

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 10, 2020 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 228 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 10th day of December 2020, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Jensen

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Bardwell

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 - Fremont Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan  
District 4 - Mark Jensen - Millington Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan  
District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw - Vassar Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

Commissioner Absent - None

Also Present In Person:

Eean Lee, Ashley Bennett, Matthew Bierlein, Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray, Mark Gray, Ed Smith, Representative Phil Green, Diane Romain

Also Present Virtual:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Steve Anderson, Mark Haney, Sandy Nielsen, Lisa Ozbat, Wayne Koper, Steve Currie, Greg Wolak, Jessica VanHove, Megan Bartolowits, Hazel Schlosser, Cristi Smith, Cathy Patterson, Dave VanHove, Heidi Chicilli, Mike Miller, Steve Anderson, Leila Rish, Sami Khoury, Patty Witkovsky, Mary Jo Shelson, Carmell Pattullo, Tiffany Gerds, Nanette Walsh, Linda Jobson, Jon Block, Shelly Lutz, Deb Mika, Rachael Bartolowits, Karen Hawthorne, Angie Daniels, Robert McKay, Ann Hepfer

At 8:17 a.m., there were a total of 36 participants attending the meeting.

*Adoption of Agenda -*  
2020-M-260

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan 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-261

Motion by Young, seconded by Jensen to adopt the meeting minutes from the November 25, 2020 Regular Board meeting as. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

*Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only -*

- Commissioner Mark Jensen spoke in regards to the Health Department fee schedule.
- Dave VanHove spoke in regards to how COVID-19 has impacted his community.
- Wayne Koper spoke in regards to the impacts of COVID-19.

*Consent Agenda Resolution -*  
2020-M-263

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Grimshaw that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Resolution from the December 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting with Item C removed be adopted. Roll Call Vote: Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Agenda Reference:** A
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 12/07/20
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request from the Chief Judge the Circuit Court/Family Court Legal Services Contract for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with the Consortium of Duane E. Burgess, Phoebe J. Moore P.C., Shoults & Brooks, Elizabeth V. Weisenbach and Lisa Blanton in the amount of \$220,000.00 be approved. Also, all authorized signatures are authorized.
- Agenda Reference:** B
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 12/07/20
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request from the Chief Judge the Contract for Representation for Alleged Developmentally Disabled Individuals in the Tuscola County Probate Court Contract for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with Duane E. Burgess in the amount of \$6,000.00 be approved. Also, all authorized signatures are authorized.

-Consent Agenda Item C that was removed from the Consent Agenda Resolution:  
2020-M-263

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that the Board of Commissioners make appointments to Boards and Commissions to fulfill terms as noted:

**911 Dispatch Authority Board**, 2 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Paul Cherniawski
- Ted Gamet

**Airport Zoning Board of Appeals**, 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Keith Kosik
- William Campbell

**Board of Canvassers**, 4 year term beginning on November 1, 2020

- Dr. Charles Stockwell
- Judy Neblock

**Department of Health and Human Services Board**, 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Sue Morris

**Department of Public Works**, 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- James Hecht

**Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors**, 6 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Madison Clements
- Colleen Langenburg
- Brian Neuville
- Rose Putnam
- Josh Rodammer
- Megan Bartolowits

**Board of Health**, 5 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Ann Cherry

**Human Development Board of Directors**, 1 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Matthew Bierlein

**Jury Board**, to fulfill partial-term previously held by Beverly Read to expire on December 31, 2023

- James Read

**Parks and Recreation Board**, 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Steve Erickson
- Benjamin Kasper

**Planning Commission**, 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Cindy Kapa
- Albert Pearsall III
- Robert McKay
- Heidi Stark

**Recycling Committee**, 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Roger Allen
- Terry Jones

**Council on Aging**, 1 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Jerald Gamm
- Sandra Williamson
- Patricia Labair
- Gail Nesberg
- Carolyn Wymore
- Elaine Romain

**Remonumentation Peer Group**, 2 year term beginning on January 1, 2021

- Scott McCool
- Mark Powell
- Michael Yates
- Derek Hodges
- Roger Mahoney

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

*New Business* -

-Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Update – Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director, provided an update regarding the upcoming lame duck session, property tax, pending bills in front of the legislature and COVID-19 Cares Act Funding.

At 9:20 a.m., there were a total of 46 participants attending the meeting.

- Resolutions/Presentations for Retiring Tuscola County Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray -
  - Ed Smith from Congressman Paul Mitchell's Office
  - Ashley Bennett to Present for Congressman Dan Kildee
  - Matt Bierlein to Present from Senator Kevin Daley's Office
  - Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Resolution

## 2020-M-264

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw that County Resolution 2020-12 honoring Tuscola County Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray for nearly 50 years of dedicated public service to the citizens of Tuscola County be approved and placed on file. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Legislative Update – Matthew Bierlein from Senator Kevin Daley’s Office - An update was provided regarding pending legislation, lame duck session and unemployment benefits.

Recessed at 10:06 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

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

-Tuscola County Declaration of a Local State of Emergency Related to COVID-19 Possible Resolution and Information on Sen Bill #1108 and HC #6207 - Steve Anderson reviewed the option of declaring a local state of emergency in order to continue to hold virtual meetings within Tuscola County of various types of boards. Board discussed the matter and would like to have it added to the Board agenda on December 23, 2020.

Commissioner Jensen excused at 10:24 a.m.

Commissioner Bardwell excused at 10:42 a.m.

Commissioner Bardwell rejoined at 10:44 a.m.

-Vanderbilt Park Road Repairs - Mike Miller provided an update for a culvert that is failing on a road in Vanderbilt Park and the Road Commission has stated they would not be able to plow that road until that has been fixed. Board would like to set up a meeting with the Road Commission to discuss further.

-Request to Use Courthouse Lawn -

## 2020-M-265

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw that per the December 6, 2020 request from Jim McLoskey that authorization be given to the Tuscola County Right to Life Chapter to use the Courthouse Lawn January 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. for their annual Memorial Service. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - absent; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Enbridge Request for Line 5 Resolution Support sent to Governor Whitmer - Clayette Zechmeister explained the request.

## 2020-M-266

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Young that a copy of Tuscola County Resolution # 2020-05 a Resolution in Support of Line 5 be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Roll Call Vote: Jensen - absent; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

*Old Business -*

-Tuscola County Designated Assessor Revised Interlocal Agreement -

## 2020-M-267

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Young to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Designated Assessor and forward to all local assessing districts. Also, all appropriate signatures are authorized. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - absent; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Michigan Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine, PC (MIFSM) - A proposed agreement is being reviewed by Capitol Toxicology. Matter to be added to the December 23, 2020 agenda.

-Tuscola County Health Department Fee Schedules Information and Board Minutes from January 26, 1999 Setting the Fees/Motion 99-M-023 - Clayette Zechmeister referenced the material included in the board agenda packet. Ann Hepfer provided additional information on the fee structure and how it has been adopted by the Board of Commissioners over the years. Matter discussed at length.

-Family Court Contracts - Clayette Zechmeister included in the Board agenda packet for the Commissioners reference for the matter that was handled in the Consent Agenda.

-Delivery Rates Cost Comparisons - Clayette Zechmeister reported the findings of mailing out packets to the Commissioners.

*Correspondence/Resolutions -*

- Cass City Establishment of Plant Rehabilitation District
- Village of Millington Approval of Industrials Facilities Exemption Certificate
- Indianfields Township Master Plan

**COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS****BARDWELL**

Behavioral Health Systems Board - Meets Virtually.  
 Caro DDA/TIFA  
 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  
County Road Commission Liaison  
Dispatch Authority Board  
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works - Meets tomorrow.  
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** - 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

**GRIMSHAW**

Behavioral Health Systems Board - Update on Mid-State Health Board provided.  
Recycling Advisory - The bylaws are being reviewed and changes proposed.  
Local Units of Government

**JENSEN** - absent

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  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

*Other Business as Necessary -*

-Clayette Zechmeister explained that the Purdy Building would like to be able to open up in order to allow the public in to pay delinquent taxes at the Treasurer's Office. The other offices would remain by appointment only.

-Committee of the Whole meeting on December 21, 2020 has been cancelled.

-Oath of Office Ceremony will be held on December 11, 2020 at noon on the front porch of the courthouse.

-Commissioner Bardwell referenced messages that he had received regarding the fees of the Health Department.

At 12:29 p.m., there were a total of 26 participants attending the meeting.

*Extended Public Comment - None*

2020-M-268

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk