board of Commissioners, as submitted:

- Resolution Adopting the MERS Defined Contribution Plan (1 page)
- MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement (5 pages)
- Contribution Addendum for MERS Defined Contribution (2 pages)
- Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement (7 pages)
- Addendum for Plan Closures, Freezes and Conversions (5 pages)

and further, to authorize the Chair/Vice-Chair to sign said documents, with each document being entered as an official exhibit.

Roll Call vote: Haggadone, aye; Zender, aye; Hamilton, aye; Howell, aye; Knisely, aye; Mast, aye; Kohlman, aye. 7 ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Zender, supported by Hamilton, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, pursuant to the written notification given to Prosecuting Attorney John Miller in Board Motion #189-2023 on June 22, 2023, of the Board's intent to seek alternate corporate counsel services, to terminate the Engagement of General/Civil Legal Counsel services agreement that was previously approved in motion #77-21, effective December 31, 2023, with the understanding that this will also eliminate the additional \$17,000.00 stipend allocated to John Miller for corporation counsel services; and further, that this Board wishes to extend sincere appreciation to Mr. Miller for his services over the last three years. Motion carried.

Motion by Mast, supported by Knisely, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, pursuant to the recommendation of the Properties Committee, to approve the installation of security cameras on the exterior of the Community Mental Health Building

and Harmony Hall, to be paid for by Community Mental Health Funding, at a cost not to exceed \$15,500.00, at no additional cost to the County General Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Hamilton, supported by Knisely, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to adopt the following Resolution, as amended, in support of Broadband expansion in Lapeer County:

**RESOLUTION REGARDING  
BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS  
2023-R12**

**WHEREAS**, in Lapeer County, 77% of Broadband Survey respondents with internet Access and Visitation Contract 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 and Visitation Contract reported not having the modern standard of 100mb download/20mb upload speeds to be considered a broadband connection; and,

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners urges Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to leverage their resources, be future-focused and expand high-speed internet access to all residents of Lapeer County, Michigan.

Roll Call vote: Hamilton, aye; Haggadone, aye; Howell, aye; Knisely, aye; Mast, aye; Zender, aye; Kohlman, aye. 7 ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Zender, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to rescind motion 331-2023 of the October 26, 2023 Regular

Board Meeting, and give Community Mental Health Authority to appoint Brooke Sankiewicz, as the new Chief Executive Officer. Motion carried.

Motion by Haggadone, supported by Hamilton, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to allow the County Controller/Administrator to contact all surrounding counties about the possibility of a recycling partnership. Motion carried.

Motion by Howell, supported by Haggadone, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to accept the Chairman's recommendation to change the members of the Recycling Committee to be Commissioner Howell, as Chair, Commissioner Zender, and Commissioner Haggadone as members. Motion carried.

Motion by Howell, supported by Mast, pursuant to motion 368-2023 of the November 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, giving the Committee of the Whole the authority to act, which shall include forwarding the motion to the next regular meeting to be entered into the record, to corrected expiration date regarding the appointment of Gabriel Lossing, from motion 330-2023 of the October 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, to the Veterans Affairs Committee as December 31, 2026. Motion carried.

**Public Time** – two 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.

### **County Controller/Administrator and/or Chief Financial Officer updates**

Moses Sanzo, County Controller/Administrator stated that it has been a privilege for him to work and learn with the Commissioners for the last few months and looks forward to the new year. He also noted that next week the Administration Office will be under a casual dress code.

Motion by Mast, supported by Haggadone, to adjourn the meeting. 10:33 a.m.

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Tom Kohlman, Chairman  
Committee of the Whole