

**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners  
Committee of the Whole  
Monday, July 12, 2021 – 8:00 A.M.**

Commissioner Bardwell called the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building in the City of Caro, Michigan, on the 12th day of July 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Roll Call - Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person:

- District 1 - Thomas Young
- District 2 - Thomas Bardwell
- District 3 - Kim Vaughan (excused at 1:01 p.m.)
- District 4 - Douglas DuRussel
- District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw (arrived at 8:08 a.m.)

Others Present in-Person:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Clayette Zechmeister, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, Judge Nancy L. Thane, Tip MacGuire, Ann Hepfer, Linda Strasz, Dr. William Morrone, Steve Anderson, Dan Skiver, Kelly Quiroga, Senator Kevin Daley, Shelly Lutz, Register John Bishop

Commissioner Absent:

None

Also Present Virtual:

Stacey Wilcox, Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Heidi Chicilli, Don Klier, Sandra Nielsen, Randy Pfau, Kim Brinkman, Karen Southgate, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Mark Haney, Mike Miller, Bob Baxter, Matt Brown, Debbie Babich, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Steve Anderson, Jana Brown, Tara Hofmeister, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Shannon Gwizdala, Maggie Root

At 8:08 a.m., there were 22 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**New Business** – Continued below

1. Justice Audio and Video Solutions (JAVS) Proposals – The following proposals were included in the agenda packet.
  - a. Proposal JUST-2285 Referee Hearing Room
  - b. Proposal JUST-2286 Probate Court SM
  - c. Proposal JUST-2287 Magistrate Hearing Room
  - d. Proposal JUST-2289 54<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court
  - e. Proposal JUST-2290 71B District Court

-Judge Amy Grace Gierhart presented the solution of creating a hybrid courtroom. This system would allow for all five courtrooms to have a video and audio recording of all proceedings. Board discussed the possibility of using ARPA Funds. Board discussed the matter at length. Matter to be placed on Thursday's Board Agenda.

### **County Updates** –

-Board of Health Recommendation to Filling Health Officer Position - Ann Hepfer explained interviews have been completed with two individuals. Tip MacGuire has been offered the position by the interview team. Ann is requesting approval from the Board of Commissioners. Board would like to have the final report provided as well as the recommendation from the State prior to approval.

-Legislative Updates – Senator Kevin Daley provided an update of current legislation – Insulin, SOS office hours and late fees, and taxation on wind energy. The Board discussed Revenue Sharing, remote participation for Board meetings by Commissioners, Michigan Renewable Energy Collaborative (MREC), Election Audit, Door to Door Vaccination, electric bills and solar energy.

### **New Business** – Continued from above

2. Child Care Fund Projected Costs 2021-2022 – Karen Southgate, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Acting Director for Tuscola County, presented to the Board regarding the Child Care Fund Budget and the requested amount for the upcoming year. Linda Strasz, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, presented regarding the court programs and the funding requested for the upcoming year. She also addressed the upcoming program of Raise the Age. Board discussed the amount of funds requested for the upcoming year. Matters to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
3. Independent Contractor Agreement with List Psychological Services, PLC - Karen Southgate, MDHHS Acting Director for Tuscola County, presented regarding the agreement. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
4. Medical Examiner Office Update and Reducing Overdose Deaths - Dr. William Morrone presented regarding the Opioid Crisis. He also reviewed the last two months of calls that he has received since taking over the Medical Examiner position.
5. Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal and Short-Term Disability Potential Change – Dan Skiver, Vice President Brown & Brown of Central Michigan, Inc, explained that this proposed renewal is a 16-month renewal in order to get the renewal date of January 1<sup>st</sup> each year and reviewed the proposed agreement. Dan also presented reading the Short-Term Disability agreement. Matters to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Recessed at 11:16 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:26 a.m.

At 11:26 a.m., there were 17 participants attending the meeting virtually.

6. Farmland Preservation Program – Clayette Zechmeister stated that Lonnie Kester reported that just over 726 acres have been put into the PA116 Program in Tuscola County. Commissioner Grimshaw explained what the Purchase Development Right (PDR) Program is and how it is different than the PA116 Program. Clerk Fetting will research to see if documentation could be found on if a Board was ever appointed. Commissioner Grimshaw will follow up to see if he can gather information on what would be required of the County.
7. Tuscola County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance – Included in the Board packet for information.
8. Tuscola County Planning Commission PA 116 Request for Program – Board discussed the Planning Commission during the Farmland Preservation Program.
9. Region VII Area Agency on Aging Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 – Clayette Zechmeister presented the request. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
10. Register of Deeds Budget Amendment – Clayette Zechmeister explained the discrepancy in having a shortfall in the wages line item in the Register of Deeds budget as the part-time employee was calculated incorrectly. Clayette explained the amount for the budget amendment. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
11. Council on Aging Appointment – Clerk Fetting presented the two applications received for the open position. Donna Dipzinski is to be appointed to the partial term. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
12. Parks and Recreation Committee Appointment – Clerk Fetting presented the application received for the open position. Megan Rule to be appointed to the partial term. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

### **Old Business**

1. Murphy Lake Project – Clayette Zechmeister addressed the Board regarding how the Board would like to pay for the Project. She reviewed the funds that would be available if the Board chooses to do pre-pay for the project and the projected savings by doing that. Board discussed at length the options available. Matter to be placed on Thursday's Board Agenda.

### **Finance/Technology**

Committee Leader Commissioner Young  
Commissioner DuRussel

### **Primary Finance/Technology**

1. MGT Cost Allocation Plan – Clayette Zechmeister presented to the Board regarding the plan and the proposed percentage costs to the various funds. Board discussed a 5% cap for the upcoming budget year. Matter to be placed on Thursday's Board Agenda.

2. Mid-Year Financial Reports
  - a. General Fund
  - b. Special Revenue Funds
  - c. All Funds Fund Balances

Clayette Zechmeister reviewed the reports that were included in the Board Agenda packet. The Board discussed the amount still owing on the Purdy Building. The Board discussed the Animal Control Budget.

Commissioner Vaughan excused at 1:01 p.m.

### **On Going and Other Finance and Technology**

#### **Finance**

1. Proposed L-4029 Tuscola County 2021 Special Voted Tax Rates – Matter to be added to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.
2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee – Clayette Zechmeister provided an update from the recent meeting.
3. Preparation of Multi-Year Financial Planning – No update.
4. Pension Obligation Bond Refunding – Clayette Zechmeister provided an update and has paperwork that needs to be signed.

**Technology** – Eean Lee provided an update on projects that his team is working on. LinkedIn was hacked and his team is monitoring for any subsequent issues.

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

### **Building and Grounds**

Committee Leader Commissioner Grimshaw  
Commissioner DuRussel

#### **Primary Building and Grounds**

1. None

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

1. State Police Water and Annexation
2. IT Department Space Needs
3. Vanderbilt Park Survey – Matter can be removed from the agenda.

### **Personnel**

Committee Leader Commissioner Grimshaw  
Commissioner Vaughan

#### **Primary Personnel**

1. Paperless Payroll Policy – Commissioner Grimshaw presented the proposed policy. Matter to be placed on Thursday's Agenda.

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

1. Workman's Compensation
2. Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS) - Annual Conference on October 7-8, 2021.
3. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) 7<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Updates – The MAC Annual Conference is on September 26-28, 2021 on Mackinaw Island.
4. Safety Committees – Watch for Grant Opportunities

### **Other Business as Necessary**

1. Request for Proposals Professional Building Plan Review Services and Inspection Services – Bid Openings will be on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

-Clayette Zechmeister and Commissioner Bardwell provided an update to the contract on SAFEBuilt for the Putman Construction Project. Matter to be placed on Thursday's Board Agenda if the contract is ready.

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

1. Animal Control Ordinance

At 1:52 p.m., there were 14 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **Public Comment Period**

-Commissioner Bardwell provided correspondence regarding opening of air space.

-Clerk Fetting provided an update on the Farmland Preservation Program and the Committee establishment that was outlined in the Ordinance. It appears that a Committee was never appointed. The matter had been on Committee of the Whole Agenda in 2009 but dropped off in 2010.

-Clerk Fetting reported that her staff member, Rita Papp, has accepted the position as the Caro City Clerk.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk