

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 29, 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 29th day of July 2021, to order at 8:00 o'clock local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Grimshaw

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner DuRussel

Roll Call – Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person:

District 1 – Thomas Young
District 2 – Thomas Bardwell
District 3 – Kim Vaughan
District 4 – Douglas DuRussel
District 5 – Daniel Grimshaw

Commissioner Absent:

None

Others Present In-Person:

Clayette Zechmeister, Eean Lee, David Stevens, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart

Also Present Virtual:

Clerk Jodi Fetting, Tracy Violet, Sandy Nielsen, Heidi Chicilli, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Misty Thompson, Debbie Babich, Mike Miller, Eric Morris, Bernard Jocuns, Ann Hepfer, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Matt Brown, Shannon Gwizdala, Jana Brown

At 8:13 a.m., there were a total of 20 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda -

2021-M-158

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adopt the agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2021-M-159

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel to correct the July 15, 2021 minutes to correct motion 2021-M-155 to reflect the money would be transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Murphy Lake Project. Motion Carried.

2021-M-160

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by DuRussel to adopt the meeting minutes from the July 15, 2021 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only –

-Bernard Jocuns spoke in reference to the Closed Session matter regarding the redaction of the FOIA request.

-Misty Thompson spoke in reference to the courtroom video/audio technology. Commissioner Bardwell paused public comment until the end of the meeting as the matter was not on the agenda.

Consent Agenda Resolution -

2021-M-161

Motion by DuRussel, seconded by Vaughan that the Consent Agenda Resolution and Minutes from the July 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Reference: A

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/26/21

Description of Matter: Move that per the recommendation of Sandra Nielsen, Dispatch Director, to hire Karalee Nusz to fill a vacant full-time dispatcher position effective August 9, 2021. Background check, physical and drug screen have been completed.

Agenda Reference: B

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/26/21

Description of Matter: Move that per the recommendation of Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, to hire Samuel Gaiser to fill a vacant full-time corrections officer position effective immediately. Background check, physical and drug screen have been completed.

New Business -

-Health Officer Position Replacement – Ann Hepfer explained that she has talked to two recruiting firms: Hiring Solutions and People Matters. Funding has been secured for this process. Both firms stated it could take up to 120 days to fill a professional position. Board discussed how to handle interviews of an upcoming candidate and preference points a veteran might receive in the interview process.

-Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Application Approval Resolution #2021-11 - David L. Stevens, Community Corrections Coordinator Thumb Area Regional Community Corrections, addressed the Board regarding the grant application as having a resolution is a new requirement. Mr. Stevens discussed the various programs offered by Community Corrections.

2021-M-162

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to approve Resolution 2021-11 for the Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Application. Also, all appropriate signatures be authorized. Roll Call Vote: Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-Resolution #2021-12 for the Fee Schedule for SAFEbuilt on the Medical Building Project – Matter was discussed at the July 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2021-M-163

Motion by Grimshaw, seconded by Vaughan to approve Resolution 2021-12 setting certain building and other permit fees specifically assigned to SAFEbuilt Michigan, LLC. Also, all appropriate signatures be authorized. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-County Clerk Staffing Changes – Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, had presented requests to the Commissioners regarding staffing changes.

2021-M-164

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by DuRussel that effective August 6, 2021 that Stacey Wilcox be classified as a Court Clerk II at Step 7 which was the Step she was at prior to be moved to the Chief Deputy position within the Tuscola County Clerk's Office. This change in position is at her request and approved by the County Clerk. Motion Carried.

2021-M-165

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan that effective August 9, 2021 that Curtis Elenbaum is appointed and hired as the Chief Deputy Clerk in the Tuscola County Clerk's Office beginning at Step 1 in the pay scale. This is pending a favorable physical and background check. Motion Carried.

Closed Session –

2021-M-166

Motion by Young, seconded by DuRussel that the Board meet in closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider written materials from the County's attorneys that are exempt from disclosure by Section 13(1) (g) of the Freedom of Information Act with Eric Morris from Braun Kendrick, also, Jodi Fetting, Clayette Zechmeister and Eean Lee are authorized to attend beginning

at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Closed Session at 9:00 a.m.

Reconvened from Closed Session at 9:38 a.m.

Recessed at 9:38 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:48 a.m.

At 9:48 a.m., there were a total of 18 participants attending the meeting virtually.

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

-FOIA Request Received from Judge Amy Grace Gierhart regarding Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel (MIDC) Attorney Bills – Board discussed that the original FOIA request response was provided with redaction of certain information. An appeal was filed regarding the redaction by Judge Gierhart. Board discussed moving forward in either denying the appeal, granting the appeal or providing information somewhere in between.

2021-M-169

Motion by DuRussel, seconded by Grimshaw that the Board of Commissioners, having considered the FOIA appeal filed by Judge Gierhart on July 15, 2021, hereby grants the appeal and reverses the prior denial of disclosure that was the subject of the appeal. Further moved that Board Chairman, Thomas Bardwell, is directed to take such action as is necessary to convey this decision to Judge Gierhart and provide the unredacted responsive documents no later than Thursday, July 29, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Vaughan – yes; DuRussel – yes; Grimshaw – yes; Young – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

Old Business -

-County Wide Building Code Services in Tuscola County – Board discussed the process the Board should take regarding reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP) received and interviewing of the companies that submitted the proposals. Board discussed if the matter should be held during a Committee of the Whole meeting or if a special meeting should be called. Board discussed if the county should go on the record that the County supports a county-wide Building Code Department.

2021-M-170

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Young that through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process it is the Tuscola County Board Commissioners every intent to have a County-wide Professional Building Plan Review and Inspection Service. Also, forward correspondence to all local jurisdictions to make them aware of our intentions. Roll Call Vote: DuRussel – no; Grimshaw – no; Young – yes; Vaughan – yes; Bardwell – yes. Motion Carried.

-Clayette Zechmeister is working with the companies that submitted the RFPs as the fee schedule was not included in the original RFP request. Once the fee schedules have been received, Clayette will work with those companies to schedule a date for them to appear in front of the Board.

- Proposed L-4029 Tuscola County 2021 Special Voted Tax Rates –
- Millage Allocation Chart – Included in the agenda packet.
- 2021 L-4029 – Included in the agenda packet.

Clayette Zechmeister provided an update. Board discussed the Special Voted Tax Rates.

2021-M-171

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan that the form L-4029 authorizing the 2021 Tax Rate Levy for County Special Voted Tax Rates be approved and all appropriate signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions –

- Mental Health Court Graduation Ceremony
- Thumb Regional Sobriety Court Graduation
- Parks and Recreation Commission Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Tuscola County Road Commission Minutes
- Village of Cass City Public Notice

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

BARDWELL

Behavioral Health Systems Board
 Caro DDA/TIFA
 Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
 MAC 7th District
 MAC Workers Comp Board – Meets Monday morning.
 MAC Finance Committee – Meets in August.
 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 – Attended the Jail tour.
 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

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 – Tuscola County Fair is this week.

GRIMSHAW

Behavioral Health Systems Board – Provided update from the meeting.
Recycling Advisory
Local Units of Government
Jail Planning Committee – Commissioner Grimshaw discussed other options that have been previously submitted regarding a new Jail.
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC) – Clayette Zechmeister provided an update regarding the Huron County newspaper article and she is working with MREC in preparing a press release for how it affects Tuscola County.

DURUSSEL – No report.

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

Other Business as Necessary -

-Clayette Zechmeister provided an update that the County is unable to finance using a mortgage process. Clayette will research if there is an alternative other than a bond.

-Aldi's has purchased the property where Caro Alternative Education was located on M-81.

At 10:48 a.m., there were a total of 19 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment -

-Judge Amy Grace Gierhart discussed the Judicial AV Solutions (JAVS) system being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This matter has been discussed with the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). There has also been an order issued by the Supreme Court that the courts are to use remote court as much as possible.

-Misty Thompson asked the Board when the court recorder retired. She addressed the Board regarding the JAVS system. Misty spoke regarding COVID-19.

-Board discussed new CDC guidelines issued.

2021-M-172

Motion by Young, seconded by Vaughan to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk