

**September 26, 2018**

The special work session meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 PM in the Commissioner's 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 C. Lange. Pledge to the flag followed.

Motion by J. Andersen and seconded by S. Hull to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

Public comment.

- Michigan State University Extension (MSU-E) Interim District 5 Coordinator Shari Spoelman wanted to inform the County Board that MSU-E would be holding a forum to discuss the three statewide proposals on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at West Shore Community College from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. that will be on the ballot for the November General Election. She distributed brochures regarding the proposals to each of the board members.

Work Session on 2018 Budget:

Commissioner Taranko turned the review of the proposed budget 2019 over to Administrator Knizacky. Commissioner Squires questioned why the Friend of the Court budget had a significant drop from what they requested and what was approved for their final budget. Administrator Knizacky elucidated on this and Commissioner Squires was satisfied with the answer.

Administrator Knizacky noted that the 2019 budget shows an increase of 0.54% over the current 2018 budget and that the 2019 budget will be balanced at \$13,523,000.00

Commissioner Squires also inquired regarding health insurances and the impact to the county. Administrator Knizacky informed him that there are two situations that affect the health insurance: The first is that the cost of the premiums have gone up. The second is what the State allows the County to spend according to Public Act 152 of 2012. Employees can pick one of the plans offered by the county that they want to participate in and if this plan falls above the cost allowed by the county, the responsibility falls to the employee to pay the balance.

Commissioner Taranko thanked Administrator Knizacky and the Department Heads for the work they have done in order to make the 2019 budget a balanced budget.

Commissioner Posma noted that \$279,617.00 in requests were not able to be met in the 2019 budget.

Commissioner Castonia apologized for his lateness.

Commissioner Squires thanked Administrator Knizacky and the Finance, Rules, & Personnel Committee for their hard work on the 2019 budget.

Public comment:

- Mason-Lake Conservation District Manager Dani McGarry thanked the County board for their continued support of the conservation district. She noted that they are wrapping up a large project that the county has assisted with funding for the past two years. She hoped to show case this project in the future and again thanked the board for the continued support.

- Michigan State University Extension (MSU-E) Interim District 5 Coordinator Shari Spoelman expressed her concerns over the fact that the County was not able to fund the part-time person that was requested for the Tech Wizards program. At this time, that position is being funded through grants but she is not sure how long the grants will be available and encouraged the Board to consider funding this position in the future. She thanked them for their continued support.

The meeting was adjourned 7:24 p.m.

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CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

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CHARLES LANGE, BOARD CHAIRMAN