



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

10:00 AM - Wednesday, October 2, 2024

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

Commissioner Vaughan called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723, on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, to order at 10:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: Thomas Young

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Karly Creguer, Shelly Lutz, Debbie Babich, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Jon Ramirez, Cody Horton, Tyler Ray, Drain Commissioner Bob Mantey, Dara Hood, Treasurer Ashley Bennett

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Terry Camp, Alecia Little, Amy Prill, Amy Taylor, Angie House, Ashley Gaudett, Bonnie Fackler, Echo Torrez, Linda Strasz, Renee Francisco, Tanya Pisha, Katie Robinson, Bob Baxter, Lydia Magiera, Estee Bitzer, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Steve Anderson, Cindy Hughes, Jodi Barrons, Barry Lapp, Amanda Ertman, Steve Root, Trevor Keyes, Tricia Sharp, Tom McLane, Karlee Romain, Suzy Smith, Ryan Robinson

At 10:38 a.m., there were a total of 29 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2024-M-226

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

New Business

1. Discussion Regarding Vacancy of Controller/Administrator Position -
Chairman Vaughan read the resignation letter received from Neil Hammerbacher.

2024-M-227

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to accept and place on file Neil Hammerbacher's resignation letter. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Bardwell stated the Controller-Administrator's contract had a clause for a 90-day notice of termination. It was questioned what the cost to the county would be as there was not a 90-day notice given and the county is in the middle of the budget planning process. The Board had allowed for a 6-month time period for Mr. Hammerbacher to finish outstanding business with his previous employment and that Mr. Hammerbacher stated his plan was to be employed with Tuscola County for 10-years.

Shelly Lutz, HR Director, stated that legal counsel has been made aware of Mr. Hammerbacher's resignation.

Commissioner Vaughan stated that Clayette Zechmeister, former Controller-Administrator, would be interested in assisting the County for a temporary time period to get through the budget planning process.

Shelly Lutz stated that Ms. Zechmeister would be limited on the amount that could be earned as she has started to draw Social Security. Michigan Employee Retirement System (MERS) has lifted the restriction for a former employee to come back to being employed but it has to be with a different job title and a different job description.

Board discussed to readvertise the Controller-Administrator position. The Board would like Shelly to redistribute the Controller-Administrator's job description for their review.

2024-M-228

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to advertise for the Controller-Administrator position (using previous job description) with Indeed and with Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). Motion Carried.

2024-M-229

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to make contact with Clayette Zechmeister to see if she is interested in an ~~Interim Controller-Administrator role~~ Interim Chief Accountant role and for the position to be offered through December 31, 2024 not to exceed \$22,320.00. Motion Carried as amended.

2024-M-230

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to amend the title of the previous motion to Interim Chief Accountant. Motion Carried.

2024-M-231

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch to amend the previous motion for the position to be offered through December 31, 2024 not to exceed \$22,320.00. Motion Carried.

2024-M-232

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to have Clayette Zechmeister start on Friday, October 4, 2024 or as soon thereafter as mutually agreed upon. Motion Carried.

Shelly will research various financial firms that could provide financial assistance to the County moving forward in 2025.

2024-M-233

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch to have Shelly Lutz research and develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for county services for the Controller-Administrator position by a third-party accounting firm. Motion Carried.

2024-M-234

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, October 7, 2024. Motion Carried.

Clerk Fetting stated that she will prepare and post regarding the cancellation of the meeting.

2. Michigan Employee Retirement System (MERS) Conference Attendee Change to Angie House -
Board discussed that Neil Hammerbacher was scheduled to attend the upcoming conference and that Angie House is willing to attend.

2024-M-235

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to have Angie House attend the Michigan Employee Retirement System (MERS) Conference in the place of Neil Hammerbacher. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2024-M-236

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO