

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on February 8, 2022 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 Wiley.

<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 Wiley
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:

Review & Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2022

22-019: Payroll, Payables & Transfers – January 2022

22-020: Authorize Facilities Director to Purchase Control System – Jail

22-022: Transfer Money to Lake Level Fund from General Fund

5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:

9:10 a.m. Tim Dixon, Juvenile Court and Youth Home Administrator – Youth Home Update

9:30 a.m. Bruce Caswell – Update on Recreation Plan and Grants

9:45 a.m. Judge Megan Stiverson and Laura Rahe, Court Administrator – Update on Grants

8. Committee Reports:

**A. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**

22-021: Authorize Chair to Sign Resolution of Authorization – Recreation Plan and Grants

**B. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**

**C. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**

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

22-023: Updated 2022 Employee Handbook

Update: OMI Meeting

9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present: Karla Adams, Dustin Adams, Kelley Mapes, Joe Draper, Jenny Leininger, Denise Belson, Randy Finley, Tim Dixon and Stephenie Kyser.

Under Public Comment, Joe Draper, Jenny Leininger and Denise Belson introduced themselves. They are from the Conservation District and will be returning soon to give an update.

9:04 a.m. Mr. Draper exited.

C/Benzing moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent.

CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve the Regular Agenda. Second by C/Leininger. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent.

CARRIED

9:05 a.m. a member of the public entered.

9:06 a.m. Tim Dixon, Juvenile Court and Youth Home Administrator, addressed the Board regarding wages for the substitute employees at the Youth Home. He stated that their wages needed to be equal to the full time employees. The training requirements are the same whether they are a substitute or a full-time employee. Mr. Dixon then addressed the matter of how he was approaching the retirement of the Youth Home Supervisor. He stated that Mr. Knepfler will be designated as the Supervisor of Direct Care Staff and Ms. Rudnick will be designated as the assistant to that Supervisor and will be paid at the Level 6/Year 2 Professional Managerial pay scale at \$20.49 per hour and his stipend will increase to \$600.00 per week. This would save the county over \$21,000.00 per year. Mr. Dixon stated that the understanding with Mr. Knepfler, Ms. Rudnick and himself is if they are unable to properly execute the duties and there is a need to hire a Supervisor then their wages would return to what they are now. There was some discussion.

C/Leininger moved to pay the substitutes/part-time employees at the Youth Home at \$15.57 per hour which is the Non-Union Paraprofessional Level 7/Year 2. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent.

CARRIED

9:13 a.m. Bruce Caswell entered.

9:24 a.m. Judge Stiverson entered.

9:25 a.m. Mr. Finley exited and Renee Shircliff entered.

C/Leininger moved to bring the two full-time employees to the Level 6/Year 2 Professional Managerial wage scale which would be \$20.49 per hour. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. CARRIED

9:28 a.m. Laura Rahe entered.

C/Leininger moved to increase the stipend from \$132.50 per week to \$600.00 per week. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 3-Yes, 1-No (C/Schmitt), 1-Absent. CARRIED

9:35 a.m. Mr. Dixon finished and exited.

Bruce Caswell updated the Board on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program. He stated that it is now time for the Board to take action. There was some discussion.

9:40 a.m. a member of the public entered.

9:55 a.m. Bob Eichler entered.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-021: Authorizing the submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application. Second by C/Schmitt. Roll Call Vote: C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Absent. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. CARRIED

10:08 a.m. Mr. Caswell finished and exited.

Judge Stiverson and Laura Rahe, District Court Administrator gave an update on two Grants. One is a Veteran's Grant for services and the other is a Violence Against Women Grant. Judge Stiverson stated that this is a Federal Grant and requires no match. She stated that this will establish an Aggression Court, similar to Drug Court. There was some discussion.

10:22 a.m. Randy Finley entered.

10:33 a.m. Judge Stiverson and Ms. Rahe finished. Judge Stiverson and a member of the public exited.

C/Schmitt asked if the Board would like to reschedule the work session that had been canceled due to weather. There was some discussion.

C/Benzing moved to set a Special Meeting on February 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners/Conference Room, 33 McCollum Street, Hillsdale, MI 49242 to discuss the Capitol Projects List. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 3-Yes, 1-No (C/Leininger), 1-Absent. CARRIED

Randy Finley, Facilities Director, informed the Board that he received only one bid for the roof of the Courthouse. He stated that the bid was from Renaissance Historic Exteriors in the amount of \$510,995.00.

10:45 a.m. Ms. Leininger and Ms. Belson exited.

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

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

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-023: The revised County of Hillsdale Employee Handbook. Second by C/Benzing. There was a very lengthy discussion.

C/Benzing moved to Table this Resolution until the February 22, 2022. Second by C/Leininger. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. CARRIED

C/Wiley gave an update on items of interest.

11:58 a.m. C/Schmitt moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney/Client Privilege. Second by C/Benzing. Roll Call Vote: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Absent, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. CARRIED

12:11 p.m. back in Regular Session.

C/Leininger moved to follow the attorney's guidance in regards to the Tax Foreclosure Law Suit. Second by C/Benzing. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. CARRIED

Under Public Comment Kelley Mapes commented on issues with the Health Department and would like to see a Forensic Audit done. Ms. Mapes also stated that she would like to see Mr. Finley's bid list.

Karla Adams questioned why there was nothing budgeted in the Capitol Improvement Fund, would like to see the bid list from Mr. Finley and suggested having the Amish do the Courthouse Roof. She also had questions regarding Medicaid Reimbursement.

Stephenie Kyser, Hillsdale County Treasurer, defended her request for level increases in her office. She stated that she had, in writing, via email that she could give the increase and she assumed that it was in her budget.

Bob Eichler thanked C/Schmitt for directing him to the Senior Abuse Program. He commented on the Michigan, Indiana and Ohio Aquafir and stated that Marney Kast, Hillsdale County Clerk, was very helpful in answering questions regarding the bonding of Elected Officials.

Dustin Adams asked if the Board was bonded.

Additional comments were made regarding the Substance Use Disorder Coalition and the county's retirement plan.

12:38 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.

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Mark E. Wiley, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Marney M. Kast,  
County Clerk