

## TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 28, 2021 Minutes

Meeting held via Google Meet Electronic remote access, in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 – Gathering Prohibition and Mask Order and Public Act 254 of 2020.

Commissioner Bardwell called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held via Google Meet on the 28th day of January 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Young

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

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 - Lake County, State of Florida (excused at 10:46 a.m.)

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

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

Commissioner Absent - None

Also Present Virtual:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, Mary Drier, Steve Erickson, Debbie Babich, Tracy Violet, Heidi Chicilli, Lisa Ozbat, Wayne Koper, Mike Miller, Bob Baxter, Brian Woodin, Jana Brown, Matt Brown, Steve Anderson, Drain Commissioner Bob Mantey, Barry Lapp, Jessica VanHove, Mark Haney, Pam Shook, Jim McLoskey, Donna Fraczek, Shannon Gwizdala, Jim Tischler, Debbie Mika, Shelly Lutz, Brian Harris, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Mark Ransford, Register John Bishop, Bob DeCoe

At 8:09 a.m., there were a total of 31 participants attending the meeting.

*Adoption of Agenda -*  
2021-M-018

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

*Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -  
2021-M-019*

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adopt the meeting minutes from the January 14, 2021 Regular meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

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

*Consent Agenda Resolution -  
2021-M-020*

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Resolution from the January 25, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adopted. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel - yes; Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Agenda Reference:** A
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/21
- Description of Matter:** Move to approve the Amendment to the 2012 Communication Site Lease Agreement with Thumb Cellular, LLC at 420 Court Street. This will add Section 25 to install a camera on the tower for a security feed to cover the Sheriff's parking lot. Other terms and conditions on the agreement will remain in force and effect. Also, all appropriate signatures are authorized.
- Agenda Reference:** B
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1/25/21
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Director that Shawn Cameron be hired to fill the vacant part-time custodian position. Effective hire date of February 8, 2021 at the beginning step rate of \$15.18 per hour. Also, approval is pending favorable background, physical and drug screening.

*New Business -*

-Murphy Lake Level – Robert Mantey, Drain Commissioner explained that there is an informational meeting scheduled for February 8, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This informational meeting will be held to provide an update on the Murphy Lake Level Control Structure. Watertown Township and Millington Township are involved.

-Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Updates –  
-Stephen Erickson, Executive Director, expressed his appreciation of Frankenmuth Credit Union providing funds for local businesses to apply for. Steve also explained some various other programs that were made available to local businesses. Steve provided an overview in general of some upcoming 2021 projects. The state land acquisition was discussed at length. Jim Tischler from the State Land Bank Authority provided an update on the State Land Bank process. He was unclear of Tuscola County's intention regarding the land. Steve was working with an outside developer regarding a portion of the land that the County had not approved. The Board stated they are interested in the parcels of land that was originally discussed and surveyed.

-Jim McLoskey mentioned a new venture called Michigan House of Hope.

-Matter of restaurants reopening at 25% capacity on February 1, 2021 discussed.

-Agenda Distribution - Board discussed the quick turnaround time from the Committee of the Whole meeting to having to have the Board agenda in the mail to the Commissioners.

#### Old Business -

-Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Expiration – As of January 14, 2021, 87 out of 166 employees have sick time available in their sick banks. Emergency Services employees (Sheriff's Deputies, Correction Officers and 911 Dispatchers) experiencing COVID related situations would be considered under workman's compensation claim guidelines until March 31, 2021. Board discussed the possible options that are available. Board at this time decided to stay with current policies that are in place.

-Medical Examiner William R. Morrone, DO, MPH d/b/a Capitol Toxicology - Clayette Zechmeister updated the Board that Dr. Morrone has signed the contract for Capitol Toxicology to provide Medical Examiner services to Tuscola County.

#### ~~2020-M-024~~ 2021-M-021

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that Tuscola County terminate, without cause, its current contract with the Michigan Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine (MIFSM) for the provision of medical examiner services. I further move to instruct legal counsel for the County to give appropriate written notification of this termination such that it is effective April 30, 2021 and to take any other actions as are necessary to transition to William R. Morrone, DO, MPH Doing Business As Capitol Toxicology for Medical Examiner services. I further move that legal counsel and the County Controller/Administrator calculate the appropriate pro-rata amount of payment for services for the month of April 2021, as the County has already paid the Michigan Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine through March 2021. Roll Call Vote: Grimshaw - yes; Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

-Michigan Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine (MIFSM) - Matter not discussed further.

-Board Rules of Order - Clayette Zechmeister has received a copy of the Conflict of Interest policy from Tuscola County Behavioral Health Systems. This policy along with the others that she has found are to be distributed to the Commissioners. Matter to be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

-State Land Bank Update - Matter discussed at length during the EDC update. Board further discussed moving forward with acquiring the property. Commissioner Vaughan reported that Indianfields Township has expressed to him they are not interested in partaking in the project.

~~2020-M-022~~ 2021-M-022

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan that Tuscola County affirm in writing its intent to proceed with acquisition of parcels of land in Indianfields Township from the State of Michigan Land Bank as disclosed in Survey Job No. 2019.484 dated January 8, 2020 prepared by D&M Site, Inc. Roll Call Vote: Young - yes; Vaughan - yes; DuRussel - no; Grimshaw - yes; Bardwell - yes. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Vaughan excused at 10:46 a.m.

*Correspondence/Resolutions -*

- Michigan House of Representatives Committee Assignments for Appropriations Committees
- Michigan House of Representative Committee Assignments for Policy Committees
- Email from a Concerned Citizen Regarding Vaccine Distribution
- Michigan.gov COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard
- Tuscola County Employee COVID-19 Claims Dashboard
- Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems Board of Directors 2021 Board Meeting Schedule
- Tuscola County Road Commission Meeting Minutes
- Grand Traverse County Pandemic Resolution #8-2021
- Kalkaska County Pandemic Resolution #2021-14
- Houghton County In Support of Local Business Resolution #21-01

**COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**GRIMSHAW** - No Report at this time.

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Recycling Advisory

Local Units of Government

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

**DURUSSEL** - No Report at this time.

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**

Behavioral Health Systems Board  
Caro DDA/TIFA  
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment  
MAC 7<sup>th</sup> District - Discussed potential meeting date of February 17, 2021.  
MAC Workers Comp Board - Meets in May 2021.  
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  
Region VI Economic Development Planning  
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative  
Senior Services Advisory Council  
Tuscola 2020  
Local Units of Government Activity Report  
Commissioner Young attended the MREC meeting on January 19, 2021.

**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

*Other Business as Necessary - None*

At 10:58 a.m., there were a total of 26 participants attending the meeting.

*Extended Public Comment -*

-Register John Bishop expressed concern regarding the FFCRA expiration. He expressed the time off for COVID needs to be considered differently than time off for the flu.

-Wayne Koper spoke in reference to the economic impact COVID has had on the community.

-Bob DeCoe thanked the Tuscola County Health Department for a well-organized vaccination clinic at the Colwood Church. He is not in support of the Sanctuary County Resolution adopted by the Board. Expressed concern over economic impact to local businesses.

-Wayne Koper spoke in reference to wealth distribution in the middle class.

2021-M-023

Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk