

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

*Approved
9-15-2021
JH*
~~Unapproved minutes~~
August 18, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

District 1 Dale Majewski, District 3 Rick Fancon, District 4 Stephanie Brown,
District 5 Sandy Bristol, District 6 Bronwyn Asplund, and District 7 Jeff Haskell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 2 Samantha Pitchford, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sheriff John Wilson, Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski, Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Eilisia Schwarz, Assistant Prosecutors Kaitlyn York and Mark Webb, Circuit Court Administrator Mark Toaz, David Hoefling, Bill Hoefling, David Lawrence, Deb Kenworthy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Asplund, Fancon, Brown, Bristol, and Haskell.
Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for July 21, 2021. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Haskell, Brown, Majewski, Fancon, Bristol, and Asplund.
Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

MERS Delegate Motion Amendment

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to amend the MERS delegate motion to read as follows:

Motion to appoint Lori Phelps as the member delegate for Clare County and Tracy Byard as the alternate as the employer representative to participate in the elections of the MERS Retirement Board at their annual conference to be held on October 7th & 8th.

Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Majewski, Haskell, Brown, and Asplund.
Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- continued

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the Special Board of Commissioners Minutes for July 28, 2021. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Asplund, Haskell, Brown, Fancon, and Bristol.
Nays: (0)
Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford
Motion carried

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

David Hoefling from the Harrison Street Fair committee passed out brochures to invite everyone to attend the Street Fair and Old 27 Car Show to take place August 27th and 28th, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

No discussion.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard stated there is no update on the budget yet due to decisions not being made regarding health insurance; she will be asking the board to schedule dates for budget workshops. Byard met with the Michigan Association of Counties and was asked to attend a meeting with the Department of Treasury regarding the introduction of a new bill called the Early Warning System. This bill is a program that will allow the Department of Treasury to watch over counties and townships that are in financial distress with their budget.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

No discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Justice Committee

1. Agreement Amendment between the State of Michigan and Clare County

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the amendment to the agreement between the State of Michigan and Clare County pertaining to Friend of the Court and Prosecuting Attorney and allow the County Administrator to submit on behalf of the Board Chair. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Brown, Bristol, Majewski, Haskell, Fancon, and Asplund
Nays: (0)
Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford
Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

2. Prosecutor's Request for an Attorney under ARPA funds - \$57,000 Discussion

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis gave a detailed statistical report pertaining to how many cases they have and how many additional hours they are working to do the job for Clare County and the citizens of Clare County. Ambrozaitis expressed to the Board of Commissioners that they are not able to do their job to its full capacity because of lack of staff. Additional speakers were Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Mark Webb and Kaitlyn York and Chief Assistant Prosecutor Eilisia Schwarz expressing the need to hire attorneys, paralegals, and additional clerk staff. Chairperson Haskell shared his concern of how they would be able to fund this position after the ARPA funds were gone. Chairperson Haskell asked if there should be a review of this position prior to 2024. Ambrozaitis stated that she would have a difficult time hiring an attorney as a temporary position. The Board decided it was their job to figure out the funding to sustain this position after 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Prosecuting Attorney to hire an attorney under ARPA funds. Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (1) being Commissioner Majewski

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

3. Sheriff's Department Request to replace the Polycom for the Jail using funds through ARPA.

Undersheriff Miedzianowski informed the Board that the Polycom at the jail is no longer working properly. During COVID, the Polycom was used more than prior years and it was time to replace it. The Board discussed the use of ARPA funds, and what category this would fall under. Circuit Court Administrator Mark Toaz suggested using CESF grant funding to replace the Polycom. No motion necessary due to amount being below \$5,000.

4. Animal Control Temporary Employee Request

Ruane Hicks from the Clare County Animal Shelter informed the Board that she has 2 employees out on medical leave, possibly 3. Hicks is requesting the Board allow her to hire a volunteer worker as temporary staff using already budgeted funds. This employee is already trained and is aware the position is temporary.

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to allow the Animal Shelter to hire a temporary employee to cover two employees that will be out on medical. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Brown, Bristol, Majewski, Haskell, Fancon, and Asplund

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR – continued

5. County Child Care Budget Summary (DHS-2091)

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the County Child Care Budget Summary between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Clare County and allow Chair to sign. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Bristol, Haskell, Brown, Fancon, and Asplund

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

B. Health and Human Services Committee

1. MDHHS Board Appointments

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Brown to reappoint Denise Neff for a term of 10-01-2021 to 09-30-2022 and Eileen Couchman for a term of 10-01-2021 to 09-30-2023 to the MDHHS Board. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Bristol, Brown, Majewski, Haskell, Fancon, and Asplund

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

C. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Health Insurance

The Board of Commissioners discussed the overall consensus of each department regarding switching from Blue Care Network to HAP/ASR. Several employees expressed concern that their physician was not listed on the list of providers in the network. It was found that the physicians in question were in fact listed in the network. Jennifer Martin from 44 North explained that the new plan is actually better as it is an EPO rather than a PPO, which allows the insured to see a physician without a referral.

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to adopt the recommended changes to the health insurance from 44 North with the 2% cost share for employees on the \$250/\$500 deductible plan and the difference in the premium base plus base plan cost share for the PPO plan and removing the \$1,000.00 deductible plan. Roll call revealed:

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

Nays: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

2. Credit Card for Courts

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to allow for a credit card to be ordered for the Courts with a \$3,000.00 credit limit. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion. Administrator Byard gave a brief explanation of why the card is needed. The Courts have been using the Administrator's credit card, therefore leaving that credit limit short. Roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Asplund, Bristol, Fancon, Brown, Haskell, and Majewski

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

3. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of July 12, 2021 in the amount of \$163,017.93, July 26, 2021 in the amount of \$162,382.50 as well as \$10,664.37 for payout for Sheryl Engel and August 9, 2021 minutes in the amount of \$118,081.99. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Majewski, Haskell, Brown and Asplund

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

4. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the expenditures for the month of July 2021 in the amount of \$1,794,813.43 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$945,063.64. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Brown, Majewski, Haskell, Fancon, Bristol and Asplund

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

5. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Budget Adjustments 21-148, 21-158 and 21-162 in the amounts of \$40,700.00, \$48,506.00 and \$207.39 to be distributed. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Bristol, Haskell, Brown, Fancon and Asplund

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

6. Travel Reimbursement Discussion

Administrator Byard requested the Board of Commissioners allow travel reimbursement be placed back in the budget for travel to meetings and conferences. Commissioner Asplund asked to discuss travel for her trainings as well. Asplund requested reimbursement for the registration fee and offered to pay her own travel and lodging to the Michigan Association of Counties Annual Conference. Chairperson Haskell approved the registration fee. The Board made the decision to discuss travel reimbursement during the 2022 Budget discussions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzing reported on the August 17, 2021 land sale, they had 33 properties and sold all but 3.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff John Wilson reported he had two retiree's in the jail, they backfilled one position and looking to backfill the second position. Saturday is the 20 year anniversary of 911. Sheriff Wilson also informed the Board that they are having an extremely difficult time keeping deputies employed in Clare County due to the low pay scale. Since the mid 90's, they have had 203 people leave the department, 102 deputies, 51 dispatchers, and 50 corrections officers. They need to find a way to bring stability to the department.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IT Director Jesse Bellinger reported they are still working on the new server project.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Jeff Haskell gave kudo's to the Sheriff's Department for sending a deputy to the Harrison City Council meetings and providing a report of activity of what is going on in the City of Harrison. Haskell also requested to form a committee for officer wage review. The committee members are Commissioners Brown, Majewski, and Fancon.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Dale Majewski addressed officer wages as well. He wants to come to a determination on the amount of increase by the next board meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Fancon had nothing to report.

Commissioner Brown continues to work with Melissa in the Conservation District regarding the Gypsy Moth issue.

Commissioner Bristol reports that her Townships are struggling financially. The Transit is buying two electric busses for the County. The Airport Board is getting signed estimates for the runway and other projects. Regarding the officer wage increase, Bristol recalls Clerk Lori Martin suggesting a public safety millage to cover some of the Sheriff's Department funding.

Commissioner Asplund inquired about the Clare County Road Commission's letter to the Board of Commissioners. Administrator Tracy Byard advised to wait to address the letter as they are still unsure what the ARPA funds can be used for.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greenwood Township Treasurer David Lawrence expressed his disappointment that there was not much support at the meeting for the Sheriff's Department. Greenwood Township supports the Sheriff's Department and would like to see an increase in their wages.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairperson Haskell asked Administrator Tracy Byard when she would have figures gathered so they can set the dates for Budget Workshops. Vice Chairperson Majewski recommended setting Thursday, August 26th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for the first Budget Workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Joy Bringold, Chief Deputy
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jeff Haskell, Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners