

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
October 14, 2021

Commissioner Bardwell called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building, 125 W Lincoln Street in the City of Caro, Michigan, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Young

Roll Call – Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person:

- District 1 – Thomas Young
- District 2 – Thomas Bardwell
- District 4 – Douglas DuRussel
- District 5 – Daniel Grimshaw (arrived at 8:13 a.m.)

Commissioner Absent:

- District 3 – Kim Vaughan

Others Present In-Person:

- Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Mark Ransford, Joe Greene, Sandy Nielsen, Billy Putman, Eric Morris, Kevin Bushroe

Also Present Virtual:

- Tracy Violet, Alex Petrik, Mary Drier, Heidi Chicilli, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Debbie Babich, Mark Haney, Steve Root, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Crystal Knoblock, Matt Brown, Bob Baxter, Barry Lapp, Shannon Beach

At 8:09 a.m., there were a total of 17 participants attending the meeting virtually.

*Adoption of Agenda -*

2021-M-225

- Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel to adopt the agenda as amended.
- Motion Carried.

*Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -*

2021-M-226

- Motion by DuRussel, seconded by Young to adopt the meeting minutes from the September 30, 2021 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

*Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only – None*

*Consent Agenda Resolution –  
2021-M-227*

Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel that the Consent Agenda Resolution and Minutes from the October 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Agenda Reference:** A

**Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 10/11/21

**Description of Matter:** Move that the 2020 Tuscola County Central Dispatch Annual Report be received and placed on file.

**Agenda Reference:** B

**Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 10/11/21

**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 for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$6,000.00 be approved. Also, all authorized signatures be authorized.

**Agenda Reference:** C

**Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 10/11/21

**Description of Matter:** Move that per the recommendation from Undersheriff Robert Baxter to hire Marcus Armstrong with a conditional job for the road patrol pending a physical, psychological & drug test. Marcus has completed an internship with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office and has completed numerous ride-a-longs. He will be considered part-time (\$18.00 per hour) while attending the police academy in January 2022. Upon successful completion (on or about May 6, 2022), he will begin at full-time status.

**Agenda Reference:** D

**Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 10/11/21

**Description of Matter:** Move that per the recommendation from Undersheriff Robert Baxter to hire Jonathon Perry with a conditional job for the road patrol pending a physical, psychological & drug test. Jonathon has completed numerous ride-a-longs. He will be considered part-time (\$18.00 per hour) while attending the police academy in January 2022. Upon successful completion (on or about May 6, 2022), he will begin at full-time status.

**Agenda Reference:** E

**Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 10/11/21

**Description of Matter:** Move that the 2020 County Audit as presented by Joe Verlin with Gabridge & Company be received and placed on file.

*New Business - None*

*Old Business -*

-Legislative Update of House Bill 5026 – Sandy Nielsen updated the Board that the House Bill has been introduced at Committee.

Commissioner Grimshaw arrived at 8:13 a.m.

-Proposed Resolution 2021-14 in Support of House Bill 5026 to Ensure Continued Operation and Funding of 9-1-1 Service –  
2021-M-228

Motion by DuRussel, seconded by Young to approve Resolution #2021-14 in Support of House Bill 5026 to ensure continued operation and funding of 9-1-1 services. Also, authorize the Chairperson to sign all appropriate documents. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Vaughan – absent; DuRussel – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-Ambulance Calls/Coverage in Tuscola County – Sandy Nielsen provided reports to the Board regarding Ambulance Services within Tuscola County. The report included statistics of the number of times logged out of service, the number of hours out of service and dispatch medical calls by department. Board discussed the concern of the wait time that residents could experience due to the lack of coverage. Clayette will distribute the reports provided by Sandy to the Cities, Townships and Villages within Tuscola County. Matter to be added to the October 25, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

-Request for Proposals (RFP) for Medical Plans Results – Dan Skiver presented the results of the RFP at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 11, 2021.

2021-M-229

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw that after reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP's) for medical insurance provided by Daniel Skiver of Brown and Brown at the Committee of the Whole on Monday, October 11, 2021 that the County remain in their current BCBS Plan for plan year 2022. Also, authorize the Chairperson to sign all appropriate documents. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – absent; DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes. Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-County Space Needs – 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) – Clayette Zechmeister reviewed the RFP and changes discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

2021-M-230

Motion by DuRussel, seconded by Young to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft request for proposals for county space needs as presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021. Bids to be received no later than November 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and proposals will be opened at the Board of Commissioners' Committee of the Whole on November 22, 2021.

2021-M-231

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel to amend motion 2021-M-230 to remove the word "presented" and add the word "finalized". Motion Carried.

2021-M-230 as amended

Motion by DuRussel, seconded by Young to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft request for proposals for county space needs as finalized at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021. Bids to be received no later than November 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and proposals will be opened at the Board of Commissioners' Committee of the Whole on November 22, 2021. Motion Carried.

-Multiple Court Administrative Orders for Tuscola County Courthouse, Face Mask Policy and September 21, 2021 Court Memo – Eric Morris handed out a written legal opinion to the Commissioners regarding the matters. The contents of the opinion were not discussed. Commissioner Bardwell asked if the Court as a sole-employer can take the Human Resources function for court employees, questioned the funding amount provided to the court budget, the security officers for the courthouse being taken from the road patrol, if the road patrol millage could fund the road patrol officers used for courthouse security and the face mask requirement in the courthouse. Closed Session to be scheduled for the October 28, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting.

-South Central Michigan Construction Code Inspections (SCMCCI) Concerns, Greenspaces, LLC (matter added) – Kevin Bushroe explained to the Board his attempts at gaining compliance with the Michigan Energy Code for his business’s greenhouse. Kevin also explained the issues that he has experienced with SCMCCI in getting inspections completed. Kevin would like to pull his permit with SCMCCI and reapply with SAFEbuilt. Commissioner Grimshaw stated the developers of the former Grady Foundry property experienced similar issues with SCMCCI and have reapplied to SAFEbuilt.

2021-M-232

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel that anyone who has an open building permit under South Central Michigan Construction Code Inspections (SCMCCI) has authority to pull the permit from SCMCCI and reapply to SAFEbuilt. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Vaughan – absent; DuRussel – yes; Bardwell – no. Motion Carried.

Recessed at 10:07 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

At 10:17 a.m., there were a total of 20 participants attending the meeting virtually.

-Caro City Water access to Caro Center and Putman Medical Center Project (matter added) – Caro City Mayor Joe Greene provided an update to the water service to the Caro Center and the Putman Medical Center Project. Commissioner Bardwell reviewed the past discussions of providing water to the Caro Center. Mayor Greene stated that once a written request is received from the Putman Project for water then Caro City can proceed forward. Commissioner Grimshaw asked if annexation was the only option to work through this as Vassar City has entered in Cooperative Agreement to not annex property to provide water to various projects. Mayor Greene stated that the sewer is different than the water as it is owned by Almer Township, Indianfields Township and Caro City. Clayette Zechmeister asked if the Tuscola Intermediate School District annexation has been approved yet and Mayor Greene did not have that answer. Commissioner DuRussel asked Mayor Greene regarding the concerns of ambulance service within Caro City. He was unaware of the issues raised at the meeting today and will do research on that.

*Correspondence/Resolutions –*

-Tuscola County Reapportionment Plan 2021 – Clerk Jodi Fetting explained the apportionment process and how the Committee reached the decision of the number of districts and the district layout. There were changes made in District 2 and District 3. Republican Chairman Billy Putman addressed the Board and agreed with Clerk Fetting on how well the process went. It was discussed how the Committee took the residents of Tuscola County into consideration when adopting the plans.

-Newsweek Article on Best Nursing Homes 2022 – Tuscola County Medical Care Facility #1

-Press Release SAFEbuilt

-Press Release Michigan Renewable Energy Collaborative (MREC)

- State Survey & Remonumentation Program 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Report to the Legislature – Clayette Zechmeister provided an update on the project. Michael Yates is the Chairman of the County Remonumentation Committee.
- City of Caro Public Hearing Notice on Sidewalks Special Assessment Roll
- Tuscola County Road Commission Minutes from September 16, 2021
- Huron County Resolution 21-132 Regarding Vaccines and Facemask
- Sanilac County Resolution in Support of Medical Autonomy
- Ingham County Resolution #21-479 Supporting Current Emergency Orders as Determined by Ingham County Health Officer Pursuant to State of Michigan Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978, Section 2453
- Gratiot County Resolution 21-275 Supporting Enactment of HB 5026

-Senator Daley will be attending the meeting October 25, 2021. Board would like feedback on Resolution 2021-13. Board would like input on the State Budget and the restriction that may be included regarding funding to entities that have a mask mandate.

## **COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **BARDWELL**

Behavioral Health Systems Board – Meets next week

Caro DDA/TIFA – Met yesterday, the budget and financial review were discussed. Hometown Heroes has requested a grant from the Janks Foundation for banners to be placed on the light poles downtown recognizing service men and women. Master Plan update also was presented.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7<sup>th</sup> District – Commissioner Bardwell is going to try to schedule a virtual meeting on November 9, 2021.

MAC Workers Comp Board – Meets next week.

MAC Finance Committee – Met on Friday with many topics discussed.

TRIAD – Met yesterday but was unable to attend as was the same time as the DDA meeting.

Local Units of Government Activity Report

### **YOUNG** – No Report

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

**VAUGHAN** - absent

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 – Update provided from Village of Reese meeting that they are considering dissolving the Village Chamber of Commerce, work to be completed on M-81 which the Village is considering a water project in conjunction with that. Also, from the Juniata Township meeting, it was discussed that Thumb Electric Cooperative is going to be providing broadband. Eean Lee will have the President of Air Advantage attend an upcoming meeting to have a discussion regarding broadband.  
Jail Planning Committee  
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

**DURUSSEL**

Board of Health – Meeting upcoming with the new Health Officer.  
Community Corrections Advisory Board – Discussed when and where the meetings are held.  
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

*Other Business as Necessary – None*

At 11:16 a.m., there were a total of 19 participants attending the meeting virtually.

*Extended Public Comment –*

-Mark Ransford spoke about the downtown area of Caro City and the buildings that are located in that area. He addressed how the downtown area looks different that it did 30 years ago and how the outlook of today can adapt. The Caro downtown area is vital to Tuscola County.

-Billy Putman spoke in reference to the success he witnessed in Caseville for local businesses and how they promote family fun in a 4-month period. He would like to see Caro grow in the area of family fun festivals to bring people to the area. He also expressed his appreciation of SAFEbuilt and how he has enjoyed working with them so far.

2021-M-233

Motion by Young, seconded by Grimshaw to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m.  
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk