

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on April 12, 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of March 29, 2022

22-045: Payroll, Payables, Transfers – March 2022

22-046: Appointment to the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging

22-047: Approval of General Legal Services with Attorney Thomas Thompson

22-048: Approval of Kiwanis Flag Subscription Renewal

22-049: Approval of Roof Replacement at the Courthouse – Renaissance, Historic Exteriors

22-050: Approval of Gutter Replacement at the Courthouse – Renaissance, Historic Exteriors

22-051: Approval of an Existing Conditions Report on the Exterior of the Courthouse – Renaissance, Historic Exteriors

22-052: Approval of the Roof Replacement over the Elevator Addition at the Courthouse – Renaissance, Historic Exteriors

22-053: Approval to Hire an Intern – Probate Court

22-054: Approval for a Counselor – Probate Court

22-055: Approval to Hire a Probation Officer – Probate Court

22-056: Approval to Hire a Part-Time Probation Officer – District Court

22-057: Amend FY22 Public Defender Legal Services Contract

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

9:05 a.m. Nicolas Wheeler, Equalization Director – Annual Equalization Report

9:20 a.m. Terry Vear, Executive Director & Dan LaRue, Finance Director – Senior Services Center Senior Services Millage Renewal Proposal – August 2022 Ballot

9:40 a.m. Troy Reehl, ISD Superintendent & other Superintendents from the County Information Regarding the Upcoming ISD Special Education Millage

9:55 a.m. Bob Godfrey, Road Commission Board – Gravel Road Information

8. Committee Reports:

A. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES

Discussion: Bil-Jax 4527A Articulating Boom Lift for Facilities

B. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT

22-060: 2022 Borrowing Resolution for 2021 Delinquent Taxes not to exceed \$3,400,000

C. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER

D. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING

22-058: AED Purchase

22-059: Bleeding Control Purchase

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

9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present: Nick Wheeler, Steve Lanius, Lance Benzing, Bob Eichler, Bill Irwin, Troy Reehl, Joseph Hendee, Stephenie Kyser, Roy Bodinus, Mark Nichols, Don Hobbs, Kelley Mapes, Karla Adams, Dustin Adams, Terry Vear, Jim Graves, Sandra Durfur and several other member of the general public.

Under Public Comment, Joseph Hendee stated that the Board of Commissioners are holding an illegal meeting because there is no posting of their meetings in the County Office Building.

Karla Adams referenced the postings and she stated that this Board should not take over the Road Commission.

Kelley Mapes stated that she did not think that this Board should take over the Road Commission.

Bob Eichler commented on the notices and the Sheriff's Budget.

Mark Nichols spoke to the condition of the gravel roads and thanked the Board for conducting the upcoming Public Hearings.

C/Benzing moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Resolutions 22-053 and 22-056 and placing them under Public Safety. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

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

Bob Eichler exited and re-entered several times throughout the meeting.

9:20 a.m. Nicolas Wheeler, Equalization Director reviewed his 2022 Equalization Report with the Board.

9:21 a.m. Bob Godfrey entered.

C/Leininger moved to accept the 2022 Equalization Report and place it on file. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:24 a.m. Mr. Wheeler finished.

9:25 a.m. Terry Vear, Executive Director of the Senior Services Center, addressed the Board regarding the Senior Millage Renewal. There was some discussion.

9:50 a.m. Ms. Vear finished.

9:51 a.m. Troy Reehl, Hillsdale County ISD Superintendent along with other local school Superintendents addressed the Board regarding their millage proposal that will be on the May 3, 2022 ballot.

9:55 a.m. Ms. Durfur exited.

10:14 a.m. Mr. Reehl finished and exited along with the other Superintendents, Ms. Vear and Mr. Wheeler.

10:15 a.m. Bob Godfrey, Hillsdale County Road Commissioner addressed the Board regarding the gravel roads in the county.

10:16 a.m. Thomas Whitaker entered.

10:42 a.m. Mr. Godfrey finished and recess was called.

10:49 a.m. back in session.

C/Ingles gave an update on items under his committee. He also informed the Board that Facilities Director, Randy Finley, is asking to replace the boom lift that is used to reach high places and replace light bulbs in the parking lots. The cost would be \$28,000.

10:55 a.m. Randy Finley entered.

C/Ingles moved to allow the Facilities Director to purchase a used Biljax 45-27 lift from Spratt's Trading Post in the amount of \$28,000. Second by C/Schmitt. There was a very lengthy discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – No, C/Leininger – No. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No. CARRIED

C/Ingles moved to allow the Facilities Director to replace a custodian. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

11:10 a.m. Mr. Finley exited.

C/Ingles gave an update on the Grant for the Space Needs Study at the Courthouse. He stated that the Grant is for \$50,000 and it was stated that there would not be a match required, however it has been discovered that there will need to be a 10% match.

There was discussion regarding a small temporary office in which to have a counselor meet with people from the Probate Court. There has been a request to use space in the Courthouse Annex.

C/Benzing moved to use the old Building Inspection Office in the Courthouse Annex as the counseling office. Second by C/Ingles. There was a lengthy Discussion. Vote: 2-Yes, 3-No (C/Schmitt, C/Benzing, C/Ingles).

FAILED

10:22 a.m. Don Hernandez entered.

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 22-060: Resolution to borrow against anticipated delinquent 2021 real property taxes. Second by C/Leininger. Roll Call Vote: C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

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

C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 22-053: Authorizing the Probate Court Judge to hire a summer intern not to exceed \$7,000. Second by C/Wiley. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 22-056: Authorizing the District Court Judge to hire a part time probation officer. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No (C/Leininger) CARRIED

C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 22-058: The purchase of 12 Zoll AED Automatic External Defibrillators, 8 surface mount cabinets and 4 recessed cabinets in the amount of \$23,824.00. Second by C/Ingles. There was some discussion regarding not having the budget amendment done for the account number that will be used. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No (C/Leininger). CARRIED

C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 22-059: The purchase of 9 surface mount 8 pack Bleeding Control Stations and 3 semi-recessed 8 pack Bleeding Control Stations in the amount of \$6,513.76. Second by C/Ingles. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No (C/Leininger) CARRIED

C/Benzing addressed the issue of the 800MHz. He stated that it was the consensus of the committee, the fire chiefs, the police chiefs and the E-911 Director to accept the bid from Motorola.

C/Benzing moved that Hillsdale County accept the proposal for a countywide simulcast system MPSCS Add On from Motorola as well as the proposal from ROE-COMM., INC. for Unication fire pagers totaling \$9,963,517.00 contingent on the approval of a millage levy by the qualified electors of Hillsdale County for this purpose not to exceed .75 mills for a period of 10 years. This proposal would be placed on the August 2, 2022, ballot. Further that county legal counsel be requested to prepare the language for the ballot proposal. Additionally, the issuance cost of the bonds estimated at \$236,450.00 be taken from the American Recovery Plan funds. Second by C/Ingles. There was a very lengthy discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – No, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

C/Wiley gave an update on some items of interest. There was some discussion regarding moving up the start time of the April 26, 2022 meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

C/Leininger moved to move the start time of the April 26, 2022 meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Second by C/Benzing. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No (C/Schmitt) CARRIED

12:44 p.m. C/Schmitt moved to go into Closed Session for attorney Client Privilege. Second by C/Benzing.
Roll Call Vote: C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No.
CARRIED

12:51 p.m. back in Regular Session.

Under Public Comment, Mark Nichols asked the Board to remember their Oaths of Office, commented on the Dirt Roads, the policy and procedures of the Road Commission and taxation.

Jeff Cole addressed the Board regarding a Drain Assessment on his property and when trying to pay it the County Treasurer's Office was closed.

Karla Adams commented on the Road Commission and the issues with the manager and taxes on the seniors and others.

Bob Eichler commented on the radios for the Sheriff's Office and on Mr. Finley needing to replace things that were not budgeted.

Roy Bodinus commented on the Road Commission being able to sell their Federal Dollars to the State of Michigan.

Don Hobbs thanked the Board for conducting the upcoming Public Hearings. He stated that it is an issue that needs to be fixed and we should all work together to fix the issues.

Kelley Mapes commented on issues with other county's allowing employees to take home county vehicles and she hopes that this does not happen here. She also offered to write Grants for Broadband.

Steve Lanius stated that the county using ARPA money was a violation of the constitution. He commented that schools will soon be going to all electric school buses, the FCC upgrading all broadband and the roads.

C/Benzing moved to pay this Board for a half day instead of a full day. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

1:21 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.

Mark E. Wiley, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Marney M. Kast
County Clerk