

**MINUTES OF THE CLARE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Harrison, Michigan 48625

*Approved
12-15-2021
[Signature]*
~~Unapproved minutes~~
November 10, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our active military, veterans and first responders.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

District 3 Rick Fancon, District 4 Stephanie Brown, District 5 Sandy Bristol, District 6 Bronwyn Asplund, and District 7 Jeff Haskell.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 1 Dale Majewski and District 2 Samantha Pitchford

OTHERS PRESENT

Lori Martin, Clerk & Register of Deeds; Tracy Byard, Administrator; Dawn Raupp; and zoom participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Fancon, to approve the agenda. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Asplund, Fancon, Bristol, Brown, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to approve the minutes from October's meetings. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Asplund, Fancon, Brown, Bristol, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Dysinger from Grant Township believes, after reviewing the information Commissioner Bristol sent to him, that the Apportionment Committee violated the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Dysinger went on to give his opinion regarding unfunded mandates and local government.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

No discussion.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrators Byard is working with the County Attorney on the Sheriff's Dept. negotiations, and attended an airport meeting. She received updates from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding the infrastructure bill, 4-year County Commission bill, vaccine mandate and the need for a vaccination policy, which has been put on hold by the Circuit Court of Appeals because they have granted a stay.

Commissioner Bristol indicated that Jerry Becker would like to be put on the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee. Chairperson Haskell agreed he is more than welcome to attend the meetings.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Community Services Director Lori Phelps reported on the end of fiscal year numbers on electrical, plumbing and mechanical permits, and issuance of new addresses. She also reported the number of hours of in home care, meals provided, and additional services provided to senior citizens.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. John Obermesik, Executive Director for Community Mental Health – Update
Executive Director John Obermesik presented the annual update on Community Mental Health and outlined that they serve 277,000 citizens over 6 counties and are the 7th largest out of 46 statewide.

Sara Miceli-Sorensen, Program Director for Community Mental Health took time to commend the staff that work at Community Mental Health. Overnight the staff transitioned how they do all business so that there was no stopping of services to the people that they serve, who are the most vulnerable members of our community. Ms. Miceli-Sorensen outlined services they provide to the community, and shared some success stories.

2. Apportionment Discussion

Commissioner Bristol made accusations against the Apportionment Commission for violations to the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner Bristol presented some options that the Board of Commissioners could retain an attorney to pursue a suit against the Apportionment Commission, and the Board of Commissioners could appeal the map.

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis outlined the statutory duties of the Apportionment Commission. Prosecutor Ambrozaitis answered questions by Chairperson Haskell regarding the possibility of holding meetings over and the time frame that would need to happen in.

Commissioner Asplund resents any insinuation that any violations were intentional.

Commissioner Haskell agreed that the Commissioners would talk prior to the deadline to consider what action to take. Commissioner Bristol would like to get the opinion of the County Attorney.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Justice Committee

1. Sheriff Request to Purchase

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the purchase of 4 cameras for the jail for a total amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 with funds to come from the Commissary Fund and allow for reimbursement from American Rescue dollars if the funding requirements change. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Asplund, Bristol, Brown, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

A. Justice Committee - continued

2. Emergency Management Award Identification

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grants American Rescue Plan Act Grant Agreement for an additional \$11,296.00 to the Clare County Emergency Management and allow Chair to sign. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Brown, Asplund, Fancon, Bristol, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

3. State Court Administrative Office Byrne Justice Assistance Grant

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the State Court Administrative Office Byrne Justice Assistance Grant for the Recovery Court in the amount of \$40,000.00 and allow Chair to sign. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Bristol, Asplund, Brown, Fancon, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

B. Health and Human Services Committee

1. Soldier's Relief Fund Committee Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to appoint Dale Tritten to the Soldier's Relief Fund Commission for a 4-year term to end on November 10, 2025. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Asplund, Bristol, Fancon, Brown, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

2. Veterans Affairs

a. Wade Promotions Contract

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Wade Promotions Contract for bus advertising with funds to come from a State Grant and allow Chair to sign. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Asplund, Brown, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

B. Health and Human Services Committee - continued

2. Veterans Affairs - continued

b. Lamar Contract

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Lamar Contract for billboard advertising with funds to come from a State Grant and allow Chair to sign. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Brown, Bristol, Fancon, Asplund, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Airport Committee Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to appoint Carl Lounsbury to the Airport Committee for a 3-year term to end on November 10, 2024. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Bristol, Asplund, Brown, Fancon, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

D. Finance and Administration Committee

1. American Relief Funds

a. Courts microphone and recording request

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the purchase of video and audio equipment for the Clare County Courts with funds to come from the American Relief Funds with the total amount not to exceed \$94,702.00 as recommended by the ARPA Committee. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Asplund, Bristol, Fancon, Brown, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

b. American Relief Fund Request Form

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the American Relief Fund Request Form as prepared and recommended by the ARPA Committee. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Brown, Asplund, Bristol, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

D. Finance and Administration Committee - continued

2. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of October 18, 2021 in the amount of \$178,921.21 as well as \$6,064.79 to pay out Darrel Schank due to retirement and \$5,030.18 to pay out Lucas Tessner due to resignation, and the minutes of November 1, 2021 in the amount of \$116,200.84 and \$1,613.87 to pay out Zachary Paisley due to resignation and \$4,500.00 and \$438.00 to RX Reins Companion Life Insurance. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Brown, Bristol, Fancon, Asplund, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

3. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve to approve the expenditures for the month of October 2021 in the amount of \$3,524,388.80 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$1,072,157.12. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Bristol, Brown, Asplund, Fancon, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

4. MI Prosperity Roadmap Resolution

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to adopt Resolution #21-34 supporting the MI Prosperity Roadmap Plan. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Asplund, Bristol, Brown, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion for Resolution carried

5. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to approve budget adjustment #21-08 to move funds into the new equipment line to cover the cost of the Fire Suppression System previously approved at the meeting on October 20, 2021. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Brown, Fancon, Bristol, Asplund, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzingler gave out updated reports on the ARPA funds that have been approved and the interim final rules and the year-end report, which is unaudited. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler also provided the Board of Commissioners with a report on statutory obligation of cash on hand and current fund balances to date.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY REPORT

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis reported 901 open and pending cases in her office along with court scheduled for every day of the work week with very little office time to work on the cases. After 3 months of advertising the open attorney position in her office there has been very little response. Prosecutor Ambrozaitis received notification that her CESF Grant has been extended to December 31, 2022 and an additional \$42,000.00. The Prosecutor intends to hire an additional part time secretary and purchase necessary office furniture and equipment out of the grant funds once the amendment to the application is approved.

Prosecutor Ambrozaitis again urged the Board of Commissioners to reach out to Speaker Wentworth and Representative Kahle opposing House Bill 4670 and House Bill 4676, which will add productivity credits to individuals that have been sentenced for a crime and the minimum sentence would no longer be the minimum sentence served.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff John Wilson reported that he was able to hire 2 new dispatchers, but have not received any applications for their road patrol. Regarding the Sheriff's part time job of snow plowing for the County he reported that the equipment has been serviced and he is ready for the snow plowing season.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairperson Jeff Haskell reported that the Hayes Township ballot proposal was successful.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Fancon had no report.

Commissioner Brown had no report.

Commissioner Bristol reported on the upcoming Veterans' Ceremony, Veterans' Coffee Hour, the Townships that she represents had their ARPA applications sent back if errors were made on the addresses, Hamilton Township Clerk retired, Sheridan Township is getting a website, and hazard mitigation.

Commissioner Asplund thanked the many veterans in Clare County for their service and agreed with the previous report on hazard mitigation.

STATE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler prior to the meeting provided the year-end report, which is unaudited. There was no other discussion regarding the County Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Prosecutor Ambrozaitis pointed out that with the help of another elected official some research showed that the Board of Commissioners is not always in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and asked that everyone should find grace for each other. Commissioner Haskell agreed and stated that no one is perfect.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jeff Haskell, Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners