

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on January 25, 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 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 the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022

22-010: Payment for Membership Dues to River Raisin - \$250.00

22-011: Appointment to River Raisin Watershed Council – Benzing

22-012: Authorize Board of Commissioners Signatures on Grant Application Letter – Courthouse

22-013: Authorize the County Clerk to Sign the Adoption Information 401 Money Purchase Plan Document Restatement – MissionSquare Retirement (formerly ICMA)

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

9:05 a.m. Randy Finley, Facilities Director – Total New Control System to Replace Failed Honeywell System – Jail

9:10 a.m. Keith O'Neil, Executive Director, Reading Emergency Unit – Quarterly Report

9:30 a.m. Brian Harrison, MS, ORT/L, CAPS, Executive Director of Therapy Services Advisa Care Home Health & Hospice – Current Auto Insurance Home Health Care Crisis

8. Committee Reports:

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

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

**C. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**

**D. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**

22-014: Authorize Chair to Sign the Letter of Support for Waldron Communication Company

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

22-015: Authorize Chair to Sign Resolution Urging State Legislature to Amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act

22-016: 2023 Board of Commissioner Salary Resolution

22-017: Raise the Per Diem Rate

9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present: Kelley Mapes, Karla Adams, Bob Eichler, Matt Yoder, Keith O'Neil, Stephenie Kyser, Tamra Lang, Randy Finley and David Holcomb.

Under Public Comment, Karla Adams addressed the Board regarding the Resolution requesting a salary increase for the Board of Commissioners.

9:04 a.m. Lance Lashaway entered.

Matt Yoder from Waldron Communications spoke to the Board regarding the Grant application that his company wishes to participate in.

Kelley Mapes commented on the Resolution regarding salary increases for the Board of Commissioners.

9:07 a.m. Glenn Frobel entered.

Stephenie Kyser, Hillsdale County Treasurer, informed the Board that the Head Bookkeeper who was just hired is leaving for a job that will pay for her schooling. Ms. Kyser would like to stay closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays thru March.

9:10 a.m. Ms. Kyser and Ms. Lang exited.

Bob Eichler commented on the County Treasurers situation.

Lance Lashaway posed the question of where the money will come from for commissioner raises.

C/Schmitt moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Resolution 22-013 to be addressed at a later meeting. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Leininger moved to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of Resolution 22-018: Authorizing the Chair to sign a Letter of Support for DMCI Broadband LLC application to the ReConnect loan and grant program under Human Services. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:15 a.m. Mr. Yoder exited. Randy Finley, Facilities Director addressed the Board regarding the failing control system at the Jail. He stated that the system went down and our IT department was able, after quite some

time, to get it working again but they are unsure for how long. If the system completely fails they will need to close the Jail. David Holcomb, IT Director, stated that this is also a Cyber issue. There was a lengthy discussion. C/Schmitt moved to allow the Facilities Director to spend \$36,221.91 to fix the issues with the Control System at the Jail and to take the money from the Capital Improvement Fund. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:36 a.m. Mr. Holcomb and Mr. Finley exited.

Keith O'Neil, Executive Director at Reading Emergency Unit, reviewed his quarterly report with the Board.

9:44 a.m. Mr. O'Neil finished and exited.

Brian Harrison, Executive Director of Therapy Services Advisa Care Home Health and Hospice was present via WebeX. He spoke regarding the change in auto insurance that affects home health care of auto accident victims and is asking for the Boards support in changing that section of the law.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-015: Urging the State Legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a reimbursement cap for auto accident victims. Resolution dies for lack of a second.

10:01 a.m. Mr. Harrison exited the meeting.

10:02 a.m. Mr. Eichler exited.

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

10:07 a.m. Mr. Eichler re-entered.

10:12 a.m. Mr. Lashaway exited.

10:13 a.m. recess.

10:18 a.m. back in session.

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

10:27 a.m. Mr. Lashaway re-entered.

There were comments made regarding "gifts" that were given at the Road Commission.

C/Schmitt gave an update on items under her committee. There was some discussion regarding a work session on how best to use the ARPA Funds. C/Leininger stated that a written request signed by two commissioners must be presented to the Clerk's office before the meeting can be posted.

C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 22-014: Authorizing the Chair to sign the Letter of Support for Waldron Communication Company application to the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 22-018: Authorizing the Chair to sign the Letter of Support for DMCI Broadband LLC, application to the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

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

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-017: Setting the per diem rate for all Boards at \$35.00 per half day and \$70.00 for a whole day effective February 3, 2022. Second by C/Benzing. There was a very lengthy discussion. C/Leininger moved to amend the Resolution to make it be effective on January 1, 2023. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No (C/Wiley and C/Ingles) CARRIED

Roll Call Vote on Resolution as amended: C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-016: Raising the compensation for the Board of Commissioners to an annual salary of \$7,800.00 along with any fringe benefits that are offered to any full time employee and setting additional compensation for the Board Chairperson at \$2,400.00, Vice Chairperson \$1,200.00 and Budget Chairperson \$600.00 effective with the new term beginning January 1, 2023. Second by C/Benzing. There was a very lengthy discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – No, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – No. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No. CARRIED

11:46 a.m. Mr. Frobel exited.

C/Wiley gave an update on items of interest.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding hire in levels and vacation time given to new hires. The Personnel Committee stated that they have spoken with the County Treasurer regarding this issue. There was much discussion.

C/Benzing moved to allow new hires to receive twenty (20) hours of vacation time after ninety (90) days of employment and an additional twenty (20) hours after six (6) months of employment which will be stated in the Employee Policy for Hillsdale County. Second by C/Wiley. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No (C/Leininger and C/Schmitt) CARRIED

Under Public Comment: Kelley Mapes commented on several items that were discussed.

Karla Adams commented on the control system at the Jail.

Bob Eichler commented on several items and thanked Sheriff Hodshire for his prayers.

Under additional business, C/Benzing stated that he is against the Treasures Office closing the two days per week thru February. He also commented on Plat Books.

12:57 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