

September 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room located in the Mason County Courthouse in the City of Ludington.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lange.

Roll call was taken. Present: W. Taranko, G. Castonia, C. Lange, L. Squires,
S. Hull, J. Andersen, T. Posma
Absent: None.

Invocation was given by L. Squires. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Motion by J. Andersen and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Hull and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence: No correspondence was read.

Public comment: None.

Michigan State University Extension Interim District 5 Coordinator Shari Spoelman reviewed with the board the 2017-2018 annual report. She informed the board that five candidates have applied for the position and they hope to have a person in place by the end of September. Additionally, Aaron Myers, Mason County 4-H Coordinator; Deanne Rohr 4-H Global/Cultural Education Coordinator for the State of Michigan; and David Jones, Regional Fruit Tree Educator, gave brief reports of activities over the past year.

Commissioner Squires asked whether or not the new location at West Shore Community College has been beneficial to the Extension Office, as MSU-E has previously been housed in the City of Scottville for over 50 years. All members present stated that the new offices have seen significantly higher foot traffic and users of the recreation facility also stop into the MSU-E offices. They are very happy with the new location. The only item that they could improve upon was signage. At this time, there is not adequate signage noting where the offices are located. They are working towards this end.

Motion by Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee Chairman W. Taranko and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Act 2 of 1968 (State Convention Facility Development Act), may have necessitated a public hearing in order to comply with Act 5 of 1982 (Truth in Taxation).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the County of Mason is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of such public hearing, and said notice be substantially in the form of the attached Exhibit A, in a newspaper of general circulation within the county district. The notice shall be published not less than six days before the public hearing and shall comply with all requirements of said Act 5 and shall post notice of said public hearing in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Acts.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

Motion by W. Taranko and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Council on Aging has recommended fiscal year 2019 funding allocations of \$205,500.00 for the Scottville Senior Center, \$167,000.00 for the Ludington Senior Center, \$37,468.00 for the Tallman Lake Senior Center, \$30,225.00 for Mason County Central Schools Meal Program, \$7,000.00 for HELP, Inc., and \$26,700.00 for the Free Soil Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the approval of this recommendation.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the fiscal year 2019 funding allocations as recommended by the Mason County Council on Aging.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

Motion by W. Taranko and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is currently offering three different grant opportunities to counties for the establishment of a Veteran's Affairs Department; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the county authorize the submittal of a letter of notice and applications for grant funding for the possible establishment of a Veteran's Affairs Department.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the submittal of a letter of notice and applications for grant funding for the possible establishment of a Veteran's Affairs Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Chairman Lange to sign any necessary documents.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Taranko felt that this was a wonderful opportunity for Mason County to be able to assist veterans and he was supportive of this opportunity.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

Motion by W. Taranko and seconded by L. Squires to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County receives Homeland Security Grant Program funding for an emergency management planner; and

WHEREAS, the grant requirements include providing a position description that details the duties and responsibilities of the planner; and

WHEREAS, Mason County also receives grant funding through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for an emergency management coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Performance Grant requirements also include providing a position description that details the duties and responsibilities of the emergency management coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending approval of the attached descriptions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached descriptions for the emergency management planner and the emergency management coordinator positions.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

Motion by G. Castonia and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Jail received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.58 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.58 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.58 mill for the 2018 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Road Patrol Millage request received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.30 mill; and

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WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.30 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.30 mill for the 2018 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chairman S. Hull and seconded by J. Andersen to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Prein&Newhof, Inc. is requesting that the county approve the attached Contract for Professional Engineering Service to provide the construction phase services for the rehabilitation of the Terminal Apron, Taxilanes, and Connectors at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the attached contract.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Contract for Professional Engineering Service and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

Motion by S. Hull and seconded by J. Andersen to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cole is recommending the attached services agreement with West Michigan Community Mental Health System to provide services related to the purchase of medication for injection at the Mason County Jail.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached services agreement with West Michigan Community Mental Health System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Chairman Lange to sign the attached services agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

Motion by J. Andersen and seconded by T. Pasma to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Prein&Newhof, Inc. is requesting that the county approve the attached Contract for Professional Engineering Service to provide the construction phase services for the Runway 8 and 19 Obstruction Removal Project at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the attached contract.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Contract for Professional Engineering Service and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Motion by J. Andersen and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Section IV of the Mason County Remonumentation Plan states that the County Grant Administrator must submit surveyor contracts to the Mason County Board of Commissioners for approval and authorization; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending approval of an amendment to the contracts with Surveyor Rex Pope.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an amendment to the contract with Surveyor Rex Pope and further directs the Board Chair to sign said contract on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

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Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee Chairman T. Posma and seconded by J. Andersen to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County approved requesting bids for a project to rehabilitate the Terminal Apron, Taxilanes, and Connectors at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, Prein & Newhof Engineering and the Airport Manager are recommending approval of the low bid from Ameriseal of Ohio, Inc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves hiring the low bidder Ameriseal of Ohio, Inc. for this project and directs the Board Chair Charles M. Lange to sign said contract; funds to come from the Airport Improvement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

Motion by T. Posma and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for September 11, 2018.

THEREFORE, we, your Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee, request your approval of the following transfers:

Jail Operations	\$133,333.00
Employee Vacation & Sick Leave	\$ 10,000.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

Motion by T. Posma and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending a levy of 0.003 mill for 2018 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason requests the levy of 0.003 mill for 2018 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission and authorizes the County Clerk to certify the same.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

Motion by T. Posma and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

The Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has audited the County's claims dated August 09, 2018 totaling \$349,444.22 and August 23, 2018 totaling \$277,059.74; and

The Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee found these claims to be in order and asks the Board to approve these claims.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma, W. Taranko, C. Lange

Motion by T. Posma and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, it is necessary to set the date for the annual Budget Work Session Meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason establishes, September 26, 2018 at 7:00 PM, as the date and the time for the annual Budget Work Session Meeting.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, County Treasurer Kmetz has requested authorization to write off uncollectable taxes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the request to write off uncollectable taxes.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

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Commissioner Squires asked why the county would write off these uncollectable taxes? Treasurer Kmetz informed him of the situation noting that the property was sold and the owner was not liable for the parcel becoming uncapped having paid valuable consideration for the parcel. The former owner, who was responsible, was found not to have any assets available to collect the funds. Thus, the need to write off the uncollectable taxes at this time and zero out the 2007 delinquent calendar year.

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners authorized a contribution of \$150,000.00 towards the purchase of vehicles and equipment for the four additional road officers if the road patrol officer millage was passed; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County voters passed the road patrol officer millage on August 7th.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the creation of the Road Patrol Fund and the attached budget amendments.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason was authorized by the citizens of the County of Mason, to levy a millage of up to 0.2979 mill for the purpose of funding the operation and maintenance of Senior Centers and Senior Citizens Programs in the County of Mason.

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners only levy 0.27 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason requests the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.27 mill for the 2018 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Squires questioned why the County was only levying 0.27 mills for the Senior Center. Chairman Lange deferred to Administrator Knizacky who informed everyone that the Council on Aging had recommended only utilizing 0.27 mills.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached budget amendments.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by L. Squires to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, House Bill (HB) 6049 and Senate Bill (SB) 1025 seeks to revise the functions, qualifications, restrictions, and requirements of property tax assessors' statutory duties in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 will impose a potential financial burden on Mason County and local assessing units due to the mandated structure of increased staffing while providing only a 1% administrative fee distributed by the local units and undefined "start-up funding" by January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 changes the manner in which local boards of review (BOR) are managed and the locations throughout the County where they are conducted. By putting specialized BOR's at the county level, HB 6049/SB 1025 has the potential to remove local control over the tax administration process, and presents a hardship to taxpayers to travel great distances to appeal their valuations; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 has neglected to include assessors or their associations and the previous drafts were not made public to the counties and townships directly affected by its extensive changes until just recently by introduction into the Michigan Legislature; and

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WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 offers no guarantees that education will be available in the Upper Peninsula or even regionally to allow for the increased certification levels and increased staffing levels imposed; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 proposed levels of certification for assessors will not achieve the ultimate result. The solution lies in improved and more thorough auditing procedures of current assessors by the State Tax Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mason County views HB 6049/SB 1025 in its current form as unfunded mandates on already impoverished Counties without correcting the issues of establishing more accurate auditing measures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason hereby opposes HB 6049/SB 1025 and asks that it remain in the House Tax Policy Committee and the Senate Finance Committee until the funding issues and other problems identified above can be properly addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to Michigan House Representative Curt VanderWall, Senator Darwin Booher, and Governor Rick Snyder.

Moved for your approval.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: W. Taranko, G. Castonia, C. Lange, L. Squires, S. Hull, J. Andersen, T. Posma

Nays: None.

Charles Lange, Board Chairman

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason at a regular meeting held on September 11, 2018, and I further certify that the public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk _____
Date

Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the August 2018 Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kmetz reports that the first foreclosure sale was held with twelve of seventeen parcels being sold. The remaining five parcels are unbuildable and will be offered to adjacent landowners. Treasurer Kmetz thanked the Commissioners for the ability to write-off the 2007 delinquent tax issue.

Clerk C. Kelly presented the August 2018 Clerk's Report. Clerk Kelly noted that as she was unable to attend the August board meeting, she would recap the August primary election. She noted that the new ES&S election equipment worked wonderfully and is happy with the product. The only issues noted were human error that was resolved before the polls opened. Clerk Kelly informed the Board that at the annual Clerk's conference held in August, she was nominated and then voted by her peers to be the Treasurer of the Michigan Association of County Clerk's. She was honored to have been given this opportunity to serve the Clerk Association at the State level. Her office is currently working on the November General Election at this time. It was noted that there would be three State Proposals and one County proposal on the November ballot.

Administrator Knizacky noted that he is currently in the middle of finishing the 2019 budget, but that it is looking good. It will be a balanced budget and will be considered at the September 26 work session. Additionally, work continues on the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission program that needs to be implemented by October 1, 2018. He noted that the State intends to make a partial payment to counties by mid-October and then expects counties to be fully implemented by six months. Work continues with the Sheriff Department regarding implementation of the new road patrol personnel that was passed at the August primary.

Public Comment: None.

Any other business: Commissioner Squires thanked Chairman Lange for allowing him to perform the invocation due to the special remembrances for 9/11. He was privileged and honored.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

CHARLES LANGE, BOARD CHAIRMAN