

**Draft**  
**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Monday, January 25, 2021 – 8:00 A.M.**

**Electronic remote meeting will be implemented for this meeting,  
in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services Emergency  
Order Under MCL 333.2253 – Gathering Prohibition and Mask Order and  
Public Act No. 254 of 2020.**

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 - Douglas DuRussel - Tuscola Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan  
District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw - Vassar Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan,  
after 12:00 p.m. Saginaw Township, Saginaw County, State of Michigan

Commissioner Absent - None

Also Present Virtual:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Ann Hepfer, Debbie Babich, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Wayne Koper, Sandy Nielsen, Jodi Essenmacher, Lisa Ozbat, Mary Drier, Tracy Violet, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Mark Haney, Jana Brown, Mike Miller, Laura Tyll, Gene Pierce, Bob Baxter, Mark Ransford, Missie Jaster, Steve Anderson, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Brian Harris, Jessica VanHove, Rick Sundquist, Matt Brown, Mike Yates, Shelly Lutz

At 8:20 a.m., there were a total of 47 participants attending the meeting.

**County Updates**

-Ann Hepfer, Health Officer provided an update regarding COVID-19. The Health Department is overwhelmed with phone calls but are returning them as quickly as possible. Health Officer Hepfer is asking for the public's patience after they have left a message. There will be a link released this week to register for upcoming vaccination clinics. If a person has already been placed on the waiting list, they do not need to re-register using the link. Unfortunately, Tuscola County is not getting enough doses of vaccine to keep up with the demand. There are two new brands of vaccine waiting on FDA approval.

## **New Business**

1. Michigan Renewable Energy Collaborative (MREC) Update/Discussion from the January 19, 2021 Meeting -

-Richard Sundquist, Clark Hill - Mr. Sundquist provided an update regarding the meeting that was held on January 19, 2021 and the pending litigation. The Judge's opinion has still not been issued although Mr. Sundquist is hopeful it will be issued soon. Mr. Sundquist referenced legislation that was introduced during the last state legislative session which failed to be adopted. He is hopeful new legislation will be introduced but he is expecting it to be tie-barred to a bill related to solar energy. There is a 2,000 acre solar farm being planned to be built in Tuscola County. Carl Osentoski is planning to set up weekly meetings in order to stay on top of the matter.

-Gene Pierce, Tuscola Intermediate School District (TISD) Superintendent - Mr. Pierce expressed his concern with going down the path of solar energy before the issue of wind energy has been resolved. Since 2012, TISD has been a financial contributor to the MREC cause. He expressed how much of an impact this would have for those that are contributing and even to those who are not contributing.

-Commissioner Young will be the Board liaison to attend the weekly MREC meetings.

2. County Wind Reserves and Legal Cost - Reference was included in the agenda packet.
3. New Jail Planning - Jail Committee Function, Roles, and Responsibilities – Sheriff Glen Skrent presented in regards to the proposed layout of the new jail. He discussed the steps that were taken to make sure the layout was the most beneficial to include all necessary components of a new jail. Sheriff Skrent recommends keeping the new jail in the current location.

The Board discussed estimated costs of building a new jail, the potential of creating a video to be used to educate the public, the reasons behind the need for a new jail and steps that are needed to move forward with the project.

## **Old Business**

1. Board Update/Status on the Resolution Declaring Tuscola County a Constitutional Second Amendment County - Board discussed adding signature lines for Elected Officials that may want to sign the resolution. Board did not authorize additional signature lines at this time.

**Finance/Technology**  
Committee Leader Commissioner Young  
Commissioner DuRussel

**Primary Finance/Technology**

1. Amendment to Communication Site Lease Agreement with Thumb Cellular – Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer explained the request to amend the lease agreement in order to add security cameras to the tower to cover the parking lot area next to the Sheriff's Department. Matter to be added to the Consent Agenda.
2. Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine (MIFSM) - No update at this time, matter will be brought forward in the future.
3. Capital Toxicology - Matter not discussed.

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

1. RFP Building Codes – Clayette Zechmeister is trying to gather information to put an RFP together but is starting from scratch.
2. Fund Balance History Reports
3. Preparation of Multi-Year Financial Planning

**Technology**

1. GIS Update
2. Increasing On-Line Services/Updating Web Page

-Eean Lee has been working with Leigh Nacy, Animal Control Director to establish an online option to make a donation to the Animal Shelter.

**Building and Grounds**  
Committee Leader Commissioner DuRussel  
Commissioner Grimshaw

**Primary Building and Grounds**

1. Vanderbilt Park Road – Mike Yates purchased Ken Dunton's records and has been going through those to put the history puzzle together. Mike Yates is looking for direction from the Board as to exactly what they are looking for from him. Commissioner Vaughan stated the Board needs to know where the property lines are exactly for Vanderbilt Park, then the Board can look at where the road lies in relation to the property lines. Mike will work to prepare an estimate to present to the Board.
2. County Physical and Electronic Record Storage Needs - Board discussed the need for storage for the county. There has been a plan proposed by Ransford-Wasik as a solution for the storage need. Board discussed and decided an RFP needed to be developed and placed on the website. The Board would like to

have the RFPs back by the March 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting with the matter to be placed on the March 11, 2021 Board meeting for decision.

### **On-Going and Other Building and Grounds**

1. State Police Building-Water and Annexation

Commissioner Grimshaw excused at 11:58 a.m.

#### **Personnel**

Committee Leader Commissioner Grimshaw  
Commissioner Vaughan

Commissioner Grimshaw re-joined at 12:03 p.m.

#### **Primary Personnel**

1. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expiration – next Steps:
  - a. Are Templates Available? Clayette Zechmeister reported that there are not any templates to follow available.
  - b. Department Head/Elected Officials Input - Clayette Zechmeister reviewed input that has been received.
  - c. What are Other Counties Doing - Outline of responses received were included in the agenda packet.
  - d. List of Carry Over Time - Reference was included in the agenda packet.
  - e. Current Policy on Paid Leave
  - f. FFCRA Employee Rights (expired)

Board discussed concerns and potential options. Matter to be added to Thursday's agenda for further discussion to move forward.

2. Board Rules of Order with Changes for Review and Adoption - Clayette Zechmeister stated the revised Rules of Order are still being worked on. She asked the Board for clarification on how to proceed with rule 11.1. Commissioner Grimshaw recommended obtaining a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy from Behavioral Health Systems.
3. Refill Vacant Part Time Custodian Position - Mike Miller reported that a candidate has been found. He is requesting that Shawn Cameron be approved pending favorable background checks and physical. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
4. Policy Updates - No update at this time.

### **On-Going and Other Personnel**

1. MAC 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Updates - Commissioner Bardwell is currently working on and will keep the Board updated when more information is received.
2. Work Comp Updates - Shelly Lutz provided an update from conversations that she has had with AJ and Mark. An option of applying for a grant is being researched to obtain additional safety equipment. Commissioner Grimshaw asked if the projected costs for Workman's Comp have been received and distributed yet.
3. Safety Committee's - Shelly Lutz provided an update.

### **Primary Other Business as Necessary**

- Formation of Legislative Committee with Commissioners and Possibly Huron County - Commissioner Bardwell is working on the project. He is expecting to have this as a topic discussion for the MAC.
- Virtual Meetings – The Board discussed that virtual meetings will continue through March 2021.

### **On-Going Other Business as Necessary**

1. Animal Control Ordinance

At 12:45 p.m., there were a total of 28 participants attending the meeting.

### **Public Comment Period -**

- Wayne Koper spoke in reference to COVID and employee union contracts.

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk