

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 2020 Minutes

Electronic Meeting held via Google Meet

Electronic remote access, in accordance with the Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-154, implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

Commissioner Bardwell called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held via Google Meet on the 17th day of September 2020, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present: District 1 - Thomas Young, District 2 - Thomas Bardwell, District 3 - Kim Vaughan (excused after liaison reports), District 4 - Mark Jensen, District 5 – Daniel Grimshaw (excused at 12:27 p.m.)

Commissioner Absent - None

Also Present: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Douglas DuRussel, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Brian Neuville, Thomas Raymond, Sandy Nielsen, Heidi Chicilli, Lisa Ozbat, Jessica VanHove, James Stockmeyer, Matt Brown, Tracy Violet, Debbie Babich, Steve Erickson, Larry Zapfe, Megan Bartolowits, Bob Baxter, Barry Lapp, Robert McKay, Shannon Gwizdala, Representative Phil Green, Steve Root, Register John Bishop, Ann Hepfer, Raechel Bartolowits

At 8:14 a.m., there were a total of 30 participants attending the electronic meeting.

Adoption of Agenda -

2020-M-192

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw to adopt the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2020-M-193

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adopt the meeting minutes from the August 27, 2020 Regular Board and Statutory Finance meetings. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only -

-Wayne Koper spoke in reference to his participation in the 2020 Census.

Consent Agenda Resolution - None

New Business -

-Mosquito Abatement Update – Director Larry Zapfe provided an update on diseases related to mosquitos as well as the projected ending date for the program this season.

-Public Hearing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Commissioner Bardwell explained the process for the related public hearing.

Recessed at 8:30 a.m.

Reconvened at 8:45 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m., there were a total of 33 participants attending the electronic meeting.

2020-M-194

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to approve the closeout of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as presented by Brian Neuville. Also, all appropriate signatures are authorized. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Economic Development Commission Update – Steve Erickson provided an update on the number of grant applications that have been received and the amount that was awarded in each of the Commissioner’s Districts.

-Public Hearing Village of Reese Annexation - Commissioner Bardwell explained the process for the related public hearing.

Recessed at 9:04 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m., there were a total of 34 participants attending the electronic meeting.

-Legislative Update - Representative Phil Green provided an update on the progress of the State Budget and discussed lakeshore levels. It is expected that the State Budget should be approved in order to avoid a government shutdown.

-Public Hearing Village of Reese Annexation (continued from above) -

2020-M-196

Motion by Bardwell, seconded by Grimshaw to approve the annexation of parcel number 006-007-000-0100-02 to promote the expansion of residential housing from Denmark Township per the March 9, 2020 (Village of Reese) resolution 19-20-03 to the Village of Reese. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Request to Use Courthouse Steps - Clayette explained the request submitted by Dave Kolacz.

2020-M-197

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Jensen that per the correspondence request dated August 26, 2020 from Dave Kolacz, that permission be granted to use the Courthouse steps September 26, 2020 to hold a Rosary for our Police Officer's Safety as September 26th is National Rosary for Law Enforcement Day. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Request to Use Courthouse Steps (matter added) - Clayette explained the request submitted by Sandra Bills.

2020-M-198

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that per the phone request from Sandra Bills that permission be granted to use the Courthouse lawn on September 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 29 and 30, 2020 for the petition signing to Unlock Michigan. Roll Call Vote: Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Treasurer's Office New Hires - Clayette explained the request received from the Treasurer's Office.

2020-M-199

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Jensen that per the recommendation from Ashley Bennett, Chief Deputy Treasurer, that Echo Torrez fill the vacated Abstract Tax Clerk position effective September 21, 2020 at Step One. Echo Torrez is currently employed in the Register of Deeds office and a physical and background check are not required. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

2020-M-200

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that per the recommendation from Ashley Bennett, Chief Deputy Treasurer, that Samantha Dennis be hired for the Account Clerk III position in the Tuscola County Treasurer's Office upon favorable completion of physical and background checks pursuant to the hire date of September 28, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Register of Deeds Position Filled - Clayette explained the request received from Register Bishop -

2020-M-201

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Young that per the recommendation from John Bishop, Register of Deeds, that Grace Mosher, who is currently a part-time Account Clerk II in the Register of Deeds Office, be promoted to a full-time Account Clerk III effective September 21, 2020. This vacancy was caused by Echo Torrez accepting a position in the Treasurer's office. A physical and background check are not required. (See amended motion)

2020-M-202

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Jensen to amend Motion 2020-M-201 to include the position will start at Step One. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

2020-M-201 (as amended) -

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Young that per the recommendation from John Bishop, Register of Deeds, that Grace Mosher, who is currently a part-time Account Clerk II in the Register of Deeds Office, be promoted to a full-time Account Clerk III effective September 21, 2020 beginning at Step One. This vacancy was caused by Echo Torrez accepting a position in the Treasurer's office. A physical and background check are not required. Roll Call Vote: Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Register John Bishop informed the Board that he will be seeking a replacement for the Account Clerk II position in the Register of Deeds office.

-Update from Ann Hepfer, Health Officer – Ann Hepfer provided an update for the Board regarding COVID-19. She expressed her concern over being able to secure a location to continue drive-thru testing during the upcoming colder months. She also discussed the playing of Fall Sports and the rules the athletes and schools need to follow.

-Letter from County Counsel Regarding Elected Official Involvement with Ballot Initiatives (matter added) - Board discussed if the memo received from County Counsel should be released to the public which is against the recommendation of the county attorney. Matter to be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

Old Business -

-2020 L-4029 Tax Rate Request - Board discussed county millages.

2020-M-203

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Young to approve the 2020 Tax Rate as outlined on the L-4029 report with the inclusion of the winter millage rates that include the recently passed Mosquito Abatement millage be approved. Also, all appropriate signatures are authorized. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - no; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Adult Probation Building Fencing - Matter to be placed on the next Board meeting agenda.

-Receive and Place on File the 2019 Annual Audit/CAFR -
2020-M-204

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Young to receive and place on file the 2019 Tuscola County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Audit) as presented to the Board on August 24, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Re-opening of County Buildings - Board discussed re-opening of the Purdy Building and other county buildings. Purdy Building will reopen on Monday, September 21, 2020.

Correspondence/Resolutions

-Robert McKay submitted a letter from the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding the State proposal on the November 2020 ballot in the matter of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

GRIMSHAW - No Report
Behavioral Health Systems Board
Recycling Advisory
Local Units of Government

Commissioner Grimshaw excused at 12:27 p.m.

JENSEN
Board of Health
Community Corrections Advisory Board
Dept. of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works
Jail Planning Committee
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
MAC Judiciary Committee
MEMS All Hazard - Meeting has been scheduled.
Local Units of Government Activity Report

BARDWELL
Behavioral Health Systems Board
Caro DDA/TIFA - Caro Farmers Market Update provided
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC 7th District - Working on scheduling a meeting for October 19, 2020.
MAC Workers Comp Board - Update provided.
TRIAD
Local Units of Government Activity Report

YOUNG

Board of Public Works
County Road Commission Liaison
Dispatch Authority Board - Update provided. Sandy Nielsen provided an update on Caro MMR.
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works
Great Start Collaborative
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)
Jail Planning Committee
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)
Region VI Economic Development Planning
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
Senior Services Advisory Council
Tuscola 2020
Local Units of Government Activity Report

VAUGHAN

Board of Health
County Planning Commission
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC Environmental Regulatory
Mid-Michigan Mosquito Control Advisory Committee
NACO-Energy, Environment & Land Use
Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuscola County Fair Board Liaison
Local Units of Government Activity Report - Update provided on Caro Dam.

At 12:47 p.m., there were a total of 19 participants attending the electronic meeting.

Other Business as Necessary - None

Extended Public Comment -

-Sandy Nielsen asked if the Board Room and Committee Room would be available to use for meetings. Clayette explained that the Governor's Executive Order limits the number of people in attendance at an in-person meeting and it has to be followed.

-Doug DuRussel questioned paperwork Commissioner Bardwell forwarded to him from Wells Fargo.

-Robert McKay questioned if there was a timeline on renovations for the Board Room. Mike Miller and Doug DuRussel need to still meet to look at the Board Room. Matter to be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

Commission Vaughan left the meeting at an unknown time after his liaison report.

2020-M-205

Motion by Young, seconded by Jensen to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 1:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - absent; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - absent; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk

DRAFT
TUSCOLA COUNTY
Community Development Block Grant
Public Hearing
September 17, 2020
Google Meet

Electronic Meeting held via Google Meet Electronic remote access, in accordance with the Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-154, implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

Commissioner Thomas Bardwell called the public hearing for the Tuscola County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to order held virtually using Google Meet on the 17th day of September at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Young, Commissioner Bardwell, Commissioner Vaughan, Commissioner Jensen, Commissioner Grimshaw, Clerk Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Douglas DuRussel, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Brian Neuville, Thomas Raymond, Sandy Nielsen, Heidi Chicilli, Lisa Ozbat, Jessica VanHove, Matt Brown, Tracy Violet, Debbie Babich, Steve Erickson, Megan Bartolowits, Bob Baxter, Barry Lapp

At 8:30 a.m., there were a total of 33 participants attending the electronic meeting.

Brian Neuville presented to the Board referencing the December 31, 2017 close out of the CDBG grant program that ended. Brian explained the amount of homeowner support that was able to be provided from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. Almost the full amount of the grant was spent and there were 10 homeowners that were helped. The remaining balance will be relinquished back to the Economic Development Corporation. Brian also provided an update of how the current program is working.

Commissioner Grimshaw noted a correction in the amount listed in the report which Brian Neuville will correct before signature.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Grimshaw asked if the program requires the homeowner to repay back the funds received or if the fund amount can be forgiven. Brian Neuville explained the funds would have to be repaid and how that process works.

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw to adjourn the public hearing at 8:45 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; Jensen – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Public Hearing adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk

DRAFT
TUSCOLA COUNTY
Village of Reese Annexation
Public Hearing
September 17, 2020
Google Meet

Electronic Meeting held via Google Meet Electronic remote access, in accordance with the Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-154, implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

Commissioner Thomas Bardwell called the public hearing for the Village of Reese Annexation to order held virtually using Google Meet on the 17th day of September at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Young, Commissioner Bardwell, Commissioner Vaughan, Commissioner Jensen, Commissioner Grimshaw, Clerk Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Douglas DuRussel, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Brian Neuville, Thomas Raymond, Sandy Nielsen, Heidi Chicilli, Lisa Ozbat, Clayette Zechmeister, Jessica VanHove, Matt Brown, Tracy Violet, Debbie Babich, Steve Erickson, Megan Bartolowits, Bob Baxter, Barry Lapp

At 9:05 a.m., there were a total of 31 participants attending the electronic meeting.

Village Manager, Thomas Raymond, explained the two annexation requests presented to the Board of Commissioners. The first request is for property owned by Kathy Fricke with a parcel ID number of 006-006-000-1600-00 commonly known at 9996 Dixon Road, Reese Michigan. The second request is for property owned by Douglas Squanda with a parcel ID number of 006-007-000-0100-2 which is currently vacant land.

In reviewing the Petitions presented by the Village of Reese for each annexation requested, it was noted there was a clerical error in the legal description for Kathy Fricke's property. Manager Raymond will review his documentation to determine if the public notice was correct and the steps that will need to be taken to correct. Once that has been determined, the matter will be brought back before the Board of Commissioners.

Public Comment – None

Motion by Young, seconded by Jensen to adjourn the public hearing at 9:29 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; Jensen – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Public Hearing adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk