

**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners  
Committee of the Whole  
Monday, October 25, 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 25<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 3 - Kim Vaughan

Commissioner Absent:

District 4 - Douglas DuRussel  
District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw

Others Present in-Person:

Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Steve Anderson, Sandy Nielsen, Angie Daniels, Alice Vermeersch, Pam Shook, Scott Zimmer, Brad Essenmacher, Suzy Rockwell, Phil Petzold, Senator Kevin Daley, Kevin Wilkinson, Jim Welke, Kellie Lindsey, Tim Gardner, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Debbie Babich, Joel Welke

Also Present Virtual:

Heidi Chicilli, Debbie Babich, Mary Drier, Terry Blackmer, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Mike Slade, Kim Brinkman, Dara Hood, Steve Root, Lisa Geiger, Matthew Bierlein, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Mark Haney, Maggie Root, Tracy Violet, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Bob Baxter, Steve Anderson, Barry Lapp, Cody Horton, Sandy Nielsen

At 8:04 a.m., there were 16 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**County Updates**

-Legislative Update – Senator Kevin Daley addressed the Board with updates on HB 5026, HB 242, Resolution 85 and education bills that are being discussed and worked on. The State Redistricting Committee is scheduled to meet only two more times to accept public input. Senator Daley encourages the public to offer comments. The proposed districts are significantly different than the current district layout. The State Budget does have some verbiage included that if an agency requires mandatory vaccines that their state funding could be impacted. Michigan Renewable Energy Commission (MREC) was discussed and the Senator does feel that this is close to being resolved. The water line to the Caro

Center has been completed and the project is moving along. The matter of the Board of Commissioners being able to participate in a Board meeting virtually for reasons other than sickness was discussed.

### **New Business**

1. Air Advantage Agreement with Thumb Electric Cooperative – Scott Zimmer, President of Air Advantage and Brad Essenmacher of Thumb Electric addressed the Board regarding the business merger as Thumb Electric has purchased Air Advantage. Mr. Essenmacher said this opportunity was explored due to Thumb Electric's desire to serve their members and residents within Tuscola County. Thumb Electric has a 5-year build out plan to provide broadband. On the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) website, there is a map that will show if a person is in the R dof build out area. Thumb Electric will be listed under NRTC Consortium. <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/rdof-phase-i-dec-2020/>
2. Ambulance Calls/Coverage in Tuscola County – Phil Petzold, Mobile Medical Response (MMR), updated the Board regarding a meeting that was held to discuss providing coverage in the evening hours in the Caro area that had a positive outcome. The MMR Administration has supported staffing a vehicle during the evening in the Caro area. The need for funding was discussed and a millage for the November 2022 election is being considered. Sandy Nielsen presented information regarding the number of ambulance calls dispatched out in the evening time frame in the Caro area.
3. SAFEbuilt Updates – Kellie Lindsey and Tim Gardner, SAFEbuilt, provided an update that their phones, website and permit applications are ready for use. An office staff member has been hired. Vassar City will remain with County Building Codes. As of today, the estimated number of permits processed is 100 permits. One of the hurdles SAFEbuilt is experiencing, is they do not know what permits are open with the former building codes company. They have a plan in place to have the customer complete an additional verification step but once that is received the permitting process is able to move forward.
4. Tuscola County Apportionment Report, Angie Daniels, Equalization Director, presented the Apportionment Report. Board discussed the taxable value rate, wind turbine tax tribunal and agriculture land purchases and value. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
5. Proposed Resolution Approving the 2021 Apportionment Report – Angie Daniels, Equalization Director, requested the Board adopt the proposed resolution. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.
6. 2022 Clean Sweep Grant – Mike Miller, Building and Grounds/Recycling Director, presented the grant application request. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Recessed at 10:28 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

At 10:39 a.m., there were 20 participants attending the meeting virtually.

7. Parks & Recreation Commission – Robert McKay submitted a letter of support to include in the upcoming budget the removal of the abandoned pump house.
8. Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. Engagement Letter and Fee Arrangement – Clayette Zechmeister presented the proposed fee arrangement should the Board want to get a second opinion on various legal matters. No action at this time as closed session is pending for Thursday, October 28, 2021.
9. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) American Rescue Plan (ARP) Professional Support Firms – Clayette Zechmeister has reached out to firms that are offering professional services on ways to spend the ARPA Funds. Clayette has a meeting scheduled with Guidehouse. Commissioner Bardwell updated the Board that Huron County has contracted with Guidehouse.

### **Old Business**

-Putman Project Medical Center Water Project (matter added) – Commissioner Vaughan updated the Board regarding Caro City providing water to the Putman Project. Indianfields Township is willing to amend the 425 Agreement to include the Putman Project but Caro City is not willing to do that in the manner proposed. Board discussed the matter.

### **Finance/Technology**

Committee Leader Commissioner Young  
Commissioner DuRussel

### **Primary Finance/Technology**

1. 2022 Budget Preparation Updates
  - Review First Draft Budget Narrative
  - General Fund Revenue and Expenditures Committee Review Budget
  - Special Revenue Funds Committee Review Budget
  - All Funds Revenue, Expenditures and Estimated Ending Fund Balances
  - Draft Equipment/Technology and Capital Fund Request

Debbie Babich and Clayette Zechmeister reviewed the Narrative, General Fund Revenue and Expenditures, Special Revenue Funds, All Funds Revenue, Expenditures and Estimated Balances and Equipment/Technology and Capital Fund Request that were included in the agenda packet. The budget is being prepared with 0% wage increase and then options of wage increases were presented in the amount of 1%, 2% and 3%. Board discussed with Treasurer Bennett the Sympro Investment Software and Board agreed to move forward with the project. The 2022 Proposed Budget will be presented to the Elected Officials and Department Heads for review before the next presentation to the Board of Commissioners. The tentative date for the Public Hearing is November 24, 2021. Undersheriff Robert Baxter addressed the Board on the Traffic Accident Prevention request.

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

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee – Board discussed earlier in the meeting regarding subcontracting with a firm to help navigate through the use of the funds.
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

**Technology** – Eean Lee updated the Board that the laptop deployment to all employees has been completed and he updated the Board on success of their implantation of the Security Project.

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 – Clayette Zechmeister stated a closed session will be scheduled to review.

**On Going and Other Building and Grounds**

1. State Police Water and Annexation
2. IT Department Space Needs
3. Adult Probation Fence

**Personnel**  
Committee Leader Commissioner Grimshaw  
Commissioner Vaughan

**Primary Personnel**

None

**On-Going and Other Personnel**

1. Workman’s Compensation
2. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) 7<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Updates - Commissioner Bardwell provided an update to the possibility of District meeting. Also, an update was provided on the MAC 7<sup>th</sup> District checking account.
3. Safety Committees – Watch for Grant Opportunities

**Other Business as Necessary**

None

**On-Going Other Business as Necessary**

1. Animal Control Ordinance – No update.

At 12:10 p.m., there were 18 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**Public Comment Period –**

Clerk Fetting updated the Board that she has earned her Certified County Officer award which takes 135 training hours to achieve.

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk