

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on August 25, 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 Brown.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
	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 Brown
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:
Review & Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2020
5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:

9:10 a.m. Julie Wetherby, Executive Director – Region 2 Area Agency on Aging – Via Phone –
Overview of the Annual Implementation Plan Update

8. Committee Reports:

A. FINANCE – BRUCE CASWELL

Continued Discussion: Update on MERS/Watkins-Ross Pension Plan
20-075: Authorize Chair to Sign Letter to MERS
20-076: Approval to Retain Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith – Defined Benefit

B. HUMAN SERVICES – RUTH BROWN

C. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – NAMRATA CAROLAN

Discussion: MSU Extension Services in Assisting with Updating the Master Plan
(Under Correspondence - #2)

D. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – JULIE GAMES

E. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY

20-077: Authorize Chair to Sign POLC Agreement
Update: Recount of Jefferson Township Precinct Only Filed by Jon-Paul Rutan, Candidate for Sheriff on August Ballot

9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present: Nick Wheeler, Jason Stiverson, John Reed, John Leva, Dave Thomas, Wes Ludeker and Brad Benzing.

Under Public Comment, John Leva addressed the Resolution regarding Wes Ludeker and requested the Board pass this resolution.

Nick Wheeler informed the Board that Louis Rogers, who was the former Equalization Director, has retired from the State and would like to acknowledge the work that Mr. Rogers had performed for the County and the State.

9:07 a.m. Doug Ingles entered.

C/Games moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Carolan. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley stated that they need to add Nick Wheeler under Standing Order at 9:30 a.m. and remove the discussion item and Resolution 20-075 from the Finance Committee Report on Regular Agenda.

C/Games moved to approve the Regular Agenda as amended. Second by C/Carolan. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

It was the consensus of the Board to allow Mr. Wheeler to address the Board before Ms. Wetherby.

9:14 a.m. Nick Wheeler, Equalization Director, addressed the Board regarding a Designated Assessor. The purpose of a Designated Assessor is to bring an assessing district into compliance if the State Tax Commission determines that the assessing district is not in substantial compliance. If the county does not retain a Designated Assessor then the State Tax Commission will appoint one until the jurisdiction is brought into substantial compliance. Mr. Wheeler stated that there must be an interlocal agreement and twelve out of the twenty-two jurisdictions must agree on the Designated Assessor. There was much discussion.

C/Games moved to authorize Mr. Wheeler to send a letter to the Townships and Cities explaining the situation, a draft copy of the interlocal agreement, the Designated Assessor Contract Checklist for their review and requesting their feedback by September 25, 2020. Mr. Wheeler will then compile the information and bring a report to the Board by the first meeting in October. Second by C/Carolan. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:42 a.m. Mr. Wheeler finished.

9:44 a.m. Clerk Stott called Julie Wetherby, Executive Director, Region 2 Area Agency on Aging.

Ms. Wetherby reviewed the 2019/2020 Annual Report with the Board.

10:00 a.m. Ms. Wetherby finished and hung up.

C/Caswell explained what was happening with MERS. There was a lengthy discussion.

C/Caswell moved to approve Resolution 20-076: Contracting with Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith to assist in the withdrawal from the county defined benefit pension plan with MERS not to exceed \$7,600. Second by C/Brown. Roll Call Vote: C/Brown – Yes, C/Games – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Caswell – Yes, C/Carolan – No. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

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

C/Wiley stated that he was going to have to leave early due to training for his position on the LifeWays Board.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 20-077: Authorizing the Chair to sign the Agreement between the County of Hillsdale, the Hillsdale County Sheriff, the Police Officers Labor Council and Wes Ludeker. Second by C/Brown. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

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

C/Wiley handed the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Games for the remainder of the meeting.

11:05 a.m. C/Wiley exited.

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

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

11:19 a.m. Mr. Ludeker exited.

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

Under Public Comment, Lt. Stiverson, Chief Union Stewart for the Supervisors at the Sheriff's Department, commented regarding MERS. He stated that he feels that there has been misinformation.

Brad Benzing commented on the Designated Assessor. He also commented on the increase that the Health Department is requesting.

Dave Thomas, POLC Union Representative, spoke in favor of MERS.

Under Additional Business, C/Brown expressed her distrust of MERS.

11:52 a.m. adjournment by call of the Vice Chair

Mark E. Wiley, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Marney M. Kast,
County Clerk