

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on September 14, 2021 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 Benzing.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
	1	Doug Ingles	
	2	Kathy Schmitt	
	3	Mark Wiley	
	4	Brad Benzing	
	5	Brent Leininger	

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer & Pledge by Commissioner Benzing
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:
 - Review & Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2021
 - 21-089: Payroll, Payables & Transfers – August 2021
 - 21-090: Payment to Griffiths Mechanical over Contracted Amount
 - 21-091: Support the City of Litchfield Establishing a TIF Plan
 - 21-092: Authorization to Sign the Public Defender Legal Services Contract – FY 2022
 - 21-093: Authorization to Sign the Public Defender Administrator Services Contract – FY 2022
 - 21-094: Assessment Hearing – Bear Lake
 - 21-097: Authorization to Sign the MIDC Grant Contract – FY 2022
5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:
 - 9:05 a.m. Doug Sanford, Director of Central Dispatch & Emergency Management
Update – County Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - 9:10 a.m. Steve Currie, Executive Director of Michigan Association of Counties
Updates and Legislative Issues
 - 9:30 a.m. Terry Vear, Executive Director, Senior Center - Updates
8. Committee Reports:
 - A. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**
 - B. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**
Discussion: County Sponsored Police Academy
 - C. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**
 - D. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**
21-095: Distribution of Community Development Block Grant Money
 - E. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**
Discussion: Board of Canvasser Appointment
21-096: Policy – COVID Positive/Quarantine Cases
9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment
 - Present: Tim Martin, Doug Sanford, Stephen Currie, JP Rudell, Laura Rahe, Terry Vear and Keith O'Neil.
 - Under Public Comment, Keith O'Neil introduced himself to the Board. He is the new Executive Director of Reading Emergency Unit.
 - C/Leininger moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Ingles. C/Benzing asked for Resolution 21-091 be removed and placed under the Budget Committee Report. C/Leininger and C/Ingles were friendly with this. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
 - C/Benzing moved to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of a discussion regarding a hazardous building under Human Services and a Hillsdale Assessment Roll correction under the Budget Committee. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
 - 9:06 a.m. Doug Sanford, E-911 and Emergency Management Director, informed the Board that Emergency Services is in the process of updating the Hazzard Mitigation Plan. The draft is on the County website and open for comments.
 - 9:07 a.m. Mr. Sanford finished and Steve Currie, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), gave an update on legislative issues along with what MAC has been working on.
 - 9:25 a.m. Mr. Currie finished and exited.
 - Terry Vear Executive Director, Senior Center reviewed the Year End Service Data for Fiscal Year 2020 with the Board.
 - 10:01 a.m. Ms. Vear finished and a recess was called.
 - 10:07 a.m. back in session.
 - Marney Kast, Hillsdale County Clerk, informed the Board that they are responsible to appoint one person from each the Republican and Democratic parties to the Board of Canvassers. She explained what the responsibilities of the Board of Canvassers are. She also informed the Board that she had discovered that they are to vote by ballot. She then handed out the ballots which required the Board to put their name on the ballot. Deputy Clerk Jody Stott read the name of the Commissioner and who they voted for. This resulted in five votes for Republican Candidate Joshua Paladino, four votes for Democratic Candidate Edwin Fogarty and one vote for Democratic Candidate Daniel LaRue, resulting in the appointment of Joshua Paladino and Edwin Fogarty.

10:15 a.m. Ms. Kast finished and exited.

C/Leininger gave an update on items under his committee which included a discussion regarding a condemned building in Pittsford Township. This building was condemned and ordered to be demolished in 2016. The owner of the building does not have any money and the building is falling down. It is becoming a hazard to the business next to it and to people who walk past it. C/Leininger stated that the Building Inspector feels he can pay for the asbestos mitigation and demolition if the county owns the building. The current owner is willing to sign the property over to the county.

C/Leininger moved to authorize the Building Inspector to proceed with asbestos abatement and demolition at 4469 S. Pittsford Road, Pittsford, Michigan as soon as the property is owned by the county. Second by C/Schmitt. There was a lengthy discussion. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Benzing gave an update on items under his committee which included discussion on a county sponsored police academy. He stated that the county would cover the tuition for the academy and the applicant would be responsible the purchase of uniforms, books, transportation and any other expenses. The applicant would have to sign a two-year contract with the county. If the applicant quits or fails the academy then they would be responsible to pay the county back for the cost of the academy. There was much discussion.

C/Ingles moved to move forward with the idea as presented and bring back the contractual language. Second by C/Benzing. There was more discussion. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No (C/Schmitt) CARRIED

C/Ingles gave an update on items under his committee which included discussion on the repair of the Jail Façade. C/Ingles stated that Facilities will not be doing the work and that he has received a quote from K and T Construction in the amount of \$17,447.00. C/Benzing stated that he has one more quote coming in. It was the consensus of the Board to wait for the other quote before making a decision.

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-091: Supporting the establishment of a TIF Plan including the City of Litchfield 2021 Development Plan update and agrees to permit the City of Litchfield DDA to capture all allowable County millage rates by law. Second by C/Leininger. There was discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – No, C/Leininger – Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-095: Transferring \$17,638.88 from the Hillsdale County CDBG Program Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Schmitt informed the Board that on August 17, 2021, the State Tax Commission (STC) adopted an official order to assume jurisdiction of the 2021 assessment roll for Hillsdale Township. This requires Hillsdale Township to hire an outside party to fix two remaining deficiencies from the 2018 review of the townships assessing practices and to have it completed for the 2022 assessment roll. Hillsdale Township has asked Nick Wheeler, Hillsdale County Equalization Director to be pre-approved to assist in this matter. Hillsdale Township would reimburse Mr. Wheeler at a rate of \$100.00 per hour. There was some discussion.

C/Schmitt moved to allow Hillsdale Township to submit the Equalization Director's name to the State Tax Commission as the individual to be approved to fix the remaining deficiencies resulting from the 2018 AMAR. If approved by the STC the cost for this service will be billed to the Township once the deficiencies have been deemed fixed by the STC and jurisdiction of the assessment roll returned to the Township. Second by C/Benzing. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No (C/Leininger). CARRIED

C/Schmitt gave an update on other items under her committee.

C/Wiley updated the Board on items of interest.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-096: Policy on COVID Positive and Quarantine cases. Second by C/Benzing. There was some discussion. It was the consensus of the Board to add the wording "due to close contact" in paragraph two after the word quarantine and to add "effective until December 31, 2021" after the last paragraph. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

Under Public Comment, Tim Martin, Owner of K and T Construction addressed the Board regarding his quote. He informed that Board that some construction companies charge a prevailing wage, something that he does not do.

Keith O'Neil, Executive Director of Reading Emergency Unit, thanked the Board for working together. He also gave some additional background on Behavioral Health Transports.

Larry Walworth addressed the Board regarding the flag at the Jail. He stated that it has been flying at half-staff and that the Sheriff stated it was in honor of a deputy and it would be kept that way until the funeral. Mr. Walworth asked the Board to speak to the Sheriff regarding protocol.

Terry Vear stated that the Board may wish to contact legal counsel regarding COVID pay.

12:20 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.