

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on June 23, 2020 at the Board of Commissioners Room, 33 McCollum Street, Suite 210, Hillsdale, Michigan.

Commissioner Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America by Commissioner Carolan.

| <b><u>ROLL CALL:</u></b> | <b><u>DISTRICT</u></b> | <b><u>PRESENT:</u></b> | <b><u>ABSENT:</u></b> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|                          | 1                      | Ruth Brown             |                       |
|                          | 2                      | Julie Games            |                       |
|                          | 3                      | Mark Wiley             |                       |
|                          | 4                      | Bruce Caswell          |                       |
|                          | 5                      | Namrata Carolan        |                       |

**AGENDA:**

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer & Pledge by Commissioner Carolan
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:
  - Review & Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2020
  - 20-085: Authorize payment to Michigan Township Association Membership Dues
5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:
  - 9:10 a.m. Dr. Bader Cassin, Medical Examiner – Lenawee & Hillsdale Counties – Medical Examiner's report
  - 9:30 a.m. Matt Word, Drain Commissioner – Purchase Utility Vehicle, Lake Level Monitors & Crescent Wind Farms
8. Committee Reports:
  - A. FINANCE – BRUCE CASWELL**
    - 20-059: Distribution of Windmill Farm Project Tax Revenue
    - 20-060: Retain Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith Legal Assistance
    - 20-061: Authorize Chair to Discuss Retirement Possibilities with the Police Officers Labor Union
  - B. HUMAN SERVICES – RUTH BROWN**
  - C. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – NAMRATA CAROLAN**
  - D. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – JULIE GAMES**
    - Discussion: Open Hillsdale County Parks
  - E. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**
    - 20-062: Approval of Amended Hillsdale County Government COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
    - 20-063: HSA Plan – Newly Eligible Employees
9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment
  - Present: Matt Word, Stephenie Kyser, Andy Welden, Bob Eichler (who exited and re-entered several times throughout the meeting) and Dr. Cassin.
  - Under Public Comment, Andy Welden, former County Commissioner, announced that he was running for the 58<sup>th</sup> District State Representative. He stated that he is the only one who is running that has an agricultural background.
  - Bob Eichler commented on the raise of the surcharge for 911 and on the Resolutions that were passed regarding the spreading of taxes for fiscal year 2020.
  - C/Games moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Carolan. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED
  - C/Brown moved to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of Resolution 20-064: Amending the Purchasing Policy, under Finance. Second by C/Carolan. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
  - 9:09 A.M. Matt Word, Drain Commissioner, addressed the Board regarding the need to replace their utility vehicle. He stated that of the quotes he received only Grace Performance had the machine in stock so he would like to purchase that one.
  - C/Brown moved to allow Mr. Word to purchase his equipment from Grace Performance. Second by C/Carolan. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
  - Mr. Word updated the Board on how the new Lake Level monitoring system was working. He also informed the Board that the Windmill Farm Project is affecting forty-seven of the county drains.
  - 9:22 a.m. Mr. Word finished and exited.
  - 9:22 a.m. Dr. Cassin, Medical Examiner reviewed the 2019 Annual Report with the Board. There was some discussion.
  - 9:48 a.m. Mr. Cassin finished.

C/Caswell moved to approve Resolution 20-059: Recommending how the windmill farm project tax revenue from Moscow, Adams and Wheatland Townships should be used: \$135,000 allocation for the next twenty years for the defined benefit plan, provide funds for a six year bond to the courthouse HVAC system and that these items be funded first before any other distribution of funds. Second by C/Brown. There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not this should be two separate Resolutions and if we should be stating how much and how long the money should be set aside for. Roll Call Vote: C/Games – No, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Caswell – Yes, C/Carolan – Yes, C/.Brown – Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

C/Caswell moved to approve Resolution 20-060: Contracting with the firm of Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith to assist the County in determining its options in adjusting the pension plan. Second by C/Brown. There was a lengthy discussion.

C/Games moved to amend the Resolution to reflect that the cost does not exceed \$6,000. Second by C/Carolan. Vote on amendment unanimous. CARRIED

Roll Call Vote on Resolution as amended: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Caswell – Yes, C/Carolan – Yes, C/Brown – Yes, C/Games – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

C/Caswell moved to approve Resolution 20-061: Recommending discussion with the Hillsdale County Sheriff and the Police Officers Labor Council regarding the potential of freezing our current defined benefit plan for the collective bargaining sheriff employees and enrolling all newly hired Sheriff Union Employees into the county's 401(a) plan. Second by C/ Brown. Roll Call Vote: C/Caswell – Yes, C/Carolan – Yes, C/Brown – Yes, C/Games – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

C/Caswell moved to approve Resolution 20-064: Amending Resolution 16-085 Purchasing Policy to include a code of conduct required by the Federal Government. There was some discussion. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Caswell gave an update on items under his committee.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 20-063: Funding of the deductible for new employees who choose the HSA and become eligible part way thru the year to be pro rated. Second by C/Brown. There was some discussion. C/Carolan moved to amend the Resolution to read as follows: Half "of the pro rata amount" will be distributed at the time they become eligible and have submitted all the proper paperwork and half "of the pro rata amount" will be distributed in the first week of July. Second by C/Games. Vote on the amendment unanimous. CARRIED

Vote on the Resolution as amended unanimous. CARRIED

10:39 a.m. Mr. Welden exited.

Derek Ringman gave an update on the Audit.

C/Brown gave an update on items under her committee.

C/Carolan gave an update on items under her committee.

C/Games informed the Board that the Parks Commission would like our blessing in reopening the parks, specifically, the community building at Lewis Emery and the Bird Lake Beach. There was some discussion. It was the consensus of the Board that as long as they follow our County of Hillsdale COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan then they would have our blessing.

C/Games informed the Board that the bathroom at the house at Lewis Emery Park needs to be repaired or possibly completely remodeled. There was much discussion on whether or not the house is worth the repairs that need to be done. It was the consensus of the Board to have C/Games and Randy Finley, Facilities Director walk through the house to determine the state of the building and report back to the Board.

C/Games gave an update from the IT Department and also informed the Board that the damage to the courthouse from a falling brick is covered by insurance.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 20-062: Authorizing the Chair to sign the amended County of Hillsdale COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. Second by C/Games. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley gave an update on items of interest.

Under Public Comment, Stephenie Kyser, Hillsdale County Treasurer, informed the Board that the Governors Executive Order 106 has extended the property tax deadline and she encourages anybody with a hardship to call her office as soon as possible to set up an appointment with her.

Bob Eichler shared his feelings about having to wear a mask.

Under Additional Business, C/Brown and C/Carolan commented.

12:35 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.