



MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting

8:00 AM - Monday, March 28, 2022

H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723

Commissioner Bardwell called the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723, on Monday, March 28, 2022, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: Thomas Young, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Doug DuRussel, Dan Grimshaw

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Clayette Zechmeister, Judge Nancy L. Thane, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Brian Harris, Kristy Sutherland, Maryanne Eagle, Gene Pierce, Debbie Powell, Nancy Laskowski, Jim Tussey, Shelly Lutz

Also Present Virtual: Tony Poulos, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Mary Drier, Sandy Nielsen, Renee Francisco, Mark Haney, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, Steve Root, Janie Hemerline, Pam Shook, Alecia Little, Matt Lane, Bob Baxter, Debbie Babich, K. Free, Cindy Hughes, Barry Lapp, Matt Brown, Shannon Beach

At 8:03 a.m., there were a total of 19 participants attending the meeting virtually.

County Updates

1. Community Garden Update -

Judge Nancy L. Thane presented to the Board regarding the positive impact the community garden has on the Juvenile Probation program and the community members that benefit from the produce. Judge Thane also referenced the various programs and partners that have contributed to the success of the program.

2. County Treasurer's Office Hours -

County Treasurer Ashley Bennett updated the Board that the County Treasurer's Office will be revert back to a closing time of 4:30 p.m. effective April 4, 2022. The office will remain open during the lunch hour.

New Business

1. Annual Aging Services Programmatic Report FY 2021 -
Kristy Sutherland, Human Development Commission Senior Services Director, presented FY 2021 Report and information on the program and benefits provided to the community. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
2. Potential Jail Millage -
Debbie Powell, Cass City Village Manager, presented to the Board regarding her views on the need for a new county jail.

Sheriff Glen Skrent reviewed a survey that was taken of members of the Jail Committee as to building a new jail, refurbishing the current jail, moving to a regional solution, the size of a proposed jail, and the site of a proposed jail.

Board discussed motion 2021-M-219 that was adopted by the Board on September 30, 2021 to authorize proposed ballot language be drafted as well as which election the proposal should be presented on.

For Reference:

2021-M-219

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to direct Clayette Zechmeister, Controller/Administrator, to work with Sheriff Glen Skrent and Eric Morris of Braun Kendrick, to construct draft ballot proposal language for a new county jail to be presented to the Board for adoption. Also, move to have a millage amount proposed for the draft ballot language to be presented to the Board for adoption. Also, move for a recommendation as to if the ballot proposal should be placed on the May 2022 ballot, the August 2022 ballot or the November 2022 ballot to be presented to the Board for adoption. After draft language with the requested millage amount has been constructed along with which 2022 election to place the proposal on, the final ballot proposal language is to be presented to the Board for final adoption. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – no; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Clayette Zechmeister reviewed current interest rates. It is being proposed to utilize the facilities loan program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Clayette will also contact Bond Counsel for information.

3. Sheriff's Department New Hires to Fill Vacant Positions -
Sheriff Glen Skrent reviewed four offers that have been made to people to fill vacant positions in the Sheriff's Office. Matters to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Bryan Hemerline has been promoted to a Sergeant position in the Corrections Department.

4. Airport Authority Update on Legal and Construction Plans -
Jim Tussey reviewed the pending cases that Pegasus filed in the 54th Circuit Court that were taken to the Court of Appeals. He also reviewed a handout on behalf of the Tuscola County Airport Authority. He discussed the Tall Structure permits and discussed the extension of the current runway. Mr. Tussey addressed a sand mine that

SCMCCI granted a permit to that never received approval from Indianfields Township nor from the Airport Administrator as it was within the Airport Ordinance coverage area.

Recessed at 9:52 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:01 a.m.

At 10:01 a.m., there were a total of 19 participants attending the meeting virtually.

5. Conflict of Interest Policy -

Clayette Zechmeister presented the proposed policy which is required for some of the federal grant programs that Tuscola County participates in.

Board discussed what level of family should be included in the policy and also what their views are that is considered a conflict.

Matter to be placed on Thursday's Agenda.

6. Adult-Use Marijuana 2022 Distributions Based on 2021 Revenue Collected -

Clayette Zechmeister presented the revenue that was received which was higher than anticipated.

Old Business

None

Finance/Technology

Primary Finance/Technology

None

On-Going and Other Finance

None

On-Going and Other Technology

Eean Lee provided an update that the security cameras have been installed in the Treasurer's Office. The Jail security camera project will begin next week. There have been some news rules implemented on companies that can be used for anti-virus protection.

1. GIS Update

No Update, matter to be removed from the agenda and listed as Technology Updates.

2. Increasing On-Line Services/Updating Web Page

No Update, matter to be removed from agenda.

Building and Grounds

Primary Building and Grounds

1. Opening Bids for the Purchase of a New Vulcan Range and Griddle at the County Sheriff's Department -
Mike Miller, Buildings and Ground Director, opened the bids that were received.
 1. Douglas Equipment, Bloomfield, West Virginia - \$15,240.10
 2. Grady's Team, Pueblo, Colorado - \$16,952.36
 3. Consumers Service and Culinary Depo, Spring Valley, New York - \$15,440.60

Board would like to reject the bids received at this time. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Board would like to rebid the project and have Mike look at MiDeal and reach out to a Vulcan dealer located in Michigan.

On-Going and Other Building and Grounds

1. State Police Water and Annexation -
Clayette updated the Board that we are just waiting for some final paperwork to come through in order to complete the annexation.
2. Courthouse Stained-Glass Window Restoration (matter added) -
Mike Miller explained that the stained-glass window in the courthouse has lost some of the lead braces. A stained-glass expert has looked at the window and feels it is currently safe but does need to be fully restored. Keith Kosik also looked at the plexi-glass that is on the outside of the building which he is recommending that it is replaced as well. Mike is waiting on quotes for both of those matters. Board is supportive of the restoration project. Board discussed using the marijuana revenue for the project.

Personnel

Primary Personnel

1. Hiring Freeze History Timeline -
Clayette reviewed the timeline that was included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Bardwell reviewed the events that led up to the Board requesting Clayette to put the timeline together. Shelly Lutz stated that normally a job offer is made contingent upon Board approval and satisfactory physical, background check and drug screen. Board would like to continue the current practice and not re-implement a hiring freeze.

On-Going and Other Personnel

1. Workman's Compensation -
Matter to be removed from the agenda.
2. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) 7th District Meeting -
Matter to be removed from the agenda.
3. Safety Committees - Watch for Grant Opportunities -
Matter to be removed from the agenda.
4. Retirement Plans and Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS)
Representative Updates -
MERS Presentation is being planned for April 2022.

Board is gathering information on Defined Benefit participation by employees that were grandfathered in being stopped and any new contributions by those employees would be under the Defined Contribution.

Other Business as Necessary

None

On-Going Other Business as Necessary

1. Animal Control Ordinance - Still in Review
Leigh Nancy and Prosecutor Reene are reviewing the proposed ordinance.
2. Guidehouse Activity for Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government (NEUs)
Outreach -
Guidehouse will be presenting at Thursday's meeting. Clayette is hoping that the Board will have a review of, at a minimum, the premium pay and possibly the other proposed projects by the end of today.
3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds - Updates on Projects and Reporting -
Discussed in previous Item #2.
4. County Wide upcoming Millage renewals:
Michigan State University Extension
Primary Roads and Street Improvement
Bridge and Street Improvement

Clayette stated that the proposed ballot language will be presented to the Board on April 11, 2022.

At 11:30 a.m., there were a total of 16 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Public Comment Period

None

Adjournment

Motion by Thomas Young, seconded by Kim Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk