

**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners  
Committee of the Whole  
Monday, October 11, 2021 – 8:00 A.M.**

Commissioner Bardwell called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building in the City of Caro, Michigan, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person:

- District 1 - Thomas Young
- District 2 - Thomas Bardwell
- District 4 - Douglas DuRussel
- District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw (arrived at 8:07 a.m.)

Commissioner Absent:

- District 3 - Kim Vaughan

Others Present in-Person:

- Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Bob Baxter, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Damian Wasik, Phil Petzold, Sandy Nielsen, Pam Shook, Mark Ransford, Alice Vermeersch, Dan Skiver, Cody Horton

Also Present Virtual:

- Kim Brinkman, Maggie Root, Heidi Chicilli, Tracy Violet, Cody Horton, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Mark Haney, Mike Slade, Mary Drier, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Alecia Little, Barry Lapp, Tara Hofmeister, Alecia Miller, Joe Verlin, Alex Petrick

At 8:06 a.m., there were 16 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**County Updates** - None

**New Business**

1. Tuscola County Central Dispatch 9-1-1 2020 Annual Report – Sandra Nielsen, Director, presented the 2020 Annual Report. Board would like Sandy to prepare a report of the number of calls that the various Ambulance Services have handled as well as the number of hours in service. Acceptance of annual report to be placed on the Consent Agenda. Matter of review of ambulance services to be added to Thursday's agenda.
2. 9-1-1 Network Public Safety Infrastructure Reauthorization House Bill 5026 – Sandy Nielsen, Director, reviewed the proposed House Bill and she is requesting the Board to adopt a resolution. Board would like information on where the House Bill is at in the legislative process. Matter to be added to Thursday's agenda.

3. 2022 Attorney Contract to Represent Alleged Developmentally Disabled Individuals received from Chief Judge Gierhart – Clayette Zechmeister presented the request which is the same amount from the year before and the same Attorney. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
4. Sheriff Update of Recruitment – Undersheriff Bob Baxter updated the Board regarding the current vacant positions which there are two candidates being recommended to send to training.
5. Refilling Two Vacant Road Patrol Officer Positions – Correspondence from Undersheriff Bob Baxter – Two candidates, Marcus Armstrong and Jonathon Perry, were presented for approval to attend the academy in January 2022. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
6. ACW (Akron, Columbia, Wisner) Ambulance Board – Pam Shook and Alice Vermeersch presented to the Board regarding their Ambulance providing service outside of their service area. Phil Petzold provided information on MMR's service area and Medcom as their dispatch provider. Board discussed the matter at length and the impact that could be experienced by the residents of Tuscola County. Matter to be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting.
7. Request for Proposals (RFP) for Medical Plans Results - Daniel Skiver, Brown & Brown, presented to the Board the financial summary of the medical proposals that were received. Mr. Skiver is recommending continuing with the current provider of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Matter to be added to Thursday's agenda.
8. Michigan Counties Workers' Compensation Dividend Check – Clayette Zechmeister provided the amount of reimbursement received which was in the amount of \$17,118.00.
9. 2020 Audit Presentation – Joe Verlin, CPA, CGFM, Gabridge & Company, presented to the Board the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2020. Tuscola County has again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award. The Financial Highlights were reviewed and Mr. Verlin reported the County was in better standing at year end of 2020 than 2019. Board discussed the difference in the report received from MERS versus the report received from Gabridge regarding the funding of retirement program for county employees. Acceptance of the financial report to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Recessed at 10:21 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

At 10:32 a.m., there were 22 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **Old Business**

1. County Space Needs – 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) – Mike Miller reviewed the revised Draft RFP. Judge Amy Grace Gierhart explained how the court could utilize the flexible space being proposed. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

2. 2022 Unified Court Budget Additional Personnel Request – Board discussed the request received from Chief Judge Amy Grace Gierhart. Clayette reviewed the Human Resources processes completed in the Controller’s Office. Board would still like to have Braun, Kendrick prepare a legal opinion. Board discussed reaching out to Cole, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. for an additional legal opinion on the issues outlined in the memo.
3. Multiple Court Administrative Orders for Tuscola County Courthouse Face Mask Policy – Clayette reported that the SCAO rule relates to the courtrooms and court offices. Her report is that the public area and non-court offices would not fall under the Courthouse Face Mask Policy. Clayette is still waiting on the legal opinion from Braun, Kendrick regarding this matter. Matter to be placed on Thursday’s agenda. There was a legal opinion issued on September 23, 2021 regarding the matter to be provided to the Commissioner’s prior to Thursday’s meeting.
4. Health Officer Recommendations from Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Update – Commissioner Bardwell asked regarding if the State Budget that was passed includes a provision that gave the County Board the option to overrule a Health Department Mandate which the answer was unknown. Clayette provided an update to a conversation that was held with Mr. Gonzales’ representative, Laura. Clayette reported that DHHS feels Tip Maguire does qualify due to his years of experience. Board discussed the requirement being placed upon Amanda Ertman to become certified by the State and whose responsibility it would be to pay for the additional schooling required. Matter to be placed on an upcoming agenda.
5. Building Codes Transition from South Central Michigan Construction Code Inspections (SCMCCI) to SAFEbuilt Updates – Clayette provided an update on the transition as there are contractors expressing concern over not being able to get their final permits approved by SCMCCI. The projects are too far along to have SAFEbuilt complete. Board would like to have a report from legal counsel regarding the matter on Thursday.

## **Finance/Technology**

Committee Leader Commissioner Young

Commissioner DuRussel

### **Primary Finance/Technology**

1. 2022 Budget Preparation Updates
  - a. General Fund Revenue and Inflation
  - b. Review Above and Beyond Wage Requests
  - c. Review General Fund Appropriations and Transfer Out to Other Funds
  - d. Review Equipment/Technology and Capital Fund Request

Clayette and Debbie reviewed the above and beyond requests with the Board in order to prepare a budget to be presented to the Elected Officials and

Department Heads for final discussion. Drafts should be provided for review and then added to a Committee of the Whole agenda for further discussion.

2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds – Clayette reviewed the various projects that have been submitted for ARPA projects.

### **On Going and Other Finance and Technology**

#### **Finance**

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee
2. Preparation of Multi-Year Financial Planning
3. Audit Contract for Upcoming Years
4. Cooperative Reimbursement Programs Summary from Prosecutor and Friend of the Court
5. Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel (MIDC) (matter added) – Commissioner Bardwell has received the contract back signed. Clerk Fetting will file in her office.

**Technology** – Eean Lee provided an update that his back up and recovery procedures proved to be beneficial and avoided an issue that would have caused a lot of work for recovery. All employees will be required to complete a cybersecurity training from KnowBe4.

1. GIS Update
2. Increasing On-Line Services/Updating Web Page

### **Building and Grounds**

Committee Leader Commissioner DuRussel  
Commissioner Grimshaw

#### **Primary Building and Grounds**

1. Purdy Building Security Updates – Eean Lee reported that he is still waiting on a quote for the security cameras. The front door improvement of adding security glass screen is underway.

#### **On Going and Other Building and Grounds**

1. State Police Water and Annexation
2. IT Department Space Needs
3. Adult Probation Fence – Mike Miller reported he is having difficulty getting a contractor to bid the project.

## **Personnel**

Committee Leader Commissioner Grimshaw  
Commissioner Vaughan

### **Primary Personnel**

1. None

### **On-Going and Other Personnel**

1. Workman's Compensation
2. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) 7<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Updates
3. Safety Committees – Watch for Grant Opportunities

### **Other Business as Necessary**

1. Official Call of Special Election – Jodi Fetting, Tuscola County Clerk updated the Board regarding the Call of Special Election for Indianfields Township Clerk

### **On-Going Other Business as Necessary**

1. Animal Control Ordinance – No Update.

At 1:17 p.m., there were 16 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **Public Comment Period –**

None

Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk