

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

Approved 9-16-2020
~~Unapproved minutes~~
September 9, 2020

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 3 Leonard Strouse, District 4 Jack Kleinhardt, District 5 Mark Fitzpatrick, District 6 David Hoefling, and District 7 Jeff Haskell.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 1 Dale Majewski and District 2 Samantha Pitchford

OTHERS PRESENT

Jesse Bellinger, Bill Hoefling, Judge Josh Farrell, Judge Roy Mienk, and zoom participants

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Haskell, Hoefling, Strouse, Fitzpatrick, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

2021 BUDGET APPEALS

1. Probate/Circuit Court

Darrell Schlese, Court Administrator requested \$2,000.00 for Circuit Court and \$2,000.00 for Probate Court for computers along with increases for the court non-union employees. Administrator Byard recommended the Board of Commissioners do not approve any increases.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to purchase the computers. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, there was discussion regarding whether or not this is a COVID-19 expense, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Strouse, Haskell, Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

2021 BUDGET APPEALS - continued

2. Additional Items Discussion

Administrator Byard referenced an additional items list that was handed out in a prior meeting. The one item on the first list that Administrator Byard recommends is the replacement of the election employee six months prior to the retirement of a current election employee.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to allow the Clerk to hire a replacement election employee six months prior to the retirement of a current election employee. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Clerk Martin confirmed this new hire would only take place under the retirement of a current employee six months after the hiring of the new employee (for training purposes), roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Strouse Haskell, Hoefling, Fitzpatrick, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

The other item that Administrator Byard recommends would be the roof patching for the jail in the amount of \$40,940.00. Commissioner Fitzpatrick confirmed that they previously discussed this issue needs to go before the Building and Grounds Committee. Administrator Byard confirmed that a budget adjustment can be done later. Undersheriff Miedzianowski sent an email to Administrator Byard stating that \$27,500.00 is for repairing just one end of the building and \$13,000.00 to make a change to the dishwasher for the jail kitchen.

3. Lori Martin, Clerk/Register of Deeds

Clerk Martin appealed the decision to cut travel and expense for union employees as it is in their union contract.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to approve travel and expense for all union employee's budgets. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Chairperson Kleinhardt then discussed the need down the road to restore all travel and expense, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Strouse, Haskell, Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Equalization 2020 Tax Rate

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to approve the revised L-4029 form to include the millages for the Animal Control and the MSU Extension and allow chair to sign. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Hoefling, Fitzpatrick, Strouse, Haskell, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

B. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to approve budget adjustments 20-153, 20-159, 20-160, 20-162, 20-163, 20-164, 20-168, 20-170 and 20-172 in the amounts of \$15,000.00, \$13,050.00, \$30,061.99, \$13,414.00, \$31,983.58, \$245,494.00, \$7,184.00, \$6,408.00 and \$20,911.00. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, Strouse, Haskell, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

2. Holiday Payroll Tax

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling for Clare County to opt out of the holiday payroll tax. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion Administrator Byard explained that the holiday payroll tax would allow all payroll taxes to be deferred September – December and would then have to be paid back January – April with double the payroll tax being taken out of employees' wages, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Haskell, Hoefling, Fitzpatrick, Strouse, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Administrator Byard discussed the health insurance the Board of Commissioners voted on at the last meeting. She has been talking with the Unions and would like to ask on their behalf that the Board reconsider the cost share of 5% instead of 7%, the employee would still have a deductible, but it would lighten the employee cost share a little. This would reduce the county savings by approximately \$40,000.00. After discussion, no motion was made to make any changes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Honorable Jude Farrell – sick time payout/health insurance

Judge Farrell requested that the Board of Commissioners adapt a resolution for retiring employees for their service to the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to adopt Resolution 20-16 in special tribute to Monica Lawrence for over 25 years of service to Clare County and Resolution 20-17 in special tribute to Linda Hawkins for over 49 years of service to Clare County. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Hoefling, Strouse Fitzpatrick, Haskell, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Motion for Resolutions carried

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - continued

1. Honorable Jude Farrell – sick time payout/health insurance - continued

Judge Farrell requested the County pay a non-union employee for 100% of the accumulated sick time. Court Administrator Darrell Schlese pointed out that the Courts have a policy that all non-union employees get the same as union employees, which is 50% of accumulated sick time.

Judge Farrell then laid out for the Board of Commissioners the scenario of an individual that is retiring and taking advantage of the county paid health insurance for 2 years is eligible, because of age, for Medicare. Medicare would be the primary insurance and the county insurance policy would be secondary. Judge Farrell asked that the Board of Commissioners pay the retiring employees share of Medicare Part B in the amount of \$150.00 per month (\$3,600.00 for a 2-year period).

Finally, Judge Farrell asked that this non-union employee receive the 5% raise that the union employee's received back in October of 2019.

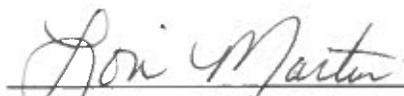
The Commissioners agreed to wait until the September 16, 2020 Board of Commissioner's meeting to make a decision on all of Judge Farrell's requests.

Darrell Schlese, Court Administrator and Judge Roy Mienk were present asking for a 3% raise for the non-union court employees basically to bring the non-union employees up close to what the union employee raises have been.

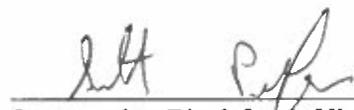
Commissioner Hoefling was concerned because the Board of Commissioners just terminated people a few months ago because of budget issues, and now they are discussing raises for employees.

The Commissioners agreed to wait until the September 16, 2020 Board of Commissioner's meeting to make a decision on Judge Mienk and Darrell Schlese's requests.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:44 a.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Samantha Pitchford, Vice Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners