

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on April 26, 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 Ingles.

ROLL CALL:	DISTRICT	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
	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 Ingles
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:
 - Review/Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2022
 - 22-061: Appointments to the Emergency Telephone Services Board (ETSB)
 - 22-066: Opioid Fund Budget Amendments
5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:
 - 9:10 a.m. Julie Wetherby, Executive Director, Region 2 Area Agency on Aging
Semi-Annual Financial Report
 - 9:30 a.m. Keith O'Neill, Executive Director, Reading Emergency Unit – Updates
 - 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing: Discussion – Increasing the Road Commission Board
3 Members to 5 Members
 - 10:30 a.m. Public Hearing: Discussion – Board of Commissioners Assuming the
Duties of the Road Commission
8. Committee Reports:
 - A. **BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**
 - B. **HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**
 - 22-063: Approval of Ballot Language – Hillsdale County Senior Center
 - C. **PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**
 - D. **FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**
 - Discussion: FOC Elevator
 - E. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**
 - 22-062: Authorize Chair to sign Step 4 Response – SEIU Grievance
 - 22-064: MERS – Authorized Signature of the Employer
 - 22-065: MERS – Retiree Health Funding Vehicle (RHFV)
9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment
 - Present: Bud Vear, Bob Eichler, Pat Knight, Traci Fowler, Kelley Mapes, Jeannie Nichols, Alice Britton, Jim Graves, Maggi Monroe, Sam Gordon, Terry Vear, Roy Bodinus and Andy Welden.
 - NOTE: Several people from the public entered and exited throughout the meeting.
 - 8:01 a.m. C/Leininger, Karla Adams and Laura Rahe entered.
 - Under Public Comment, Terry Vear addressed Resolution 22-063 regarding the ballot language for Senior Services. She stated that she would like to see the Senior Services Center named in the ballot language.
 - 8:04 a.m. Steve Lanus entered.
 - Laura Rahe thanked the Board for their part-time Probation Officer and informed the Board that they will be applying for a Domestic Violence Grant which will not require a match.
 - Bud Vear spoke in support of the Senior Services Millage.
 - Karla Adams commented on the millages and on the estimate by Motorola. She inquired as to why the Board did not have three estimates.
 - Pat Knight spoke on behalf of the Senior Services Center.
 - 8:15 a.m. C/Benzing entered.
 - Jeannie Nichols spoke on behalf of the Senior Services Center.
 - Kelley Mapes spoke regarding the 800 MHz and where she could find the Budget for the Senior Services Center.
 - Samantha Gordon stated that you can find the Budget for the Senior Services Center on their website and they would be happy to answer questions at any time.
 - Traci Fowler requested that the millage language include the Senior Services Center's name.
 - C/Benzing moved to remove Resolution 22-061 from the Consent Agenda stating that it needed to be amended.
Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
 - C/Schmitt moved to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of an amended 22-061 Resolution under Public Safety. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
 - C/Wiley stated that we will be addressing Committee Reports until it is time for Standing Order.
 - C/Schmitt gave an update on items under her committee. She informed the Board that there may be other funding options for the 800MHz Radio System.
 - C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 22-063: Approving ballot language for Senior Services to be placed on the August 2, 2022 ballot. Second by C/Schmitt. There was a very lengthy discussion.
 - C/Ingles moved to Table which died for lack of support.
 - Roll Call Vote: C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – No, C/Schmitt – No, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No. CARRIED
 - 9:13 a.m. Julie Wetherby, Executive Director of Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, reviewed her Semi-Annual Report with the Board.
 - 9:27 a.m. Ms. Wetherby finished.
 - 9:29 a.m. Keith O'Neill, Executive Director, Reading Emergency Unit, gave an update to the Board.
 - 9:44 a.m. Mr. O'Neill finished.
 - C/Leininger gave an update on items under his committee.

C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 22-061: The appointment of Richard Zimmer as Alternate Citizen-at-Large, David Braxmaier as Citizen-at-Large and confirming the appointment of Lt. Thad Doty representing the City of Hillsdale to the Emergency Telephone Service Board. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

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

9:59 a.m. C/Ingles moved to open the Public Hearing to receive comments in regards to changing the Road Commission Board from three members to five members. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley informed those present that comments are to be limited to whether or not the Road Commission should stay as a three member board or be changed to a five member board.

Gary Leininger, Road Commissioner, encouraged the Board of Commissioners to expand the Road Commission to a five member board. He stated that it is hard to comply with the Open Meetings Act with a three member board.

Karla Adams is against a five member board. She would like to see it dissolved completely.

Lisa Wallace is in favor of a five member board.

Alan Andrews is in favor of increasing the number of board members.

Bruce Caswell stated that three is more transparent and that they should fix what is not working.

Mark Nichols would like to see a five member board and see what happens. They could always change it back if it doesn't work.

Ken McClennan is not in favor of a five member board.

John Lowe likes a five member board and if you're not happy vote them out.

Bill Watkins is not in favor of a five member board. He states that it is not a board issue it is a money issue.

Stan Klingerman is not in favor of a five member board and stated that it is a management issue.

Don Hobbs is in favor of a five member board.

Glenn Frobel stated five.

Bob Eichler stated he would like to see a five member board.

10:30 a.m. C/Benzing moved to close the Public Hearing. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

10:32 a.m. C/Leininger moved to open the Public Hearing to receive comment as to whether or not the issue of dissolving the Road Commission Board and be absorbed by the County Board of Commissioners should go to a vote of the people. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley again reminded those present that they were here to receive comment on whether or not the Board of Commissioners should absorb the Road Commission Board by a vote of the people.

The following people were not in favor of the Board of Commissioners taking over the Road Commission Board: Alan Andrews, Mark Nichols, Gary Leininger, Lisa Wallace, Stan Klingerman, Steve Lanius, John Lowe, Bill Watkins, Bill Hendershot, Bob Godfrey, Shawn Stucky, Kelley Mapes, Dennis Franz, Chris Myers, Herb Unison, Bill Wagoner and Jim Graves. All stated they feel it is a management issue.

Ken McClellan said yes and Glenn Frobel and Bob Eichler were a maybe.

11:03 a.m. C/Ingles moved to close the Public Hearing. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

A majority of the Public exited after the Public Hearing was closed.

C/Ingles gave an update on items under his committee. There was a lengthy discussion on what to do with the elevator at the Friend of the Court building.

11:15 a.m. Randy Finley entered.

C/Benzing moved to pay the maintenance contract on the elevator at the Friend of the Court Building. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-062: Authorizing the Chair to sign the Step 4 Response to the SEIU Grievance. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-064: Authorizing the Hillsdale County Board Chairperson to be the authorized signatory for any contracts with MERS. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 22-065: Adoption of the MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle as provided with an effective date of May 1, 2022 for the following covered employees: Sheriff Supervisory and Nonsupervisory. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

Under Public Comment, Terry Vear again addressed having the Senior Services Center named in the ballot language. Stating they still had time to amend it.

Karla Adams commented on the policy that requires three bids and how many Resolutions have been passed without having those three bids.

Mark Nichols commended Ms. Vear but stated that maybe we shouldn't have a millage and ask for donations instead. Kelley Mapes had questions about what is being done with fund balances.

Bill Watkins invited the Board out to Lewis Emery Park. He would like them to see what needs to be done.

Additional comments were made by the Commissioners on items of interest.

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

Mark E. Wiley, Chairperson
Board of Commissioners

Marney M. Kast,
County Clerk