

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

*Approved
3/17/2021*
~~Unapproved minutes
February 17, 2021~~

Harrison, Michigan 48625

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 2 Samantha Pitchford (arrived at 9:47 a.m.), District 3 Rick Fancon, District 5 Sandy Bristol, District 6 Bronwyn Asplund, and District 7 Jeff Haskell.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 4 Stephanie Brown - excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin, Administrator Tracy Byard, Dawn Raupp, Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis, and zoom participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown

Motion carried

*Additions – Time changes for Tom Conway, Senior Account Manager, I.T. Right and Gordy Mason – Second Amendment Sanctuary County under Public Hearings/Special Presentations. Dollar amount change to the Statutory Finance Committee motion under Finance and Administration Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for January 20, 2021. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown

Motion carried

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to approve the Board of Commissioners Closed Session Minutes for December 16, 2020. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown

Motion carried

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

No discussion

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard reported that she has submitted paperwork for CBDG Grant (Community Development Block Grant), she is working on the documentation needed for the tax anticipation note, working on preparing the RFP (request for proposal) for the HVAC (heating ventilation, and air condition) system, working on the retiree health care program, and watching the legislation for the County drains and lake levels.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

No report

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Michelle Ambrozaitis – Budget Review

Prosecuting Attorney Ambrozaitis presented her budget, organizational chart, employee breakdown, goals, need for training, and possible increase in reimbursement for cost of prosecution. Prosecutor Ambrozaitis also discussed the need for an adjustment in the pay scale for the attorneys. She outlined how the low wages affect moral and loyalty to stay at a position.

Commissioner Pitchford joined the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

2. Tom Conway, Senior Account Manager, I.T. Right

Tom Conway gave a presentation regarding I.T. Right and the help they can provide to either the Register of Deeds office and/or the entire County IT Department. He explained how they could expand and give other tools to the current IT staff and make sure security is up to date. Take a lot of the day to day tasks so the current IT staff can take time to replace servers and other large projects.

Clerk Martin confirmed her IT needs are still not being met and reminded the Board again of the issue she was having in October 2020 has still not been addressed.

Commissioner Bristol asked the commissioners that voted the original motion down why the motion was originally voted down. Chairperson Haskell didn't feel he knew what the exact problem was and didn't want to spend the money without knowing. Commissioner Majewski didn't feel the tax payers should pay for 2 IT departments.

Recess at 10:39 a.m.

Back in session 10:47 a.m.

3. Gordy Mason – Second Amendment Sanctuary County

Mr. Mason asked the Commission to adopt a Resolution declaring Clare County a Second Amendment Sanctuary and reaffirm their support that Clare County will never enforce any laws that are contrary to the Constitution of the United States. Administrator Byard was asked to have the Prosecuting Attorney research the resolution prior to the March meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS – continued

4. Courts – Budget Review

Darrel Schlese, Probate and Circuit Court Family Division Administrator, gave an overview of Probate Court, Circuit Court Family Division, and the differences between the two courts. Mr. Schlese discussed the grant money that comes in and the Judge's salary that is paid by the State. Mr. Schlese also weighed in regarding his support for hiring I.T. Right and the Courts IT needs.

There was discussion between Judge Farrell and the Commissioners regarding the Judge's ordering cost of prosecution that would reflect the actual costs being expended by the County.

Judge Joshua M. Farrell and Magistrate Steven Worpell discussed the District Court budget and the 25% reduction in staff that was made in 2020 to District Court by 2 employees retiring. There are many criminal justice reforms underway that will be put into place over the next several months, which will impact the budget.

Magistrate Worpell gave a report that District Court is under budget on expenses right now, which is \$87,700.00 less than last year as a direct result of two employees retiring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Independent Contract Agreement with EMCOG (East Michigan Council of Governments)

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the contract with the East Michigan Council of Governments to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Clare County with the \$13,371.29 to be covered via an in-kind match through the committee, with review by the County Attorney, and allow Chair to sign. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, Administrator Byard explained the Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be updated every 4 years, and confirmed the grant match is "in kind". Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

2. Committee Appointments

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to certify the appointment of Mike Tobin to the Region VII Area Agency on Aging with the term to expire on 3/31/2023 and the appointments of Thomas House, Scott Owens, Mike Jenkins and Terry Thayer to the Board of Appeals Construction Board with their terms to expire on 10/31/2021. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, Administrator Byard explained they had been appointed twice to different terms and this was to certify the correct appointment term, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

3. DPW Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to appoint Luke Potter and Jason Walters and reappoint Lester Vida, Brian Tomaski and Sam Russell to the DPW Board of Representatives with their term to expire on September 30, 2024. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

4. Land Bank Authority Appointments

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to appoint Dale Majewski and Jeff Haskell to the Land Bank Authority to a two year term with their terms to expire on September 30, 2022. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, there was discussion regarding what the committee job duties are, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

B. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Register of Deeds Electronic Recording Contracts

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the eRecording contracts with Simplifile, Corporate Service Company and EPN for the Register of Deeds and allow the Chairman of the Board to sign. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

2. Live Scan Fingerprint Scanner

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to allow the Clerk to purchase a live scan fingerprint scanner, not to exceed \$9,500.00, to be paid from the 263 CPL Fund. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, Clerk Martin explained that she will be handling the CPL fingerprinting in her office, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

B. Finance and Administration Committee – continued

3. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 25, 2021 and February 8, 2021 in the amount of \$99,236.52 and \$223,772.97. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

4. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the expenditures for the month of January 2021 in the amount of \$1,241,142.89 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$847,399.09. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

5. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Budget Adjustments #21-20, 21-23, 21-24, 21-25, 21-27, 21-28, 21-31, 21-33, 21-34, 21-35, 21-36, 21-37, 21-38, 21-40 and 21-41 in the amount of \$31,200.00, \$7,500.00, \$3,800.00, \$100.00, \$100,000.00, \$138,843.67, \$3,165.00, \$252.06, \$1,132,202.00, \$500.00, \$20,000.00, \$10,081.00, \$111,477.00, \$612,696.35 and \$10,377,706.15 to be distributed. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler cautioned against taking funds from the health reimbursement line item (budget adjustment 21-39), Commissioner Bristol amended her motion to take out budget adjustment 21-39 from the motion, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

6. Claims Policy Amendment

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Majewski to amend the Claims Policy to approve the change to the budget number for the CESF Grant from 278 to 287 and add the 290 Social Welfare Fund to the Pre-Authorized Claims list. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin informed the Board that no one in Clare County filed for an election in May 2021, Arthur Township will still have an election because Beaverton Schools have a proposal and will have to open their precinct for their Beaverton School District voters. Clerk/Register Martin also discussed the roll out of her Property Fraud Protection Program that is free to the citizens of Clare County.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger handed out monthly cash and fund balance updates. Judicial Foreclosure hearings are scheduled for February 18, 2021, and her office is preparing for tax settlement of 2020 taxes with your local units.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Jeff Haskell thanked everyone for getting along during budget talks and stated it seemed to go much smoother than last year. Airport Board would like a meeting or answers to some questions. Chairman Haskell gave questions to Administrator Byard and she will get the information back to the Airport Board.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Dale Majewski reported he has been attending his meetings.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Fancon has reached out to our State Representative Jason Wentworth regarding Clare County's budget issues, employee retention, election integrity, and asked for help from the state regarding the County's budget. Representative Wentworth offered to have two budget specialists look at Clare County's budget to see if there is anything else that can be done.

Commissioner Pitchford had nothing to report.

Commissioner Bristol has been attending her meetings. Hamilton Township is struggling with waste pickup, Franklin Township is struggling with their zoom meetings, and Arthur Township is still straightening things up from the last board. Commissioner Bristol also talked about the committee meetings she has been assigned to. There is one meeting that is a 4 hour round trip and there is no mileage offered so the \$25.00 per diem would have to cover her gas. Commissioner Bristol was thinking that out of county meetings should have mileage given. Commissioner Majewski confirmed that could be revisited.

Commissioner Asplund reported that Frost Township is not getting the answers they are seeking regarding Gypsy Moth mapping. Commissioner Asplund was informed there is a gypsy moth board that Frost Township could go to and get their answers.

STATE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET

State of the Budget was covered earlier in discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Bristol commented on the letter to the editor that stated only 4 citizens and Lori Martin attended the meeting with Senator Outman. Commissioner Bristol felt that the letter of the editor needed an explanation as to why the Commissioners didn't show up to the meeting. She explained that most of the Commissioners work full time and cannot always get to daytime meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:21 p.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jeff Haskell, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners