

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 22, 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, John Johansen, Helen Kennedy, Chuck Bell, Michelle Jorgensen, Darin Dood, Andrea Krause and Mark Crawfis.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The May 8, 2023, regular meeting minutes will be brought before the June 12, 2023 meeting for approval. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Steve Drudge, 604 W. Judge Street, Greenville, addressed the board regarding the Crystal Racetrack running after the time they are supposed to be done.

Mark Crawfis was in attendance to request the Board adopt a Resolution for a Charitable Gaming License. Mr. Crawfis stated that the County Fire Association reached out to the State for a gaming license and if the Board of Commissioners adopt this resolution all of the fire departments can use the license in the county.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-07 LOCAL GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION FOR CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSES:**

At the Regular meeting of the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners called to order by Chairman Carr on May 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. the following resolution was offered:

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston that the request from the Montcalm County Fire Association of the County of Montcalm asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses, be considered for approval.

Motion carried.

Andrea Krause, Prosecuting Attorney, informed the Board that Tammi Shaw will be retiring on June 30, 2023. She would like to refill this spot and have a 2 week overlap for training the APA before she leaves. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to allow the Prosecutor to hire a new APA with a 2 week overlap for training purposes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Williams presented the Board a Letter of Agreement to modify the current collective bargaining agreement with POAM to allow the Sheriff to hire a temporary employee for the court security (rover) position. He will be hiring a retired Deputy to perform the function due to the regular Deputy assigned

to court security leaving for another job. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to approve the POAM Letter of Agreement and allow Chairman Carr to sign it. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the Board with an Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy that the Equalization Department would like to have the Board approve as an official means of justifying their fee schedule. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the Enhanced Access for Public Records Policy as presented. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the Board with a request from Tower Alliance to extend their contract for another 35 years beyond the expiration of the current contract date of 7/7/2031.

Commissioner Petersen stated that he isn't comfortable with many things in the contract.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to direct the Controller to correspond with American Tower and explain the Board's indifference to the current offer to see what they come back with. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, informed the Board that the State will be reimbursing the County for overtime for District Court and the County Clerk's Office. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to place the overtime reimbursement from SCAO on file. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk, presented the Board with quote from Graphic Sciences for the digitizing and microfilming of all vital records that are located in the Vital Records/Elections office. The bid only includes those records with a permanent retention period. All other records located in the Vital Records vault will be boxed and placed in retention. Ms. Millard also presented the Board with a bid from Graphic Sciences for a microfilm digital viewer-printer system in the amount of \$9,635.00. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to approve the imaging and microfilming bid from Graphic Sciences, as well as a ST ViewScan Universal Microfilm Digital Viewer-printer System for the County Clerk's office, not to exceed \$69,035.37. The Funds will come from the Public Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Painter to add a completion day for the County Clerk's Vital Records and Elections Office move to be done by the first business day of 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to place the request from the Clerk to form an Ad Hoc Committee to study the space in the court complex and make recommendations to the full board on file. Motion carried.

Commissioner Baker stated that there needs to be flexibility built into this move as the office in the court complex was not constructed to hold vital records or elections. There are going to be issues that arise that are going to have to be dealt with.

Commissioner Kohn stated that he wants to see a list of milestones at the next meeting. What are all of the long lead items?

Commissioner Petersen stated that he was impressed that the Clerk went out and got bids for the imaging and microfilming and is willing to move forward. He stated that he would like have space needs on the next agenda and furnishings on the agenda after that.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Mahar to approve warrant report number 05222023 in the amount of \$326,589.44. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve consent agenda items 9 through 13 and move stated action:

Controller	2023 Tax Rate Request, L4029	Place on file
Controller	FY2024 AAAMW Continuation of Funding Request	Place on file
Clerk	2023 State Tax Commission Equalized Valuations	Place on file
Controller	April ME Report	Place on file
Controller	April Dodge Report	Place on file

Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the Junk Ordinance that the County sent out to all of the townships in hopes they would all adopt a similar ordinance. Several Commissioners shared that their townships had concerns with the template. The Board would like to get an honest assessment from the Sheriff and see if he has the manpower to handle the complaints if all of the townships were to adopt the proposed Junk Ordinance. Chairman Carr suggested inviting Judge Eggleston and the Sheriff to the next Board meeting to discuss the issue.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, informed the Board that she will be gone to conference the rest of this week.

Chairman Carr asked for clarification on how the Board wants to handle things on the agenda moving forward. He stated that in the past if Department Heads and Elected Officials had a request and wanted to speak with Board then it was a timed agenda item. If an agenda request was submitted with a proposed motion, then that was something that the Board discussed and acted on. It was decided that if Department Heads and Elected Officials want to discuss something with the Board then it must be a timed agenda item. If they submit an Agenda Request and have a proposed motion on the form, then the Department Head or Elected Official will be cut out of the discussion, and while they may be present at the meeting, they will not be part of the discussion unless asked to come to the table.

At 7:32 p.m. Charles Hill, John Johansen and Darin Dood, Members of the Planning Commission, were in attendance to discuss the need for the County Planning Commission. Chairman Carr stated that the Planning Commission was originally formed to be able to capture State or Federal money for the preservation of farmland. He stated that County never had the intent to implement countywide zoning and the Board does not have the desire to put the Planning Commission out of business if they are satisfied with the work they are doing.

Chuck Hill, Chairperson of the Planning Commission, introduced himself to the Board and stated that he feels there is a lot of value in the Planning Commission and feels they should continue.

John Johansen went through handout that he gave to each board member. He encourage the board members to study the first chapter of the Montcalm County General Plan to understand what the Planning Commission responsibilities are. He stated that many grants would not be approved without the Planning Commission's involvement and Fact Book.

Darin Dood suggested revising the Planning Commission because infrastructure is needed. He stated that Economic Development is key and the Planning Commission is tied to that. Mr. Dood feels the Planning Commission is needed and a commissioner needs to be appointed who can attend the

meetings so the Commission has a quorum. Mr. Dood stated that the Master Plan was last updated in 2015. It should have been updated in 2020 but the board passed a resolution to extend the time it was due because of COVID.

Commissioner Petersen stated that the Planning Commission has no enforcement authority, but he does not think that the fact book has value. John Johansen stated that the Planning Commission gets lots of requests for the Fact Book.

Chairman Carr asked what was a reasonable amount of time is to see things turned around. Mr. Dood asked exactly what the Board is looking for from the Planning Commissioner. Chairman Carr stated that the Economic Development Role, Grant Applications, Infrastructure, the Master Plan would be areas where the focus should be instead of focusing on townships. Mr. Dood stated that he feels a couple of months would be needed for that to happen and he suggested giving the Board quarterly updates.

Commissioner Kohn, commissioner appointment of the Planning Commission, stated that his scheduled changes each semester which makes his attendance difficult. Commissioner Petersen volunteered to serve in place of Commissioner Kohn.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Johnston to appoint Commissioner Petersen to the Planning Commission as the Board's representative, effective immediately. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Baker pointed out Darin Dood's letter to the Board. He suggested each member of the Board to read the letter as it contains important information.

Commissioner Mahar thanked the Planning Commission members for coming today and stated that it is very humbling to have to prove their worth and he appreciates the fact that they came today and they did a nice job presenting the Board with information.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman