

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 Chair J. Andersen

Roll call was taken. Present: N. Krieger, C. Lange, S. Hull, J. Andersen, R. Bacon
Absent: G. Castoina, L. Squires

The invocation was given by N. Krieger and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Chairwoman Andersen spoke in regards to the current State of Emergency declared by Governor Whitmer, and the COVID-19 crisis. She is recommending the utilization of Consent Agenda for today's board meeting. This will allow the Board to act on agenda items with the approval of one resolution.

A motion was made by N. Krieger and seconded by R. Bacon to modify the agenda due to the COVID-19 crisis to approve all twenty-one action items as one. Motion carried.

Chair Andersen noted that numerous correspondence items were in the Board packet to review.

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Public comment:

- Herb Stenzel, Victory Township, a representative for the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Group in Mason County voiced his concerns regarding his displeasure with regards to the fact that the Board is not addressing the needs of the community. He has 1400 signatures on petitions that he intends on bringing in for the Board to see of individuals in support of the 2nd Amendment Resolution. He adamantly requests the Board to resolve their differences with the word sanctuary and bring a final resolution to the April 2020 Board meeting.
- Jason Kilpatrick, City of Ludington, feels this situation is a joke and wants the County Board to stand up for the rights of the citizens. With his previous employment as an officer in Oceana County, he feels that there is a need to support this amendment.
- John Vengen, Hamlin Township, notes that he 100% supports the 2nd Amendment. He presented a book that he demanded each of the Commissioners read and sign the inside cover noting that they read the book. He notes that the Commissioners are paid per his knowledge \$18,000 yearly and that he is unhappy with their work performance and referred to them as hypocrites as they took an oath of office to uphold the Constitution and the residents of Mason County. He feels people have the right per the 3rd Amendment to defend themselves and that the Board should sign the 2nd Amendment sanctuary resolution.
- Ed Schietuma, Amber Township, feels that the language in the resolution surrounding the word sanctuary is an issue. He feels that passing a resolution with the word sanctuary in it is only a symbolic measure and questioned why this has not been done yet. He cited personal issues that happened recently to him that have given him a different perspective moving forward.
- Joe Folland, Summit Township, notes that he is in fear of Governor Whitmer removing all rights for gun owners. He cited his work with the Oath Keepers and his involvement in the armed forces, as well as the oath of office that he took and will continue to uphold. He feels he has a right to bear arms due to the 2nd Amendment and wants the County Board to pass the resolution that was previously presented.

Mason County Sheriff Cole presented his annual report for 2019, noting it was a very challenging year for his office. He acknowledges the appreciation for the addition of the part-time marine patrol officer. Planning was put in place regarding the recent COVID-19 outbreak, which includes closure of the Mason County Jail to all public.

Jody Maloney, Access Coordinator for the Promise Zone informed the Board of the current status of the Promise Zone. One hundred and five high school seniors in Mason County participated in the first year rollout of the Promise. Currently, there are 205 applicants for the 2020 calendar year. Ms. Maloney noted a 12% increase in enrollment at West Shore Community College. Appreciative testimonials were read. Chair Andersen thanked Ms. Maloney for all the work associated with the Promise to allow the younger generation to be the future leaders of our community.

Brady Selnar, Building and Zoning Director presented his 2019 annual report. Highlights included expansion of campgrounds, pole barn homes, combo-projects with contractors and homeowners. Tire Day held in September of 2019 was a success in taking in over 1000 used tires. Request for permits was up for the 2019 calendar year. Commissioner Krieger inquired of the zoning violations and tickets issued. He was

informed that 30-day notices were given as their office was encouraging compliance. Chair Andersen thanked Director Selnar for all the work being done.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole and the Public Safety and Courts Committee are recommending adding one part-time Marine Patrol Officer for up to 280 hours for the 2020 summer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves adding one part-time Marine Patrol Officer for up to 280 hours for the 2020 summer; funds to come from the attached budget amendment

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Animal Control Officer Colbrook has requested the purchase of a new incinerator for the Animal Control Office; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the purchase of the incinerator out of funds in the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, approves the purchase of a new incinerator for the Animal Control Office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has approved a grant to review, verify, and update SARA Title III Off-Site Plans for the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink and the Public Safety and Courts Committee are recommending the attached agreement with Chelsea VanSickle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached agreement between the County of Mason and Chelsea VanSickle and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cole and the Public Safety, & Courts Committee is recommending approval of the purchase of redaction software from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of redaction software for the Sheriff’s Office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, severe weather, in the form of thunderstorms, wind storms, floods, and tornados, is a threat to the safety and welfare of all Michigan citizens; and

WHEREAS, there are an average of 16 tornados reported in the State of Michigan each year – four tornados occurred in Shiawassee and Genesee Counties in March 2019; and

WHEREAS, strong storms with severe winds on June 1st, 2019, caused extensive tree and power pole damage, and widespread power outages; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to be aware that strong thunderstorms can cause as much or even more damage as tornadoes with strong winds, hail, and lighting which kills an average of 30 people every year nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Mason County is fortunate to have many natural resources for our citizens and visitors to enjoy, but all should be aware of the warning signs of severe weather and proper safety and emergency procedures since there can be 25 – 40 days of thunderstorm activity each year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is promoting a Severe Weather Awareness Week to educate the public about the dangers of tornados and other severe weather events and the precautions that can be taken to save lives and protect families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Mason County urges all county residents to educate themselves and prepare for severe weather and participate in the statewide tornado drill at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 25, 2020, and declares March 22 – March 28, 2020 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Mason County.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for March 17, 2020.

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

Road Patrol	\$175,750.00
Jail Operations	\$136,405.00
Health, Pension & Life Insurance	\$500,000.00

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Oceana County has passed a resolution to amend the Mason-Oceana Interlocal Agreement for 911 to add the Treasurer to the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending approval of this amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves amending the Mason-Oceana Interlocal Agreement for 911 to add the Treasurer to the Executive Committee.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners voted to determine the number of positions to be funded in the Mason County Sheriff’s Office at their July 11, 2006 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole and the Public Safety and Courts Committee are recommending amending those staffing levels by increasing the number of Road Patrol Sergeants from 4 positions to 5 positions and decreasing the number of Road Patrol Deputies from 14 positions to 13 positions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves amending the staffing levels in the Mason County Sheriff’s Office by increasing the number of Road Patrol Sergeants from 4 positions to 5 positions and decreasing the number of Road Patrol Deputies from 14 positions to 13 positions; funds to come from the attached budget amendment

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator and the Public Safety and Courts Committee are recommending approval of the attached ONSOLVE Service Agreement.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink and the Public Safety & Courts Committee are recommending the appointment of Mr. Mitch Foster, Mr. Jeffrey Nawrot, and Ms. Holli Werner to the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Mr. Mitch Foster, Mr. Jeffrey Nawrot, and Ms. Holli Werner to the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

The Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has audited the County’s claims dated

February 06, 2020 totaling \$155,729.66; and
February 20, 2020 totaling \$549269.22; and

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Michigan Public Act 280 of 1995 authorizes counties to accept payments by financial transaction devices such as credit cards, debit cards and electronic funds transfer cards; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Animal Control has received requests to accept credit card payments; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending that the Board approve the acceptance of credit cards at the Animal Control office; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3 of the Act, the Treasurer has determined that this type of financial transaction device payment is acceptable subject to the internal policies and procedures that have been developed by the involved offices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the acceptance of credit card payments at the Mason County Animal Control office and authorizes the Chairwoman of the Board to sign an agreement on behalf of the Board.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation has offered a grant contract amendment to increase the amount to provide for additional tree clearing, as further defined in Contract No. 2018-0856/A1 (Amendment), at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending the approval of this contract.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves Contract No. 2018-0856/A1 (Amendment) for a Federal/State/Local Airport Project to reimburse Mason County for additional tree clearing at the Mason County Airport and directs the Board Chair Janet S. Andersen to sign any necessary documents.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved fees for copies; and

WHEREAS, Michigan State University Extension has requested that the Board of Commissioners waive this fee for the Step Forward Michigan Program; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners waive these fees for this program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason waives the copying fees for the Step Forward Michigan Program.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is requiring a revision of the Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan for the County of Mason; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Surveyor Rex Pope has prepared the attached revision of the Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan for the County of Mason

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending approval of this plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the 2020 Revised Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan for the County of Mason and directs the Board Chairwoman to sign said plan.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the terms of two positions on the West Michigan Community Mental Health System Board, held by Mr. Ron Bacon and Ms. Jennifer Branning expire on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ron Bacon and Ms. Jennifer Branning have indicated a desire to continue to represent the County on the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Ron Bacon and Ms. Jennifer Branning be appointed to the West Michigan Community Mental Health System Board for terms expiring March 31, 2023.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason-Lake Conservation District has worked cooperatively with the Conservation Districts from Manistee and Oceana Counties to develop a program for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste for the residents in Mason County; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the attached agreement for services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Agreement for Services between Mason County and Mason-Lake, Manistee and Oceana Conservation Districts and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Airport Manager O'Connor and the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee are recommending the attached 2020 Airport Maintenance Agreement for the Mason County Airport.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached 2020 Airport Maintenance Agreement with J. Ranck Electric, Inc. and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division are planning a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 25th; and

WHEREAS, the Division is asking all local emergency management programs to promote the initiative throughout their county to raise awareness for severe weather safety; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink would like to conduct a fire drill on October 9th and lockdown drills at various county buildings; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink is requesting that county staff be allowed to participate in these drills; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending that the county staff be authorized to participate in these drills.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes county staff to participate in the statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, a fire drill on Friday, October 9, 2020 and a lockdown drill on a date to be determined.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Denise has served the citizens of Mason County for 23 ½ years in the 51st Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, Denise served as judicial assistant for Judge Richard I Cooper beginning in September 1996 and then served as Court Administrator for the 51st Circuit Court with the privilege of serving the last five years with Judge Susan K. Sniegowski, Mason County’s first female judge; and

WHEREAS, Denise received temporary certification in court recording in 2005 to assist with the circuit court docket and received her certificate as a Certified Court Recorder in April of 2006. Judge Mark D. Raven asked her to “help out temporarily” by reporting for Family Court, and that “helping out” has continued until March of 2020 as court recorder for Judge Jeffrey C. Nellis; and

WHEREAS, Denise has been professional, dedicated and conscientious in her position working diligently to keep the caseload for two judges within the guidelines of the State Court Administrative Office; and

WHEREAS, Denise has worked closely with other counties training personnel in jury management and mediation and answering a myriad of questions regarding court procedures; and

WHEREAS, Denise has displayed compassion and courtesy in working with the public, fellow employees, attorneys and their staff, law enforcement, and the media; and

WHEREAS, Denise contributes to her church by serving as church treasurer and producing the weekly church bulletin; and

WHEREAS, Denise is retiring from her position as 51st Circuit Court Administrator and Family Court Recorder and aspiring to a life filled with the joys of family, friends, kayaking, experimenting with flower gardens that deer will not touch, music and painting; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, does hereby, acknowledge with regret Denise’s decision to retire from her position at the Mason County 51st Circuit Court and offers her their best wishes in her future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, speaking for the citizens of the County of Mason and for themselves, offers their sincere thanks and gratitude for the dedication and professionalism that she has shown throughout her career; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution become a permanent part of the minutes of the March 17, 2020 County Commission proceedings. Moved for your approval.

Janet S. Andersen, Board Chair

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement taken from the proceedings of the Mason County Board of Commissioners’ meeting of March 17, 2020.

Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer Kmetz also noted that the foreclosure deadline of March 31, was extended to May 29, 2020. He continues his work with the Governor’s office with the hopes to have zero principal residence exemption (PRE) foreclosures.

Clerk C. Kelly presented the monthly Clerk's Report. Clerk Kelly noted that the staff is working on finishing up the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary Election, as well as preparing for the May 5, 2020 Special Election. The May Election will impact the following entities: City of Scottville-Wards 1 and 2; Meade and Grant Township voters in the Manistee Area Public School District and the Manistee ISD district. Due to the current status of the State of Emergency regarding the COVID-19 virus, the entire May 5, 2020 Election will be held by absentee ballot mail-in only.

Administrator Knizacky noted he has received the 2021 preliminary budgets and will begin working to provide a balanced budget. He will work towards getting all of this information together for the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee as well as the other Board members.

Public Comment was again opened:

Jason Kirkpatrick, City of Ludington, reiterated his request to have the Board support and pass a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary resolution. He again outlined his concerns regarding his 2nd Amendment rights and his concerns that his rights may be taken away if the County does not move forward with acceptance of this resolution.

March 17, 2020

Herb Stenzel, Victory Township, noted that he does not believe what he is hearing and reading in the media. He thanked the Sheriff for his proactive measures at this time with the COVID-19 crisis. Informed Jody Maloney of the Promise Zone that he would like to speak with her regarding Trade School training for Linemen. And that he again outlined his concerns regarding the removal of firearms with no just cause and the impacts this will have if there is a state of emergency. He related a personal story regarding his wife and threats that have happened most recently to them.

Chair Andersen spoke with regards to the current State of Emergency, the State and Mason County are currently in. She will continue to monitor the situation and update the residents and employees of the County. She finished by noting the health and safety of the residents of Mason County are weighing heavily on her mind at this time.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 A.M.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR