

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 13, 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 Paul Arnold from the First Baptist Church in Stanton offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Johnston, Petersen, Painter, Mahar, Carr and Kohn. Members absent: Commissioner Baker.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Chuck Hazekamp, Ryan Dreyer, JoAnne Vukin, Lisa Petersen, Stephanie Rectenwal, Randy Treynor, Barb Abrahamsen, Eric Smith, Colleen Hansen, Cindy LeBell and Elisabeth Waldon.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the February 27, 2023, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the agenda with the addition of #4 under New Business entitled County Treasurer. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Margaret Durga, Greenville, addressed the board in support of the Commission on Aging agreement with the Greenville Area Senior Center. She stated that many of the improvements at the Senior Center have been funded by the Greenville Community Foundation but they do need additional financial assistance to upgrade the parking lot.

Randy Treynor, Greenville, addressed the Board regarding the Greenville Area Senior Center and the need to have the parking lot and drainage fixed. Mr. Treynor encouraged to the board to grant the Commission on Aging agreement with the Greenville Senior Center.

Cindy LeBell, Greenville Area Senior Center Secretary, addressed the Board in support of Commission on Aging granting funds to the Greenville Area Senior Center for Seniors. She stated that the Greenville Area Senior Center is a 501C (3) Nonprofit Organization and provides many services to seniors in the southern half of the county. She stated that there is a bus that provides transportation for seniors to get to the Center and the parking lot really needs to be replaced because it has become a safety concern.

Chuck Hazekamp, Commission on Aging Executive Board member, addressed the Board regarding the grant request from Commission on Aging to the Greenville Area Senior Center for parking lot repairs. Mr. Hazekamp stated that the Congregate Meal Program is held at the Greenville Area Senior Center and is the only individually owned building the meals program is held at, but the Senior Center provides the same services that the other municipal buildings offer. He stated that the congregate meals program is more than providing a meal, it also provides important socialization for seniors as well.

Colleen Hansen, President of the Greenville Area Senior Center, addressed the board regarding the funding avenues that they have tried prior to coming to the Board of Commissioners to obtain funds from Commission on Aging. She stated that the parking lot floods which creates parking and ice issues which has become a danger to seniors.

At 4:10 p.m. Ryan Dreyer, Commission on Aging Director, and Barb Abrahamsen, Commission on Aging Executive Board Member, were in attendance to request the Board of Commissioners enter into a contract between the Greenville Area Senior Center for Seniors and the Montcalm County Commission on Aging which would allow for the Commission on Aging to issue a grant to the Greenville Area Senior Center for Seniors in the amount of \$50,000 to repair their parking lot and stormwater system. Mr. Dreyer explained that the Montcalm County Commission on Aging Executive Board approved the agreement in November.

Barb Abrahamsen, Treasurer for the Greenville Area Senior Center, addressed the Board and explained the current state of the parking lot of the Senior Center. Ms. Abrahamsen stated that seniors come from Six Lakes, Edmore and the rest of the County, for bingo and the Congregate Meals Program. She stated that in order to be a member individuals must be 40 years of age and pay dues in the amount of \$20 per year. She stated that they have active members up into their 90's.

Mr. Dreyer stated that he personally verified that the parking lot is in dire need of repair and stated that the Greenville Area Senior Center has been a great partner to Commission on Aging for their Congregate meals and their senior trips. Mr. Dreyer confirmed that there would not be a repayment of the \$50,000. The fund will come from the Commission on Aging Fund Balance.

Commissioner Kohn asked what the revenues and expenditures were last year. Ms. Abrahamsen stated that revenues were \$13,275 and expenses were \$19,000 due to a new furnace and refrigerator that were needed. She stated that they have approximately \$9,950 in savings and dues are \$20 per year. They get \$5,000 from the Commission on Aging millage and an endowment from the Audrey Malling Trust in the amount of \$5,500 annually. She stated that she received 6 or 7 bids for the driveway and drainage project but not all of the bids received covered the entire scope of the project. They have one bid in the amount of \$67,850 that includes everything, excavation, leach basins and asphalt. The allocation from the Greenville Community Foundation gave them \$20,000 which covered the leach basin expenses.

Mr. Dreyer was asked what an ideal fund balance would be for Commission on Aging. He stated that he would be comfortable with \$200,000. He stated the fund balance was just shy of \$200,000 when he took over in 2017 and then it went up drastically during COVID because services couldn't be rendered like normal.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to enter into the proposed contract by and between the Greenville Area Senior Center for Seniors and the Montcalm County Commission on Aging. Motion carried.

Ryan Dreyer, Commission on Aging Director, provided the Board with an amended contract with Reliance CCP which increases the mileage reimbursement for transportation from \$.625 to \$.65 per mile. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the Reliance Community Care Partners, Amendment to the Purchase of Service Agreement and allow for Chairman Carr to sign it. Motion carried.

Mr. Dreyer also provided the Board with a request to adjust the per diem rate for Commission on Aging volunteer drivers to a flat fee of \$35. The per diem scale that was approved in June of 2022 has put Commission on Aging way over budget and Mr. Dreyer feels with fuel prices under \$4.00 per gallon and with the federal mileage reimburse rate at \$.655 the \$35 per diem for all trips over 4 hours is sufficient.

Commissioner Mahar questioned as to how the budget got so far off. Mr. Dreyer explained that the 2023 budget was already submitted and adopted and then he came to the Board and asked for the implementation of the per diem because fuel prices were so high. Chairman Carr stated that the Board

was aware that the \$10,000 budget number submitted was no longer good after the Board adopted the trip per diem for those volunteers driving their own vehicle.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to adjust the per diem for Commission on Aging volunteer drivers utilizing their own vehicles to a flat rate of \$35.00 for any trips exceeding 4 hours. Motion carried.

Mr. Dreyer provided the Board with a job description for a Commission on Aging Transportation Coordinator. Mr. Dreyer explained that this position has been needed for some time and the duties now are split between three people. When asked what this position would cost Mr. Dreyer stated that with benefits that position would cost \$67,000. He stated that the Commission on Aging fund balance can cover the costs of the position. Commissioner Petersen asked why the position is necessary if the job is getting done already. Mr. Dreyer explained that there is plenty of work to do but because the three people that are currently helping out with transportation coordination are busy and many things get pushed off to the side like bus trips, etc.

Commissioner Kohn asked why a bachelors degree is necessary for the position. Mr. Dreyer stated that this job description is similar to the other supervisory positions like the Direct Services Coordinator and Meals Program Coordinator.

Commissioner Kohn feels this is a supervisory position that may not be necessary. Commissioner Mahar stated that he feels the board needs to know what this position will allow Commission on Aging to do that isn't being done now. He feels that Mr. Dreyer needs to come back with what the benefits are to having this position. Commissioner Mahar also expressed his concern about the long term funding of the position.

Chairman Carr stated that he would feel more comfortable if Mr. Dreyer went back to the Commission on Aging Executive Board and have a unanimous vote before bringing this back to the Board of Commissioners. The last vote by the Executive Board was not unanimous.

Mr. Dreyer agreed to come back with a more concrete display of how this position would benefit the seniors and what this position would this add to the Commission on Aging besides just taking work away from the people currently handling those tasks.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to table the topic of the creation of a Transportation Coordinator and ask Mr. Dreyer to come back before the Board with a more solidified plan. Motion carried.

Eric Smith, Emergency Services, provided the Board with a reallocation of funds request as done in prior years from local projects to regional projects. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve reallocating \$5,560 from local funds to regional priority projects and allow for signatures. Motion carried.

Michelle Becker, Controller's Office, provided the Board with a recommendation from the Montcalm Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council to appoint Kristen Lindsey to fill a vacancy with the term to expire December 31, 2024. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to accept the recommendation from the Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council and appoint Kristen Lindsey to fill a vacancy with the term to expire December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Michelle Becker, Controller's Office, provided the Board with a recommendation from the Montcalm County Planning Commission to appoint Jakob Bigard to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission representing industrial, economic, transportation, communication and tourism interests for a 3-year

term. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to appoint Jakob Bigard to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission representing industrial, economic, transportation, communication and tourism interests with the term to expire December 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the Board with a recommendation to adopt a Marijuana Revenue Plan and give \$50,000 each to Crystal Township, City of Stanton, Village of Edmore and the Drug Court Fund. Ms. Taeter stated that she feels that the County should be giving money back to the communities where the marijuana revenues are coming from. At this time she does not recommend expending the \$40,000 to SUDAC Collaboratives as John Kroneck did not get back to her on time. After these expenditures there is \$240,407.58 remaining that she would like left in reserves to address other needs that may arise.

Chairman Carr stated that his concern with this plan is that the county was very generous with ARPA Funds and the marijuana legislation was specifically written so that the local municipality gets their portion of those fees, to the tune of \$103,682.42, and the county also gets an equal portion. He feels that this money was designated to the county's deliberately and he feels that the Board needs to be cautious and not just giving this money away. He warned that Revenue Sharing could be pulled back based on the amounts of money that have been given to counties for marijuana. He wants the Board to be mindful that this money should be used for county services. He does not think the Board can continue to have this hindsight moving forward. He does not feel this is sustainable. Chairman Carr stated that he is not opposed to a one time distribution, but he does not feel the county can do this every year.

Commissioner Mahar stated that he shared Chairman Carr's concerns. He stated that the local units are getting their share of the marijuana funds. Commissioner Mahar asked why the Board doesn't have the same view on Revenue Sharing and give all of the revenue sharing back to the local units of government. He feels the Board needs to brainstorm on projects that these funds could be used for at the county level.

Commissioner Johnston stated that he was prepared to come before the Board today to propose giving half of the marijuana funds back to the municipalities that have marijuana facilities.

Discussion took place on how the Board will handle John Kroneck coming forward at the next meeting requesting \$200,000 for SUDAC Collaborative.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to approve the distribution of \$200,000 of the marijuana revenue from FY2022 and FY2023 as presented by the Controller. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, gave the board the Budget Review documents that included Revenue and Expenditure Reports. She stated that she does not have any concerns at this point. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the FY2023 Budget Review documents and place them on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant report number 03132023 in the amount of \$296,298.83. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve consent agenda items 10 through 11 and move stated action:

Controller	Resolution 2023-02, Boundaries of the Village of Lakeview	Place on file
Controller	Resolution 2023-03, Amend Lake Level of Sand Lake	Place on file

Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the Commissioners a projects update list.

Ms. Taeter also addressed the Board informing them that she did forward them all an email regarding the Opioid Settlement. She asked for direction on how to proceed.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to allow the Controller to enter into an agreement with the other retailers that were on the list for the Opioid Settlement. Motion carried.

At 5:47 p.m. JoAnne Vukin, County Treasurer, was in attendance to give the Board a staffing update in her office and to request being able to hire an Administrative Aide at the top of the scale.

Ms. Vukin informed the Board that Cindy Christensen is retiring at the end of March and Joyce Hachman is retiring at the end of April. Ms. Vukin has outsourced Joyce's position for \$175 per parcel, which is paid out of the Delinquent Tax Fund, and will not be refilling it. Therefore she would like to offer Cindy's position to an applicant with over 30 years of office experience, including county government experience, at the top of the scale, starting at \$19.88 per hour.

Commissioner Petersen asked if Ms. Vukin was willing to give a guarantee that she won't be asking to fill Joyce's position. Ms. Vukin stated that Vicki Dyer is also close to retirement but has not given her a retirement date yet. Ms. Vukin stated that she is not willing to give that guarantee but stated she does not have any intention of filling that position.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to allow the County Treasurer to hire an Administrative Aide at the top of the scale, starting at \$19.88 per hour. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Petersen wished the Controller a belated birthday. He would like to send another Kudos to the Road Commission for Montcalm County for a great job.

Shannon Kane addressed the board about spending Opioid money in the jail. There are no programs in the jail for substance abuse.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Kohn to adjourn at 6:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman