

## TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 14, 2021 Minutes

Meeting held via Google Meet Electronic remote access, in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 – Gathering Prohibition and Mask Order and Public Act 254 of 2020.

Commissioner Bardwell called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held via Google Meet on the 14th day of January 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Young

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present Virtual:

District 1 - Thomas Young - Columbia Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

District 2 - Thomas Bardwell - Ellington Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

District 3 - Kim Vaughan - Lake County, State of Florida

District 4 - Doug DuRussel - Tuscola Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw - Vassar Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

Commissioner Absent - None

Also Present Virtual:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Sandy Nielsen, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Mark Haney, Debbie Babich, Lisa Ozbat, Tracy Violet, Scott Romain, Mary Drier, Dr. David Stockman, Steve Anderson, Heidi Chicilli, Robert Baxter, Debbie Mika, Register John Bishop, Matt Brown, Kim Brinkman, Diane Romain, Caryl Langmaid

At 8:04 a.m., there were a total of 24 participants attending the meeting.

*Adoption of Agenda -*  
2021-M-008

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

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

*Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -*  
2021-M-009

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw to adopt the meeting minutes from the December 23, 2020 Regular Board and the January 4, 2021 Organizational meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

*Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only - None*

*Consent Agenda Resolution -*  
2021-M-010

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Resolution from the January 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adopted. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Agenda Reference:** A
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/11/21
- Description of Matter:** Move that effective January 1, 2021 the standard county mileage rate be decreased from \$0.575 per mile to \$0.56 per mile as established by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Agenda Reference:** B
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/11/21
- Description of Matter:** Move to receive and place on file the 2019 Recycling Annual Report.
- Agenda Reference:** C
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/11/21
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the recommendation of the Animal Control Director that Anthony Trevino be hired to the new Animal Control Officer Position effective January 18, 2021 at the beginning step. Pending favorable background, physical and drug screen.

*New Business (continued below) -*

-Resolution Honoring Diane Romain -

2021-M-011

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that County Resolution 2021-01 honoring Diane Romain for over 20 years of dedicated public service in the Tuscola County Treasurer's Office be approved and placed on file. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

*Old Business (continued below) -*

-Public Funds Banking Resolution - Clerk Fetting presented the proposed resolution that was discussed at the January 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2021-M-012

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan that County Resolution 2021-01 Public Funds Banking be approved and placed on file. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-MAC Leave Policy Questions - Board discussed how to handle employees needing to quarantine due to COVID exposure or positive COVID test results now that the Cares Act has expired. Matter discussed by the Board with questions that the Board discussed and would like further information on. Clayette Zechmeister noted the questions raised.

2021-M-013

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel to present the questions regarding the COVID-19 payouts for employees to the Committee of the Whole under Personnel Committee at the January 25, 2021 meeting. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Tuscola County Resolution Declaring the County a Constitutional Second Amendment Sanctuary County - Commissioners discussed the possibility of adopting the resolution.

2021-M-014

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Grimshaw that County Resolution 2021-03 Declaring Tuscola County a Constitutional Second Amendment Sanctuary County be approved and placed on file. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Legislative Update - Commissioner Grimshaw and Commissioner DuRussel met with Representative Phil Green to talk about issues affecting Tuscola County. Commissioner Grimshaw provided a report in regards to continued funding of the State Government during the pandemic, proposed legislation that affects counties, Health Department fees and other matters.

*New Business (continued from above) -*

-Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.

2021-M-015

Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel that the Board meet in Closed Session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the contents of a written legal memorandum from its attorney, which is exempted from disclosure under Section 13(1) (g) of the Freedom of Information Act, with Clay Johnson, Eric Morris, Clayette Zechmeister, Jodi Fetting and Eean Lee to be allowed to attend. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried at 10:00 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:32 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Young, Bardwell, Vaughan, DuRussel, Grimshaw

At 11:32 a.m., there were a total of 24 participants attending the meeting.

*Old Business (continued from above) -*

-Independent Provider Agreement to Provide Medical Examiner Services  
Commissioners - Commissioner Grimshaw feels it is time for a change, Commissioner DuRussel had no additional comments, Commissioner Vaughan and Young would like to gain input from Prosecutor Reene and Sheriff Skrent. Commissioner Bardwell stated that the Prosecutor and the Sheriff have been involved from the beginning. With that being said, Vaughan would not have concerns as long as they have been involved.

Dr. Stockman wants the transition to be smooth if the County decides to move away from Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine (MIFSM). Dr. Stockman has reached out to the Genesee County Medical Examiner and that person would be interested in presenting a proposal. Dr. Stockman from MIFSM feels that Genesee County would be a good option.

2021-M-016

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel to approve the proposed contract for medical examiner services with Dr. William Marrone, as presented and discussed during today's (January 14, 2021) meeting. Also moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize Chairman Bardwell to execute such agreement. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - no; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

*Correspondence/Resolutions -*

- Letters received regarding the Sanctuary County Resolution.
- Letters received regarding SCMCCI.
- Letter from Robert McKay.
- Village of Millington matter was approved.
- Wexford County Resolution in support of local business.

**COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS****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 was provided regarding the land by the Cass River, per Steve Erickson the State Land Bank is handling.

**GRIMSHAW**

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Recycling Advisory

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC) - Clayette reported that the meeting has been rescheduled to January 19th and will provide the information to Commissioner Grimshaw.

Local Units of Government - Discussed recent report issued by Dr. Fauci regarding when a peak for COVID cases will be experienced.

**DURUSSEL** - No Report

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Dept. of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MAC Judiciary Committee

MEMS All Hazard

Local Units of Government Activity Report

**BARDWELL**

Behavioral Health Systems Board - Meets next week.

Caro DDA/TIFA - Working on hiring a Farmer's Market Manager.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7<sup>th</sup> District

MAC Workers Comp Board

TRIAD

Local Units of Government Activity Report

**YOUNG**

Board of Public Works - Board Officers elected at last meeting.  
County Road Commission Liaison  
Dispatch Authority Board  
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works  
Great Start Collaborative  
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)  
Jail Planning Committee  
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee  
Region VI Economic Development Planning  
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative  
Senior Services Advisory Council  
Tuscola 2020  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Clerk Fetting excused at 11:59 a.m.

*Other Business as Necessary* - Clayette asked the Commissioners if they needed any meeting information for the local units of government. The information can be found on the County web page under Information; Local Government.

At 12:04 p.m., there were a total of 25 participants attending the meeting.

*Extended Public Comment* -

-Register John Bishop spoke in reference to the Sanctuary County Resolution and to the COVID leave policy for County employees.

-Eean Lee spoke in reference to County employees working remotely.

-Sandy Nielsen spoke in reference to the Medical Examiner's contract.

2021-M-017

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk

Caryl Langmaid  
Tuscola County  
Chief Deputy Clerk