

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 31, 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 31st day of March 2021, to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Vaughan

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 - 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, Eean Lee, Clayette Zechmeister, Ann Hepfer, Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Debbie Babich, Brenda Kretzschmer, Mike Tuckey, Amy Beckman, Jessica VanHove, Lisa Ozbat, Malisa Pyles, William Campbell, Alecia Little, Jana Brown, Barry Lapp, Duane Weber, Karen Southgate, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Tiffany Gerds, Eric Morris, Robert McKay, Kate VanAuken, Dara Hood, Sara Savage, Sandy Nielsen, Bob Forbes, Garrett Smith, Heidi Chicilli, Shelly Lutz, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Cory Skinner, Dave Van Hove, Terry Ewald, Jennifer Trahan, Matt Brown, Shannon Gwizdala, Narmowen S., Drain Commissioner Bob Mantey, Brian Harris, Caryl Langmaid, Tip MacGuire, Albert Pearsall, Kristen Young

At 9:15 a.m., there were a total of 55 participants attending the meeting.

*Adoption of Agenda -
2021-M-067*

Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel to adopt the agenda as amended.
Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - no;
Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only-

- Mike Tuckey, Road Commission, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- William Campbell, Indianfields Township, spoke opposing the proposed declaration.
- Malisa Pyles, Watertown Township, spoke in support of a Hybrid meeting option.
- Brenda Kretzschmer, Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Dave VanHove, Village of Unionville, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Cory Skinner, Village of Kingston, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Jodi Fetting, Tuscola County Clerk, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Albert Pearsall, Wells Township, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Eean Lee, Tuscola County Chief Information Officer, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Jessica VanHove, Village of Unionville, spoke in support of proposed declaration and spoke to the increase of public participation by having the virtual meeting availability.
- Mary Drier, Columbia Township, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Glen Skrent, Tuscola County Sheriff, spoke in support of proposed declaration.
- Kristen Young, Village of Fairgrove, spoke in support of proposed declaration.

Consent Agenda Resolution - None

County Updates

-Ann Hepfer, Health Officer, provided an update of the current number of COVID-19 cases affecting Tuscola County and Huron County. The number of new cases each week is higher than the state average. Health Officer Hepfer encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing, hand washing and masks. An update on the vaccination process and availability was provided. The COVID variants were also discussed. The shortage of hospital beds for COVID patients was discussed.

-Steve Anderson, Emergency Manager, explained to the Board that local officials have reached out to him requesting the opportunity to continue virtual meetings. He explained that the declaration would allow for virtual, in-person or hybrid meetings. It leaves the decision to the authority holding the meeting to do what is best for them. Steve explained that an in-person meeting still needs to follow social distancing and room capacity guidelines.

New Business

-Potential Declaration of a Local State of Emergency – Board discussed the matter at length.

Comments from other Elected Officials and Department Heads:

- Drain Commissioner Mantey spoke in support of meeting in-person.
- County Clerk Fetting supports approval of the declaration.
- Dave VanHove supports the opportunity for boards to meet virtually.
- Treasurer Bennett stated she was directed that the Treasurer's Office had to quarantine two weeks ago.

Clerk Fetting excused at 11:03 a.m.

Chief Deputy Caryl Langmaid assumed Clerk duties.

- Clayette Zechmeister explained a situation of employees that had to quarantine and their need to receive unemployment during that time. Board discussed whose responsibility it would be to decide for a Department to be closed due to COVID. Board requested the discussion of unemployment to be added to the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.
- Mike Miller is in support of declaration.
- Board discussed other venues that may be available that are larger than the Board room to hold a Board meeting.

2021-M-068

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adopt the Tuscola County Declaration of a Local State of Emergency related to COVID-19 that will be effective through April 30, 2021, unless further action is taken by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners. Also, moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize Chairman Bardwell to sign the declaration and distribute it to all interested parties. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – no; Grimshaw – no; Young – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Clerk Fetting rejoined the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Old Business – None

Correspondence/Resolutions - None

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS – Commissioners waived reporting on 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

GRIMSHAW

Behavioral Health Systems Board
Recycling Advisory
Local Units of Government
Jail Planning Committee
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

DURUSSEL

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
Caro DDA/TIFA
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC 7th District
MAC Workers Comp Board
MAC Finance Committee
TRIAD
Local Units of Government Activity Report

YOUNG

Board of Public Works
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

Other Business as Necessary –

-2021 Food License Fee (matter added) – Commissioner Vaughan would like the Board to consider lowering the fees for 2021 Food License Fees due to the limited time of being opened in 2020. Board discussed the current fee, the proposed fee and that inspections will be required still.

2021-M-069

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by DuRussel that the Food License Fee, issued by the Tuscola County Health Department, be reduced from \$444 per year to \$0 (fee to be waived) for the year 2021. Food establishments are still required to submit a 2021 Food License application to the Tuscola County Health Department. The Board encourages the residents of the Tuscola County community to continue their support of local food establishments.

2021-M-070

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel to amend motion 2021-M-069 to change \$0 to \$44. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – yes; Bardwell – yes.

2021-M-069 as amended by motion 2021-M-070

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by DuRussel that the Food License Fee, issued by the Tuscola County Health Department, be reduced from \$444 per year to \$0 \$44 (fee to be waived) for the year 2021. Food establishments are still required to submit a 2021 Food License application to the Tuscola County Health Department. The Board encourages the residents of the Tuscola County community to continue their support of local food establishments.

2021-M-071

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan to amend motion 2021-M-069 to strike the words “fee to be waived”. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

2021-M-069 as amended by motion 2021-M-071

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by DuRussel that the Food License Fee, issued by the Tuscola County Health Department, be reduced from \$444 per year to \$0 \$44 (~~fee to be waived~~) for the year 2021. Food establishments are still required to submit a 2021 Food License application to the Tuscola County Health Department. The Board encourages the residents of the Tuscola County community to continue their support of local food establishments.

2021-M-069 as amended

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by DuRussel that the Food License Fee, issued by the Tuscola County Health Department, be reduced from \$444 per year to \$44 for the year 2021. Food establishments are still required to submit a 2021 Food License application to the Tuscola County Health Department. The Board encourages the residents of the Tuscola County community to continue their support of local food establishments. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

The Board asked Health Officer Hepfer to do a press release on this topic. Clerk Fetting to provide the motion language for assistance.

At 12:58 p.m., there were a total of 22 participants attending the meeting.

Extended Public Comment – None

2021-M-072

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk