

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023

4:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Bruce Anna from Pine Grove Church in Stanton offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Baker, Johnston, Petersen, Painter, Mahar, Carr and Kohn. Members absent: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Eric Smith, Kim Kuhn, Armon Withey, Lisa Petersen, Amy Thomas, Alissa Hirkaway, Kim Kuhn, Chuck Cross, Deb Ballard, Ryan Dreyer, and Elisabeth Waldon.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Mahar to approve the January 9, 2023, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the agenda with the following additions/corrections:

New Business: *#4 Register of Deeds Position*

Old Business: *#2 Central Dispatch, #3 Blight Ordinance, #4 Meeting Times and #5 Animal Control.*

Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

At 4:04 p.m. Lisa Kaspriak, Mid Michigan Medical Examiners Group, was in attendance to give the Board the annual Medical Examiners Report. Ms. Kaspriak informed the Board that overdoses are increasing, therefore toxicology will continue to increase. She stated that for 5 years the Mid Michigan Medical Examiners Group has been conducting toxicology testing on-scene for 11 drugs, so they are able to get a positive or a negative result at the scene for police officers. Ms. Kaspriak noted that the tests only tell whether the individual is positive or negative for the 11 drugs tested, not the toxicity level. That must be done in the lab. She stated that Mid Michigan Medical Examiners Group is the only ME in the state to use on-scene testing. Ms. Kaspriak was thanked for her report.

Ryan Dreyer, Commission on Aging Director, informed the Board that in order to receive MDOT funding for capital requests and mileage reimbursement for the volunteer transportation program, Commission on Aging must have a Vehicle Accessibility Plan. A new plan has been drafted and approved by the MDOT contract manager and by the Local Advisory Council. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to adopt the Commission on Aging Vehicle Accessibility Plan. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the Board with the 2023 Staffing Summary, reflecting all the changes that have occurred since the 2023 budget was finalized in August. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the updated 2023 Staffing Summary as presented. Motion carried.

Michelle Becker, Controller's Office, provided the Board with the Montcalm Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council's request to have Kathy Bresnahan appointed to serve a 3-year term. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to appoint Kathy Bresnahan to the Montcalm Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council for a 3-year term, expiring on December 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant report number 01232023 in the amount of \$655,123.13. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve consent agenda items 5 through 10 and move stated action:

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| Controller | 2023 Committee Appointments | Place on file |
| Controller | 2023 BOC By-Laws and Rules of Procedure | Place on file |
| Controller | Amended Commission on Aging By-Laws | Place on file |
| Controller | 2023 AFSCME Agreement | Place on file |
| Controller | December Dodge Report | Place on file |
| Controller | December ME Report | Place on file |

Motion carried.

Commissioner Johnston stated that he would like to hear the pros and cons to combining the County Clerk and Register of Deeds positions. He stated that 36 other counties in Michigan have the positions combines and he would like to have representatives from the County Clerk's Office and Register of Deeds office come to the next meeting to present what the pros and the cons would be to combining.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Painter to invite the Register of Deeds office and the County Clerk's office to the February 13, 2023, Board meeting to discuss the possibility of combining the offices. Motion carried with Commissioner Petersen voting no.

Discussion took place on the Juneteenth Holiday. Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, stated that she has been in contact with the new Ionia County Administrator and was informed that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners has not addressed the issue yet. Ms. Taeter stated that she would like to be consistent with Ionia County. Chairman Carr stated that he feels that most county employees are underpaid and overworked and he feels that since the courts are closed that day, the county could just grant Juneteenth as another holiday to all county employees.

Commissioner Baker stated that he feels that if employees would like to take that day off then they would certainly be welcome to use their personal or vacation time.

Commissioner Mahar stated that he does not feel it is important to be consistent with Ionia County. He feels that each bargaining unit should bargain if they would like the Juneteenth holiday off.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to not grant the Juneteenth holiday as a paid holiday to county employees. Motion carried with Commissioner Painter voting no.

At 4:42 p.m. Amy Thomas, Central Dispatch Director, was in attendance to present the Board with a Resolution requesting the 9-1-1 System Charge be placed on the May 2, 2023, ballot. Ms. Thomas also provided the board with proposed ballot language.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-01:**

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Montcalm County are receiving valuable services through the 9-1-1 Services; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Montcalm County have supported the 9-1-1 Surcharge at a rate not to exceed \$2.85 each month to fund the Central Dispatch; and

WHEREAS, the Montcalm County Central Dispatch will require a renewal of the 9-1-1 Surcharge to continue present services and meet the future needs of Central Dispatch.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners, by the authority vested, will place the 9-1-1 System Charge on the special election ballot of May 2, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ballot proposal will read:

**MONTCALM COUNTY CENTRAL DISPATCH
PROPOSITION FOR 9-1-1 SYSTEM CHARGE**

Shall the County of Montcalm, Michigan, be authorized to assess a 9-1-1 charge at a rate not to exceed \$3.00 each month, subject to reduction as provided by law, to each service user located within the geographic boundaries of Montcalm County, Michigan for a period of five (5) years, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029, both inclusive, to maintain and operate the 9-1-1 system in the County of Montcalm, Michigan?

This proposition will allow the County of Montcalm to continue to collect the current 9-1-1 charge of \$2.85 each month per service user plus an increase of up to \$0.15 each month per service user.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Petersen reported that he attended a meeting of the township supervisors last week to talk with them about a Blight Ordinance. He reported that 7 of the 20 supervisors were in attendance, and those that were in attendance were on-board, and are willing to work towards a standardized resolution to the blight problem throughout the county. Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, reported that the county's legal counsel has stated that the County Junk Ordinance is not legal because the county is not zoned. She stated that the county's legal counsel has suggested that each township adopt the same, or a very similar, blight ordinance.

Discussion took place on having each township adopt the same, or similar, blight ordinance so the Sheriff would be able to enforce the ordinance.

Chairman Carr stated that he does have some concern if only 7 of 20 townships were in attendance at the meeting Commissioner Petersen attended. However he is in favor of the County taking the lead to get a template ordinance drafted and to bear that cost so that the ordinance is enforceable by the Sheriff.

Commissioner Petersen would like to have all townships send their ordinance to the county and have them run it through the county's legal counsel, as well as the Sheriff.

Commissioner Kohn stated that he is in favor of getting a price as to what it would cost to get a standardized blight ordinance drafted by the county's legal counsel.

Commissioner Mahar would like to see if the cleanup feels added to the tax bill if the township has to go in to clean it up a property. He believes there is support by the townships to move forward with a standardized blight ordinance as they want consistency and enforcement.

Commissioner Petersen reported that the supervisors suggested a countywide trash millage. This would be a millage the would be put on the ballot with one trash company that would be awarded the bid. The Road Commission was in favor of such a millage as there would be less wear and tear on the roads by the garbage trucks.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to direct the Controller to contact the County's legal counsel and ask for some pricing to draft a blight ordinance. Motion carried.

Commissioner Petersen stated that all commissioners received an email from Stephanie Rectenwal regarding the board's meeting times. Ms. Rectenwal is asking that the board reconsider the meeting times so the public can attend. Commissioner Petersen stated that he initially suggested having one meeting at 4 p.m. and the second meeting at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Baker stated that the Organizational Meeting was held and one of the purposes of that meeting was to set the meeting dates and times for the year. He stated that the meetings were set and voted on for the entire year and the board should not be going back and changing the times now.

Commissioner Petersen stated that the political climate has changed and the public is hyper aware. Commissioner Mahar stated he could be convinced to have the second meeting of the month at 7 p.m. Commissioner Kohn stated he would be in favor of a 4 p.m. and a 7 p.m. meeting each month.

Chairman Carr stated that he feels that the board has been stuck in an automatic "no" cycle for some time and he thinks the board needs to change their attitude to try to accommodate requests whenever possible.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to move the second meeting of the month to 6 p.m., with the first meeting of the month remaining at 4 p.m. Motion carried.

Commissioner Petersen stated that he sent all of the board members an email informing them that Autumn Pumford has agreed to come back to work as the Animal Control Director. Ms. Pumford has put her 2 weeks notice in with her current employer and is just waiting for the board to approve hiring her for the position.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to hire Autumn Pumford as the Animal Control Director effective immediately. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. None were offered.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn at 5:24 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman