

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 28, 2016 Minutes

H. H. Purdy Building

Commissioner Thomas Bardwell called the meeting 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 28th day of January 2016, to order at 6:00 o'clock p.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Bierlein

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Bardwell

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present: District 2 – Thomas Bardwell, District 3 - Christine Trisch, District 4 – Craig Kirkpatrick, District 5 – Matthew Bierlein

Commissioner Absent: District 1 - Vacant

Also Present: Mike Hoagland, Clerk Jodi Fetting, Tisha Jones, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Andrew Dietderich, Register John Bishop, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, Treasurer Pat Donovan-Gray, Jaquita McCrory, Marie Swick, Chuck Heinlein, Jeff Brinkman, Mary Montgomery, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Steve Erickson, Zygy Dworzecki, Christine Young, Tom Young, Sandy Nielsen, Jay Tuckey, Gary Hicks, Shelly Hicks, Joe Bixler, Angie House, Mark Putnam, Steve Root, Rita Papp, Nancy Barrios, Dave Barrios, Mark House

Adoption of Agenda -

16-M-012

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Trisch to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

16-M-013

Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Trisch to adopt the meeting minutes from the January 14, 2016 meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period - None

Consent Agenda Resolution -

16-M-014

Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bierlein that the following Consent Agenda Resolution be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Agenda Reference:** A
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request of the Register of Deeds that the contract with ACS Xerox for an amount of \$50,000 to provide index services be approved and the Chairperson be authorized to sign said contract.
- Agenda Reference:** B
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request of the Register of Deeds that the company that did the original shelving work in the Register of Deeds office be authorized to do the expanded shelving work for consistency in project design and development.
- Agenda Reference:** C
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the January 25, 2016 letter of recommendation from the Mosquito Abatement Director to authorize the purchase of the following treatment materials for the 2016 season for an amount of \$83,891.80.
- Kontrol 4-4 (ULV Permethrin) – 4,400 gallons
 - BTI Granular – 16,000 pounds
 - BTI Liquid – 120 gallons
 - BVA 2 (larvicide oil) – 330 gallons
- Agenda Reference:** D
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the January 25, 2016 letter of request from the Mosquito Abatement Director that authorization is given to enter into an agreement with Air Advantage to connect a fiber strand to Mosquito Abatement to correct problems with the current antenna radio connection to Information Technology. The \$27,500 one-time build cost and \$1,200 a year service subscription cost to be paid from the Mosquito Abatement Millage Fund.
- Agenda Reference:** E

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16

Description of Matter: Move that per the January 20, 2016 letter from the Dispatch Director to concur with the appointment of Taffaney Ross to fill a vacant dispatcher position effective February 6, 2016 (satisfactory physical and background check has been completed).

Agenda Reference: F

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16

Description of Matter: Move that Ann Cherry be appointed to the Tuscola County Board of Health to complete the term of Tina Gomez which expires December 31, 2016.

Agenda Reference: G

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/16

Description of Matter: Move that per the January 20, 2016 letter of request the Courthouse Lawn be authorized for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

New Business

-Out-of-State Travel Request - Mike Hoagland explained request from the Dispatch Director.

16-M-015

Motion by Trisch, seconded by Kirkpatrick that per the January 25, 2016 letter from the Dispatch Director that authorization is given to attend the National Association of Public Communication Officials conference on March 17, 2016 in Kansas City, Missouri. (Costs are 100% paid by APCO). Motion Carried.

-Parks and Recreation Update - Mike Hoagland reviewed the updated provided by Parks and Recreation Chairman, Robert McKay.

-MSUe Extension Agreement January 1, 2016 to March 8, 2016 - Mike Hoagland explained request submitted by Joe Bixler.

16-M-016

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Kirkpatrick that the service agreement with Michigan State University in the amount of \$25,000 to pay for extension services for the 1/1/16 to 3/8/16 period be approved and all appropriate signatures are authorized. (Funds were budgeted for this purpose). Motion Carried.

-Next Generation 911 System Agreement, Iosco County - Sandy Nielsen explained the proposed agreement.

16-M-017

Motion by Trisch, seconded by Kirkpatrick that per the recommendation of the Dispatch Director and Dispatch Authority Board, that Iosco County be allowed to join the three county agreement and become part of the Next Generation 911 System. Also, appropriate documents regarding this matter be authorized for signature. Motion Carried.

-Dispatch 2015 Annual Report - Sandy Nielsen presented the 2015 Annual Report to the Board.

16-M-018

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Trisch to receive and place on file the Tuscola County Central Dispatch 2015 Annual Report. Motion Carried.

-Potential Register of Deeds Salary Reduction - The proposal is to reduce the salary of the Register of Deeds from \$55,190 to \$25,000 with benefits included. The agreement also was to put a cap on the number of hours per week the Register would work of 18.5 hours.

- Commissioner Kirkpatrick explained the potential of reducing the salary of the Register of Deeds position that would become effective January 2017. This reduction would equal 18.5 hours per week for \$25,000.00.
- Commissioner Trisch was concerned if this is classified as a part-time position would the position receive benefits.
- Clerk Fetting stated she is concerned about the fairness of the decision for Register and fellow Elected Officials and Department Heads.
- Commissioner Bardwell stated his concerns for putting a limit on the number of hours the Register of Deeds would perform as he was elected to serve the residents of Tuscola County.
- Jaquita McCrory commended Register of Deeds for stepping up to the plate and would expect other Elected Officials to do the same.
- Commissioner Bardwell said he feels Ms. McCrory would have a different take if it was the employees being asked to take that concession.
- Commissioner Trisch stated if the six Elected Officials took a 9-day pay rather than 10-day pay period she quickly estimated a \$66,000 savings.
- Cindy McKinney-Volz asked with the Register only working 2.5 days per week where would the responsibility lay? She asked if it would be Marie and staff and when would additional compensation be awarded to them for this additional responsibility. She also noted that she works closely with Clerk Fetting and does not feel the workload Clerk Fetting covers can be covered in a 9-day period.
- Marie Swick informed the Board that since Register Bishop has been there the office has been able to take strides forward to improve the office. She is concerned that with Register in the office less, the office will not be able to maintain day-to-day tasks and implement back-imaging.
- Sandy Nielsen is concerned as a department head as she was unaware this was out there until tonight. She is concerned other Department Heads are unaware also and may be affected by this.

- Commissioner Bierlein stated that the hiring freeze has never been implemented since he took office. He stated they looked at a 4% across the Board cut.
- Christine Young has elected an official to serve her full-time and asked the Board to proceed with caution as this is not what the voters of Tuscola County would want, a part-time Register of Deeds.
- Angie House asked how her district will be represented in this vote as she is from District 1. Commissioner Bardwell stated the Board as whole represents Tuscola County but individually represent the District.
- Zygy Dworzecki commends the Board for their thoughts and decision.
- Nancy Barrios stated that any decision to cut will not be favorable although questioned why they do not entrust the candidates for District 1 Commissioner to be capable to get caught up to speed and make the decision.

Board discussed the timeline as to when the combination of offices decision has to be made.

16-M-019

Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bierlein that the Register of Deeds wage be reduced from \$55,190 in 2016 to \$25,000 effective January 1, 2017 with no change in the other fringe benefits currently provided for this elected position. (See attached letter from corporate council verifying that an elected officials wage can be reduced by the Board of Commissioners for a new term of office). Roll Call Vote called by Chairman. Bierlein - yes; Kirkpatrick - yes; Trisch - no; Bardwell - no. Motion Fails.

Recessed at 7:40 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

-Potential Combining of County Clerk and Register of Deeds Positions - Commissioner Bierlein does not feel that there is enough support to bring the motion forward. No one else brought to the Board at this time.

-Community Grant Foundation (matter added) - Undersheriff Skrent is requesting permission to apply for a grant to purchase an ID Card Maker.

16-M-020

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Kirkpatrick that per the January 28, 2016 letter of request from the Undersheriff that authorization is given to make a grant application for an estimated amount of \$3,178.00 to the Community Foundation (Janks Grant - no match required) to replace the ID Making Machine in the Sheriff Department. Also, all appropriate signature are authorized. Motion Carried.

-District 1 County Commissioner Appointment - Commissioner Bardwell allowed the candidates present to address the Board one last time.

- Nancy Barrios stated her interest in being the Commissioner for District #1 by recapping how she feels that she can best serve the residents of District #1. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if she had any involvement in the milk plant. She was involved in that and worked hard to work out the kinks that were felt in the implementation.
- Zygy Dworzecki has promoted Tuscola County and businesses while he serves on various Boards throughout the region. He believes the Commissioners need to look what is best for Tuscola County and move forward in a positive direction.
- Tom Young has held many local elected offices as well as served on many other Boards and Commissions. He wants to give back to Tuscola County. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if he will be able to separate his ties to Economic Development Commission (EDC) when making decisions on the Board. Mr. Young feels he can make an informative decision and separate himself from the EDC.
- Tim Rumble - Not Present.
- George Batty - Not Present.

Commissioner Trisch thanked the candidates for applying and going through the process. There are well qualified candidates and appreciates for their willingness to do service to their District. Commissioner Bardwell echoed those same thoughts.

16-M-021

Motion by Trisch, seconded by Bierlein to appoint Tom Young to fill the District #1 Commissioner vacancy with an effective date of January 29, 2016. This person will serve until the public chooses a candidate through the primary and general election process in 2016. (Clerk Fetting has the filing information.)
Matter Discussed.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick called for a roll Call Vote.

Kirkpatrick - no; Trisch - yes; Bierlein - yes; Bardwell - yes.
Motion Carried.

Old Business - None

Correspondence/Resolutions -

-Application received from William Sanders for Region VII Board.

16-M-022

Motion by Trisch, seconded by Bierlein to appoint William Sanders to the Region VII Board of Directors as the Tuscola County Representative. This 2-year term will expire on December 31, 2017. Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRISCH

Board of Health - Ann Cherry appointed in Consent Agenda today.

Planning Commission

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

Local Unit of Government Activity Report - Thanked her locals for providing their thoughts on the current issues in front of the Board.

Animal Control

Solid Waste Management

KIRKPATRICK

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Dept. of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison - Still working on land acquisition.

Land Acquisition

MI Renewable Energy Coalition

MEMS All Hazards

MAC-Environment Energy Land Use

Oil/Shale Work Group

Cass River Greenways Pathway - Thanked the Advertiser for article and the group is going to clean 5 miles north of Caro this year.

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Tuscola In Sync

NACO- Energy, Environment & Land Use

BARDWELL

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment - Update Provided.

Caro DDA/TIFA

MAC Economic Development/Taxation

MAC 7th District

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

TRIAD

Human Services Collaborative Council

Behavioral Health Systems Board

BIERLEIN

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works - St. Clair County will be joining the group.

Human Development Commission (HDC)

Tuscola 2020

Recycling Advisory Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Great Start Collaborative Council - Update provided.

Local Unit of Government Activity Report - Received a phone call regarding the possibility of sewer service being turned off to the trailer park in the Village of Reese. Commissioner Bierlein worked with Prosecutor Reene to start a conversation to set up payment plan. The Advertiser stated the meeting did happen to suspend shut off at this point.

Tuscola In-Sync

MAC Board of Directors - MAC in opposition of new legislation regarding restrictions on election gag order. Lawsuit has been filed.

Human Services Collaborative Council

Region VI Economic Development Planning

MAC-Economic Development & Taxation

YOUNG - Would like to discuss MAC 7th District meeting at next COW meeting.

Dispatch Authority Board

County Road Commission

Board of Public Works

Senior Services Advisory Council

Mid-Michigan Mosquito Control Advisory Committee

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

Parks & Recreation

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Closed Session - None

Other Business as Necessary - None

Extended Public Comment -

Kim Brinkman - When is the next Board meeting scheduled to discuss the possibility of the combination of the Clerk and the Register of Deeds? Board stated February 11, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. She asked if the topic was to be brought back up if meeting could be after work hours so she could attend. That will be decided at Committee of the Whole on February 8, 2016.

Mary Montgomery - Questioned if there would be another public hearing held since the new Commissioner has been appointed to allow him an opportunity to hear the points of view. Tom Young stated he was at the public hearing and he took notes as to how each person that presented feels.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk