

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 12, 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 Sampson Coston from Pine Grove Church in Stanton offered invocation.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Mike Williams, Armon Withey, Eric Tester, Scott Vukin, Tom Goerge, Andrea Krause, JoAnne Vukin, Kim Kuhn, Lisa Petersen, Doug Gietzen and Elisabeth Waldon.

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

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the May 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the May 22, 2023, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

A FOIA appeal was received from Stephen Matthews, II, regarding a FOIA request he made to the Sheriff's Office for copies of a case file and police reports. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to deny the FOIA appeal as filed by Stephen Matthews, II. Motion carried.

The Controller's Office presented the Board with the Homeland Security Grant Program, Interlocal Agreement between West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium and Montcalm County for the FY2022 Homeland Security Grant Programs. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve the Homeland Security Grant Program, Interlocal Agreement between West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium and Montcalm County for the FY2022 Homeland Security Grant Programs and allow for proper signatures. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to approve warrant report number 06122023 in the amount of \$618,762.09. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve consent agenda items 4 through 8 and move stated action:

Controller	Resolution 2023-07, Fire Association Gaming Request	Place on file
Controller	POAM Letter of Agreement	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm County Planning Commission Minutes	Place on file
Controller	Michigan Municipal League Risk Management Assessment	Place on file
Controller	FY2023 Budget Review	Place on file

Motion carried.

At 4:10 p.m. JoAnne Vukin, County Treasurer, was in attendance to request that she refill an Administrative Aide position that she had previously told the Board she would not be re-filling. Discussion took place on the current costs of contracting for services for the title work that Joyce Hachman did while working in the Treasurer's office. Mrs. Vukin stated that she is currently is paying \$78,000 a year to an outside company to do the title work duties that were previously done in house by Ms. Hachman.

Mrs. Vukin stated that she pays for that position out of the Delinquent Tax Fund, not the General Fund, and she used the Delinquent Tax Fund to assist the county when the county was in a difficult financial situation. She stated that just the interest earned in the pooled cash account since the beginning of the year is \$400,000, therefore she does not feel like she is asking for too much in filling this position. A new hire would cost approximately \$68,000 annually.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow the County Treasurer to post and hire an Administrative Aide, with applications due by June 30, 2023.

Under discussion Chairman Carr stated that he does not want to get back into the same position that the county was in, in 2016 and requests such as this one are how the county got into that position. He cautioned the Board on approving all requests without being assured the position can be sustained in the long run.

Motion carried.

At 4:31 p.m. Sheriff Mike Williams was in attendance to request the implementation of Inmate Electronic Health Records and Prescription Management Services. Sheriff Williams explained that this request has come from the jail doctor and will provide the doctor with real time access to inmate medical records and medication administration lists which will improve the quality of care. Of the 3 quotes obtained, Practice Fusion is the cheapest option at \$149 per month. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to approve the Practice Fusion Electronic Health Records service for \$149 per month. Motion carried.

Sheriff Williams stated that he received an email from Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, asking him to come before the Board to discuss the enforcement of the county's Junk Ordinance, which he is prepared to do today even though it is not on the agenda. Chairman Carr stated that the Board hired the county's attorney to draft a new ordinance template, which was sent out to all of the townships in hopes that they would all adopt the same ordinance to stay uniform and make enforcement easier. Chairman Carr stated that there's some confusion because the county attorney informed Ms. Taeter that the County Junk Ordinance is not enforceable, however the Sheriff Department continues to write tickets on it and the District Judge is still ruling on it. Sheriff Williams stated that he would prefer to have a countywide ordinance, as opposed to individual township ordinances, and since the District Judge is enforcing the current ordinance, he would rather leave the system alone.

Sheriff Williams informed the Board that if the townships were to adopt a new ordinance on their own, moving away from the County Junk Ordinance, and the Sheriff were to write a ticket on the new township ordinance, the township would have to hire their attorney to act as the prosecutor. The County Prosecutor only enforces if the Sheriff writes a violation of a county ordinance. Sheriff Williams did point out that a violation of the county junk ordinance is only a civil infraction. Lt. Goerge explained that the Sheriff's Dept has stepped up efforts in the past 6-8 months to enforce the county's junk ordinance so it's possible that the county is on the right track. The Sheriff agreed to give the Board a report each quarter on how many cases are being dealt with under the county junk ordinance.

At 5:00 p.m. Andrea Krause, Prosecuting Attorney, was in attendance to request that she be allowed to contract with Tammi Shaw for 50 hours per month for a flat rate of \$4,000. This contract would remain in place until a full-time Assistant Prosecuting Attorney can be hired to handle abuse/neglect cases only, and would start July 1, 2023. Mrs. Krause informed the Board that she has had zero applicants apply for the posted APA position and it is very important to have someone to keep up on the abuse/neglect cases. She emphasized that this agreement is temporary until a full-time APA can be hired. Mrs. Krause stated that 50% of the wages are reimbursable from the State.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, stated the fees may not be reimbursable from the State because Ms. Shaw would not be paid out of a wage line time, and instead would be paid from a line item called Contracted Services. So there's no guarantee on the 50% reimbursement at this point in time.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to allow the Prosecutor to contract with Tammi Shaw for 50 hours per month for a flat rate of \$4,000 per month starting July 1, 2023, and to terminate the contract when the APA position is filled on a full-time basis. Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, informed the board that she reached out to the cell phone company on the proposed contract from the prior meeting. Ms. Taeter will send the email out to all of the commissioners for their review.

Ms. Taeter also informed the Board that the FOP Union has reached out to her to start meeting for their Collective Bargaining contract. They would like to start meeting in September/October.

Chairman Carr informed the board that they are trying to schedule the Board photo for the next meeting. The photo will be taken at 5:30 p.m. prior to the June 26, 2023 meeting.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the Board with two options for the Circuit Court Clerk's Office renovations. The first option turns the public counter 90 degrees, which would open up more floor space, but puts a new wall in front of two employee's current workstations. The second option leaves the counter in its current location and assigns the mail room to the Clerk and bumps the wall of the mail room out into the public waiting space by approximately 6 feet making the mail room office slightly bigger. It also assigns the Law Library to the County Clerk and puts a doorway between the current clerk's office and the law library.

Doug Gietzen, Maintenance Director stated that he has met with the Sheriff and Clerk and to secure the office and judicial corridor, the Sheriff does want to see glass on the counter going all the way up to the ceiling and a full size door installed in place of the half wall/swinging door. The counter top will need to be made bigger to accommodate the lighting and switches. Mr. Gietzen informed the Board that he has contacted 4 builders and did not specify a timeline on the project to it to see what the price would be. He also has a doorway in the Probate portion of the corridor that needs to be moved and re-installed.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to authorize the Building & Grounds Director to move forward with renovations of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office utilized Option 2. Motion carried.

Commissioner Petersen gave the Board an update on a proposal to use the Probate Court Jury Room for meeting space for the Board of Canvassers. While it is located in the judicial corridor, a door is being installed that would block the room off from entering any of the restricted areas and does have an outside door for the public to enter from. Judge Simon would need to be consulted, but it is Commissioner Petersen's understanding that this room doesn't get used very frequently.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Painter to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman