

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 29, 2021 Minutes

Electronic remote access implemented for this meeting, in accordance with Tuscola County Board of Commissioners 2021-07 Declaration of a Local State of Emergency related to COVID-19

Commissioner Bardwell called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held as a hybrid meeting via Google Meet Conferencing on the 29th day of April 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Vaughan

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Grimshaw

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioner Present In-Person:

District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw - Vassar Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

Others Present in-Person:

Eean Lee

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

Commissioner Absent:

District 4 - Doug DuRussel - Tuscola Township, Tuscola County, State of Michigan

Also Present Virtual:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Debbie Babich, Steve Erickson, Heidi Chicilli, Jessica VanHove, Dara Hood, Barry Lapp, Eric Morris, Shelly Lutz, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Kim Brinkman, Robert Baxter, Ryan Herford, Mark Ransford, Brian Harris, Sandy Nielsen, Ann Hepfer, Sara Savage, Amy Beckman, Robert Hiiter, Elaine Fiorillo, Dr. William Morrone, Robert McKay, Mandy Kohl, Tip MacGuire, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Randy Pfau

At 8:11 a.m., there were a total of 28 participants attending the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda -

2021-M-080

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw to adopt the agenda as amended.
Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel - absent; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2021-M-081

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan to adopt the meeting minutes from the April 15, 2021 Regular meeting and the April 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - absent; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-For the May 5, 2021 Special Committee meeting, Midway Hall is not available. This meeting will be a full Committee of the Whole meeting with the hybrid in-person portion to be held at the HH Purdy Building. A top priority to discuss will be the indirect costs to millages.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only –

-Sheriff Glen Skrent – Spoke about the proposed Nepotism Policy.

-Clerk Fetting read communication received from Matt Branding, Acting Caro Community School Superintendent, Matt Drake, Kingston Community School Superintendent, Jamie Schuette, Akron Township Clerk, Mike Tuckey, Tuscola County Road Commission Director of Finance in support of extending the State of Emergency Declaration for Tuscola County.

-Clerk Jodi Fetting spoke in support of extending the State of Emergency Declaration for Tuscola County.

-Jessica VanHove, Unionville Village Clerk, spoke in support of extending the State of Emergency Declaration for Tuscola County.

Consent Agenda Resolution -

2021-M-082

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Grimshaw that the Consent Agenda Resolution from the April 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adopted with the date corrected on the agenda reference items. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel - absent; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Reference: A

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 4/26/21

Description of Matter: Move to receive and place on file the 2020 Tuscola County Planning Commission Annual Report as presented by Heidi Stark, Planning Commission Member.

Agenda Reference: B

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 4/26/21

Description of Matter: Move that per the request from Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to approve the promotion of Laura Hill to the vacant full-time Office Administrative Assistant Position effective April 29, 2021 at Step 1.

New Business (continued below)-

-Tuscola County State of Emergency – Steve Anderson, Emergency Services Coordinator presented information regarding the possibility of extending the local State of Emergency. Board discussed the extension and the time period for possible extension. Board discussed the constraints of the Board Room in the Purdy Building.

2021-M-083

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan that the Tuscola County Declaration of Local State of Emergency Related to COVID-19 - 2021-07 expiration date be extended to May 31, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw – no; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – absent; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-Closed Session –

2021-M-084

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that the Board meet in closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider written material from the County's attorney that is exempt from disclosure by Section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – absent; Grimshaw – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Reconvened from Closed Session at 10:22 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: Young, Vaughan, Grimshaw, Bardwell

Recessed at 10:23 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: Young, Vaughan, Grimshaw, Bardwell

Old Business (continued below) -

-Medical Examiner Contract Discussion/Changes – Dr. William Morrone presented to the Board a requested change to the contract regarding the collection of cremation permit fees.

2021-M-087

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Young to approve the First Amendment to the Independent Provider Agreement between the County of Tuscola and William R. Morrone, DO, MPH to be effective as of April 30, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – absent; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Board also discussed Exhibit A of the original contract with Dr. Morrone. Dr. Morrone is planning to work with the Medical Examiner Investigators (MEI) from Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine (MIFSM) to train Dr. Morrone's team. Dr. Morrone is working with Randy Pfau from MIFSM and will evaluate the process in 90 days. No action is needed.

Dr. Morrone will provide contact information by the end of the week to all interested parties for a smooth transition.

New Business (continued from above)-

-Health Department and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Parking Lot Sealing Bids – Mike Miller reported that bids have been received but clarification in a couple of bids needs to be researched prior to deciding. He requested the matter be added to the May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

-Animal Shelter Cat Room Viewing Window Bids – Mike Miller reported that no bids were received. He is going to complete some outreach to see if a contractor can be found to submit a bid. The matter will be brought back before the Board when he is ready for action.

-Request for Proposal (RFP) Building Codes – Board discussed discontinuing the current contract with South Central Michigan Construction Code Inspections (SCMCCI) as of September 30, 2021. Board would like written communication of any known problems that have been experienced with SCMCCI for review and consideration. The Building Code Ordinance cannot be found which was supposed to be attached as Exhibit A in the SCMCCI contract. Board discussed the contract termination option and the implication that would have to Cities, Townships and Villages in Tuscola County. Board would like to issue the RFP with the understanding there is not a guarantee that a contract will be awarded. The RFP that was proposed in the packet needs to have the blanks and dates entered in prior to being able to be adopted. Clayette Zechmeister to prepare the Building Code RFP in final draft to be presented to the Board for adoption at the May 13, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting for adoption.

2021-M-088

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that per the agreement with South Central Michigan Construction Code Inspections, Inc. (SCMCCI) paragraph 10 that Tuscola County will terminate the contract as of September 30, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – absent; Grimshaw – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-Shelson Industries – Commissioner Vaughan stated there is no update at this time.

Old Business (continued from above) -

-Controller/Administrator Employment Agreement Renewal/Discussion – Potential Changes to Controller and Administrator or Keep Combined – Commissioner Bardwell updated the Board that the legal opinion on this matter has not been received yet as legal counsel prioritized the opinion for Building Codes first.

-Airport Authority Board – Commissioner Bardwell updated the Board that the Airport Authority Board is continuing to research where permits may have been bypassed.

-Refilling Full-Time Employee (FTE) Vacancies – Board discussed Consent Agenda Item A from the January 8, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting that provided temporary authorization for the Sheriff to hire individuals without Board approval.

2021-M-089

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that Consent Agenda Reference Item A in motion 18-M-003 be rescinded as of April 29, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – absent; Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Matter Rescinded:

Agenda Reference: A

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/8/18

Description of Matter: *Move that per the request of the Sheriff, county hiring practices be temporarily modified and the Sheriff be authorized to offer employment as soon as possible to candidates after graduating from the police academy, to be able to offer timely employment to the top candidates. This approval is granted contingent upon satisfactory background checks and physicals. Also, all hiring record keeping will continue to be coordinated with the Human Resource Coordinator and official board action is taken at a later date to concur with the hiring.*
Matter rescinded on April 29, 2021 2021-M-089.

-Nepotism Policy Discussion – Commissioner Bardwell explained the matter was on the Board agenda for quite awhile but then disappeared with no action taken. Board discussed concern of family supervising family. Commissioner Grimshaw has the Livingston County Policy that can be used as a sample. Matter to be referred to the Personnel Committee and placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion.

Correspondence/Resolutions -

-Dr. Hamed Follow Up on Commissioners COVID Questions

-Region VII Area Agency on Aging

-Various Resolutions received from other counties

-Clayette Zechmeister updated the Board that Debbie Babich was attending the NACo webinar regarding the American Rescue Plan.

-A citizen submitted a letter to the Board regarding the American Rescue Plan.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

DURUSSEL - absent

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 – No Updates.

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 – Virtual Meeting held regarding issues in Lansing.
Region VI Economic Development Planning
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
Senior Services Advisory Council
Tuscola 2020
Local Units of Government Activity Report

VAUGHAN – No Updates

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 provided in changes in the PIHP.
Recycling Advisory
Local Units of Government – Update provided regarding Vassar Township.
Jail Planning Committee
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Other Business as Necessary - None

Extended Public Comment –

-Mary Drier spoke about the Health Department employee and funding in relation to cremation permit fees.

-Glen Skrent spoke about the Board rescinding motion 18-M-003

2021-M-090

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk