

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 28, 2020 Minutes

Electronic Meeting held via Google Hangouts

Electronic remote access, in accordance with the Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-75, implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and Michigan Governor's Stay Home Stay Safe Orders.

Commissioner Young called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held via Google Hangouts on the 28th day of May 2020, to order at 8:07 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Vaughan

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Young

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present: District 1 - Thomas Young, District 2 - Thomas Bardwell, District 3 - Kim Vaughan, District 4 - Mark Jensen, District 5 – Daniel Grimshaw

Commissioner Absent - None

Also Present: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Debbie Babich, Lisa Ozbat, Matt Brown, Mary Drier, Mike Miller, Rahm Mormando, Sandy Nielsen, Steve Anderson, Dwight Thabet, Jana Brown, Barry Lapp, Mark Ransford, Sam Leppert, Megan Bartolowits, Mike Thorp, Ann Hepfer, Mark Haney, Kathy O'Dell, Jessica VanHove, Tracy Violet, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, Shelly Lutz, Russell Bush MD, Marcus Atkins, Mark Trumbauer, Bob Baxter

At 8:11 a.m., there were a total of 37 participants attending the electronic meeting.

Adoption of Agenda -
2020-M-116

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adopt the agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -
2020-M-117

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Young to adopt the meeting minutes from the May 21, 2020 Special Board meetings. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only - None

*Consent Agenda Resolution - None**New Business -*

-Update from Tuscola County Health Officer Ann Hepfer on the COVID-19 Pandemic - Ann Hepfer provided an update on the number of current cases in Tuscola County as well as the current number of deaths. Drive-thru testing clinics are continuing for anyone living in our rural area. A joint website has been created for information through Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance, www.mithumbpha.org.

Kathy O'Dell spoke in regards to the charges that were incurred when the Medical Examiner program was held under the umbrella of the Health Department.

-Honorable Amy Grace Gierhart regarding Magistrate Pay - Judge Gierhart provided a background on the Magistrate Pay as to how it had been established and how the request came to discussion during the 2020 Budget requests. Judge also expressed her appreciation of Magistrate VanAuken's willingness to provide additional assistance during the COVID pandemic. Board discussed salary options.

2020-M-118

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan to incorporate the already existing \$5,000 on-call pay into Attorney-Magistrate-Collections Officer salary retroactive to January 1, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

2020-M-119

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Young to approve a \$12,800.00 annual salary increase for the Attorney-Magistrate-Collections Officer position retroactive January 1, 2020. Also, it is authorized that all signatures needed and budget amendments needed be made as necessary. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - no; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine (MIFSM) Update and Progress - Dr. Russell L Bush, MD, MPH Director/Chief Medical Examiner and Marcus Atkins, Director of Sales and Operations - Dr. Bush reviewed a presentation which included items of Increased Quality of Services and Efficiency. An In-House Toxicology Testing has been added. A succession plan has been put into place. Dr. Bush explained the Cremation Permit Charge.

Recessed at 10:36 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:47 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners Present: Young, Bardwell, Vaughan, Jensen, Grimshaw

At 10:47 a.m., there were a total of 35 participants attending the electronic meeting.

-Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine (MIFSM) Charges for Services – Mark Ransford, Ransford Collon Funeral Homes - Mark Ransford addressed the Board in regards to the change of fees such as the cremation permit fee. He is requesting the fee be placed back to the \$10.00 amount that has been long-standing in the county. Dwight Thabet supported Mark's statement and request. Board discussed the contract that was adopted.

2020-M-120

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that the contract held with MIFSM be reviewed by legal counsel to clarify the scope of the contract and the understanding of the structure of fees. Also, to determine if additional fees are allowed to be created under the contract. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Dr. Bush shared that he feels the Funeral Home Directors can revert back to the \$10.00 fee until clarification on the contract can be received. If a bill is received at the higher fee rate, to only pay the \$10.00 and include a statement that the fee is under review by the County.

-MMRMA Net Asset Distribution and Update on RAP Grants Awarded to Tuscola County - Clayette Zechmeister explained the amount of the Net Asset Distribution received was \$141,161.00. Also, reviewed were the amount of RAP grants received.

-Road Commissioner Pay for 2021 -

-Commissioner Pay for 2021 -

-Commissioners discussed the base compensation received by County Commissioners and County Road Commissioners and the increases over the most recent years.

2020-M-121

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Young to rescind Motion 14-M-226.

Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; Jensen - no; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried. (Motion 14-M-226 was adopted December 29, 2014)

14-M-226 - Motion Rescinded

~~Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bierlein that for the term of office for the years 2015 and 2016, and thereafter until further official action otherwise, the members of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners shall each be required to provide no more than an average twenty-nine (29) hours of service in such capacity per calendar week, and in no case shall any member of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners engage in more than Five Hundred Nineteen (519) hours of service in any period of ninety (90) consecutive days, nor more than One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Nine (1,559) hours of service in any one (1) year period. Also, it shall be the responsibility of each member of the Tuscola~~

~~County Board of Commissioners to ensure their own compliance with the hourly service limitations set forth herein.~~

2020-M-122

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Young for the year beginning 2021 that County Commissioners base compensation be increased by \$2,000.00 per Commissioner. Roll Call Vote: Jensen - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

2020-M-123

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Young for the year beginning in 2021 that the County Road Commissioner base compensation be increased by \$2,000.00 per Road Commissioner. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Jensen - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Old Business -

-Commissioner Pay for 2021 - Addressed in New Business

-Board Rules of Order - Commissioner Bardwell reviewed a matter brought up by Register Bishop at the May 21, 2020 Special Board meeting regarding when a Commissioner addresses a matter relating to an Elected Official, Department Head or other employee during a Board of Commissioners meeting.

Correspondence/Resolutions - None

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS**YOUNG**

Board of Public Works

County Road Commission Liaison - Update provided.

Dispatch Authority Board

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

Great Start Collaborative

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

Jail Planning Committee

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Region VI Economic Development Planning

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

Senior Services Advisory Council

Tuscola 2020

Local Units of Government Activity Report

VAUGHAN - No Report

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 - No Report

Behavioral Health Systems Board
Recycling Advisory
Local Units of Government

JENSEN - No Report

Board of Health
Community Corrections Advisory Board
Dept. of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works
Jail Planning Committee
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 - Update provided.
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC 7th District
MAC Workers Comp Board - Meeting scheduled for June 3, 2020
TRIAD
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Other Business as Necessary -

-Commissioner Jensen referenced the State furloughing employees and feels the County should look at this as well. He also feels a plan needs to be put in place for employees to return to work in the offices.

-Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting June 8, 2020 - Commissioner Bardwell would like Clayette Zechmeister to monitor the matters to be placed on an agenda to determine if a COW meeting will be needed on June 8th. If there are not enough matters then just the Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on June 11, 2020.

Commissioner Vaughan excused at approximately 12:50 p.m.

At 1:03 p.m., there were a total of 20 participants attending the electronic meeting.

Extended Public Comment -

-Commissioner Bardwell stated as the County moves to reopen, the Board should address how to continue to take advantage of public participation with the use of electronic means as the Board transitions back to in person meetings as participation has increased with electronic meetings.

2020-M-124

Motion by Young, seconded by Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk