



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Monday, March 25, 2024

H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723

Commissioner Vaughan called the special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723, on Monday, March 25, 2024, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Koch

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lutz

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: Thomas Young

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Clayette Zechmeister, Mike Miller, Jon Ramirez, Cindy Hughes, Sheila Long, Judy Cockerill, Register Marianne Brandt, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Shelly Lutz, Drain Commissioner Bob Mantey, Bob Baxter, Karley Creguer, Nola Auernhamer, ReAnna Wilkerson

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Alecia Little, Brandon Bertram, Crystal Knoblock, Debbie Babich, Jamie Nisidis, Tom Young, Katie Robinson, Shirely Schaefer, Greg Rynearson, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Martin Prozondek, Angie Daniels, Shawn Robinson, Amanda Ertman, Steve Root, Cody Horton, Renee Francisco, Kate VanAuken, Heather Malloy, Karlee Romain, Barry Lapp, Ashley Gaudett, Shannon Beach, Brenda Peters, Linda Strasz, Tim Green, Jodi Barrons

At 8:02 a.m., there were a total of 27 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2024-M-065

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

-Judy Cockerill, Deputy Clerk, spoke in support of Neil Hammerbacher.

-Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, read a statement in support of Neil Hammerbacher.

-Bob Mantey, Drain Commissioner, read a statement in support of Neil Hammerbacher.

-Ashley Bennett, County Treasurer, read a statement in support of Neil Hammerbacher.

Consent Agenda

None

New Business

1. Closed Session for Labor Negotiations -

2024-M-066

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell that the Board meet in Closed Session, pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss strategy connected with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with Jamie Nisidis with Braun Kendrick (virtual), Clayette Zechmeister, Jodi Fetting, Shelly Lutz, Robert Baxter and Eean Lee to be allowed to attend this closed session at 8:15 a.m.

Yes: Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, and Matt Koch

Absent: Thomas Young

Motion Carried.

Closed Session at 8:15 a.m.

Reconvened from Closed Session at 8:37 a.m.

At 8:37 a.m., there were a total of 31 participants attending the meeting virtually.

2. Labor Negotiations Potential Action -

Clayette Zechmeister stated the Contingency Fund has a balance of \$344,810.00 which was reserved primarily for labor negotiations. There is currently \$104,120.00 available. Approximately, half of the unassigned fund balance has been exhausted for the contingency fund.

2024-M-067

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch that Tuscola County accept and ratify the March 13, 2024 tentative agreement with the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), Correction Officer Unit. Also, further move that Chairman Vaughan is authorized to execute a final Collective Bargaining Agreement and all other necessary documents consistent with the terms of the March 13, 2024 tentative agreement with an effective date of January 1, 2024, with the exception of the Nationwide 457 which is currently being set up. The date for Nationwide to take effect will be determined upon completion of plans and enrollment. Also, all necessary budget adjustments are authorized. Motion Carried.

3. Reclassify Court Clerk to Deputy Court Clerk/Court Recorder -
Honorable Jason E. Bitzer, 71-B District Court Judge, presented the request at the March 14, 2024 meeting. Clayette Zechmeister stated the Court's budget has been reviewed and the necessary funds are available.

2024-M-068

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell that per the March 13, 2024 request from Judge Gierhart dated March 13, 2024 that Amanda Thompson be reclassified from Deputy Court Clerk to Deputy Court Clerk/Court Recorder effective December 21, 2023.

Also, approve the following 2024 budget amendments to the Unified Court Budget:

Increase:

101-130-704-000 - \$3,210.00

101-130-715-000 - \$246.00

101-130-718-000 - \$161.00

101-130-710-000 - \$96.00

101-130-704-030 - \$56.00

Decrease:

101-130-805-020 - \$3,769.00 Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Regarding the Replacement of the Retiring Controller/Administrator -
-Clayette Zechmeister stated as the Controller/Administrator the Financial duties are a higher priority than the Administrative duties.

-Commissioner Vaughan agreed with Clayette Zechmeister that Finance is the largest portion of the job.

-Commissioner Bardwell stated a licensed CPA has the job traits that are attributed to handling the Financial and Budgetary portions of the job.

-Commissioner Bardwell stated the Controller/Administrator is the highest-level employee of the County as the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Administrative Officer. The Board needs to have a leader that they can trust and follow in the upcoming budget years.

-Commissioner Vaughan stated that looking for a candidate to handle the finances of the County is best.

5. Vote on Refilling the Controller/Administrator Position -

2024-M-069

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell that Neil Hammerbacher be offered the Controller/Administrator position contingent upon satisfactory background check and physical. Motion Carried.

-Shelly Lutz stated from her previous conversation with Mr. Hammerbacher that he could assume the role beginning April 1, 2024 with some scheduling flexibility through June 30, 2024.

-Commissioner Bardwell clarified the Controller/Administrator job posting did have a salary range of up to \$120,000.00.

-Personnel Committee meeting to be scheduled with Mr. Hammerbacher to discuss acceptance of the position and compensation range.

Old Business

None

Correspondence/Resolutions

None

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Young

Absent

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

Bardwell

No Report

Behavioral Health Systems Board
Caro DDA/TIFA
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC 7th District
MAC Workers Comp Board
MAC Finance Committee
NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Vaughan

No Report

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

Lutz

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

Commissioner Young has been re-appointed as the Chair.

Jail Planning Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MAC Judiciary Committee

MEMS All Hazard

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Watertown Township has received a \$40,000.00 Grant from Frankenmuth Credit Union to use towards the purchase of Jaws of Life.

Human Development Commission Board of Directors Liaison

Discussed a handout regarding Meals on Wheels Across America

Koch

No Report

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Recycling Advisory

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

None

At 9:06 a.m., there were a total of 34 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Clerk Fetting thanked the Board for appointing Neil Hammerbacher as the next Controller/Administrator.

Adjournment

2024-M-070

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO