

December 13, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room located in the Mason County Courthouse in the City of Ludington.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Curtis VanderWall.

Roll call was taken. Present: W. Taranko, B. Carpenter, C. Lange, C. VanderWall,
S. Hull, J. Andersen, T. Posma
Absent: None.

Invocation was given by C. VanderWall. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by T. Posma to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2016 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence: No correspondence was read.

There was no public comment.

Mason County Sherriff Kim Cole recognized Mason County Prosecutor Paul Spaniola with regards to his work in the Kathryn "Baby Kate" Phillips case. The following officers were given Departmental Commendation Awards: Joe Gimmelva, Matt Murphy, Jeremy King, Megan Patterson, and Ed Rasmussen. Detective Mike Kinney and Detective Tom Posma were awarded the Distinguished Service Award and Life EMS First Responders Jim Herrema and Jen Anderson were given letters of appreciation for their life saving efforts this past year. Commissioner VanderWall thanked Sheriff Cole, Undersheriff Hartley, and the entire staff of the Mason County Sheriff's department for their efforts and wished them a safe holiday season.

Mike Stakenas, President of the Western Michigan Fair Association (WMFA), gave the 2016 Annual report for the WMFA. Highlights for this year included the following: Mason-Lake Soil Conservation District Tree Sale, Saturday Open Air Flea Markets; Lakeshore Animal Friends Yard Sale; Lakeshore Beef Classic; Lakeshore Hog Spectacular; Loangers on Wheels Travel Trailer Rally; Ragnar Relay Race; Haunted Fairgrounds; numerous livestock clinics for youth; and 39 days of Horse shows. Stakenas noted that the 78th annual Western Michigan Fair attracted nearly 11,500 people, but also noted this number to be slightly down compared to 2015.

Chairman VanderWall inquired of the controversy that surrounded the WMFA this past summer and asked if they have resolved these issues. Mr. Stakenas stated that they have overcome a great deal this last year. Chairman VanderWall asked several more questions of Mr. Stakenas with regards to all the events of 2016.

Commissioner Taranko questioned the 33% other income drop for the calendar year and Mr. Stakenas stated that it was due to a realignment of the WMFA annual year.

Commissioner B. Carpenter commended the efforts of the WMFA. He questioned the desire of the WMFA to work with the current 4-H program, and wants to develop a working agreement prior to the lease renewal. He agreed to meet with all entities on or before April 17, 2017 in order to accomplish his goals.

Alexandra Root, President of the 4-H Advisory Council and the Mason County Small Animal Development Committee, also spoke at this time expressing her desire to see 4-H continue as the main influence in the fair.

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chairman W. Taranko and seconded by C. Lange to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the appointment of the Hamlin Township and the City of Ludington representatives to the Mason County Board of Public Works is required; and

WHEREAS, there were two responses from Mr. Larry Rees representing Hamlin Township and Mr. John Shay representing the City of Ludington.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Larry Rees representing Hamlin Township and Mr. John Shay representing the City of Ludington be appointed to the Mason County Board of Public Works for terms ending December 31, 2019.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

December 13, 2016

Motion W. Taranko and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason participates in the SSCENT cooperative task force; and

WHEREAS, the State has proposed the attached grant that will reimburse the County for a portion of the cost of the SSCENT officer; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Kim Cole is recommending approval of the attached grant.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached SSCENT Grant and directs the appropriate county officials to sign said agreement on behalf of the county.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by C. Lange to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Circuit Court Judge Susan Sniegowski has recommended an increase for the Circuit Court contracted defense attorneys.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an increase for the Circuit Court contracted defense attorneys from a total of \$95,829 to a total of \$96,787 effective as of January 1, 2017.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) B. Carpenter

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are two positions on the Mason County Parks and Recreation Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there were two responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Mr. Steve Dvorak and Mr. Ed McCumber.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Steve Dvorak and Mr. Ed McCumber be appointed to the two positions on the Mason County Parks and Recreation Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2019.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) B. Carpenter

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by J. Andersen to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one position on the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Inc. Board of Directors with a term expiring on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there were two responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Ms. Patsy Hagerman and Ms. Debra Shaw.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Patsy Hagerman and Ms. Debra Shaw be considered for appointment to the one position on the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Inc. for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Carpenter noted that Ms. Patsy Hagerman is the incumbent on the Area Agency on Aging Board and that Ms. Debra Shaw had been appointed to the Mason County Council on Aging in October of 2016. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners voting for one. Hagerman: W. Taranko, B. Carpenter, C. Lange, C. VanderWall, S. Hull, J. Andersen, T. Posma. Shaw: No votes. Position to be filled by Hagerman.

Motion carried. (Signed) B. Carpenter

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Register of Deeds is recommending the purchase of computer equipment from the Register of Deeds Automation Fund; and

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

December 13, 2016

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of computer equipment from the Register of Deeds Automation Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) B. Carpenter

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by C. Lange to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Prosecuting Attorney Spaniola has reached an agreement with the City of Ludington to provide misdemeanor ordinance prosecution services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the agreement with the City of Ludington to provide misdemeanor ordinance prosecution services.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) B. Carpenter

Motion by B. Carpenter and seconded by C. Lange to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

The Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has audited the County's claims dated November 03, 2016 totaling \$589,941.87 and November 17, 2016 totaling \$381,616.98; 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) B. Carpenter, C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, District Court Judge Wadel has recommended an increase for the District Court contracted defense attorneys.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an increase for the District Court contracted defense attorneys from a total of \$44,298 to a total of \$44,741 effective as of January 1, 2017.

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, Sheriff Cole is requesting approval to purchase radar equipment from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the approval of this request.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of radar equipment for the Sheriff's office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for December 13, 2016.

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

Jail Operations	\$126,000.00
Landfill Post Closure	\$ 40,000.00
Budget Stabilization	\$ 20,000.00
Airport Improvement	\$ 10,000.00
Airport Operations	\$ 30,900.00
Health, Life, & Pension	\$ 40,000.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

December 13, 2016

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by T. Posma to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan has a Medicare Advantage Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending offering a one time \$1,500.00 lump sum incentive to all retirees who have attained the age of at least 65 years old including their spouses in exchange for switching their health insurance coverage to the Medicare Advantage Policy for 2017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves offering a \$1,500.00 incentive to all retirees who have attained the age of at least 65 years old including their spouses in exchange for switching their health insurance coverage to the Medicare Advantage Policy for 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the County Administrator to meet with the employees eligible under this proposal and enter into a binding agreement with the employees to implement this plan.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS; Sheriff Cole has requested 500 additional corrections part-time hours for the period of October 29, 2016 to December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS; the Corrections/Clerical union has voted to agree with this request.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the request for 500 additional corrections part-time hours for the period of October 29, 2016 to December 31, 2016 and directs the Board Chair to sign any necessary documents; funds to come from the fund balance of the Jail Operations Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are two positions on the Mason County Zoning Board of Appeals with terms that expire on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there were two responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Mr. Jerry Jensen and Mr. Ralph Lundberg.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Jerry Jensen and Mr. Ralph Lundberg be appointed to fill the two positions on the Mason County Zoning Board of Appeals for terms ending December 31, 2019.

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, the Michigan Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation desires that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason appoint a Remonumentation Peer Group; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending approval of the appointment of Mr. James Nordlund, Mr. Rex Pope, Surveyor John Schulke, and Mr. Noah Penn to the Remonumentation Peer Group and Mr. Dennis Dunlap and Mr. Sam Barnett as alternates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Mr. James Nordlund, Mr. Rex Pope, Surveyor John Schulke, and Mr. Noah Penn to the Remonumentation Peer Group and Mr. Dennis Dunlap and Mr. Sam Barnett as alternates and further directs the Board Chair to sign the related contracts on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

December 13, 2016

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are three vacancies on the Mason County Planning Commission with terms expiring on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there were three responses to the advertisement that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Mr. Thomas Hooper, Mr. Michael Shaw, and Mr. Cary Shindeldecker.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Thomas Hooper, Mr. Michael Shaw, and Mr. Cary Shindeldecker be appointed to the three positions on the Mason County Planning Commission with terms that expire December 31, 2019.

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, the State of Michigan has approved a 2017 Survey and Remonumentation Grant for the County of Mason; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the 2017 Survey and Remonumentation Grant Agreement with the State of Michigan and directs the County Administrator to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Motion by Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee Chairman T. Posma and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, it is necessary to set a date for the annual Budget Amendment Meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason establishes, December 28, 2016 at 7:00 PM as the date and the time for the annual Budget Amendment Meeting.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are four positions on the Mason County Construction Code Board of Appeals with terms expiring on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there were three responses, to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Mr. Wallace Cain, Mr. Greg Calhoun, and Mr. Larry Rees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Wallace Cain, Mr. Greg Calhoun, and Mr. Larry Rees be appointed to the positions on the Mason County Construction Code Board of Appeals with terms to expire on December 31, 2019.

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, 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 contracts with Nordlund & Associates, Mr. Rex Pope, Mr. Noah Penn, and Surveyor John Schulke.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the related surveyor contracts and further directs the Board Chair to sign said contracts on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

December 13, 2016

Motion by T. Posma and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority provides liability, vehicle physical damage, property and crime insurance coverage to the County of Mason; and

WHEREAS, the county's agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority expires on January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending approval of extending the agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority by one year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves extending the agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority by one year and further directs the County Administrator to sign said agreement.

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, Friend of the Court Niemeyer and Prosecutor Spaniola are recommending that the Board approve an extension to the Consulting Services Agreement with MGT of America, Inc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached extension to the Consulting Services Agreement with MGT of America, Inc. and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

Motion by T. Posma and seconded by B. Carpenter to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Probate Judge Nellis is recommending the attached Amended County Child Care Budget Summary with the State of Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Amended County Child Care Budget Summary with the State of Michigan; match funds to come from General Fund appropriations and the fund balance in the Child Care Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the County Chair and County Administrator to sign the Amended County Child Care Budget Summary on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

Motion by Chairman VanderWall and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are two positions on the Mason County Council on Aging with terms ending December 31, 2016 from District #5 and District #7; and

WHEREAS, there were two eligible responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Ms. Mary Bedker representing District #5 and Mr. Ron Bacon representing District #7.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Mary Bedker representing District #5 and Mr. Ron Bacon representing District #7 be appointed to the Mason County Council on Aging for terms expiring on December 31, 2018.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. VanderWall

Motion by Chairman VanderWall and seconded by C. Lange to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one position on the Mason County Road Commission Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, there were three responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News from Mr. Jeff Conklin, Mr. Thomas Hooper, and Mr. Bill Schwass.

December 13, 2016

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Jeff Conklin, Mr. Thomas Hooper, and Mr. Bill Schwass be considered for the one position on the Mason County Road Commission Board for a term ending December 31, 2022.

Moved for your approval.

A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners voting for one. Conklin: No votes; Hooper: No votes; Schwass: W. Taranko, B. Carpenter, C. Lange, C. VanderWall, S. Hull, J. Andersen, T. Posma.. Position to be filled by Schwass.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. VanderWall

Motion by Chairman VanderWall and seconded by W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Cities of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI are applying for a FASTLANE grant to help fund improvements to docking facilities for the S.S. Badger.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves sending the attached letter of support for the FASTLANE grant to help fund improvements to docking facilities for the S.S. Badger.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. VanderWall

Treasurer Kmetz presented the November 2016 Treasurer's Report. He noted that interest revenue was higher this year as compared to last year. Chairman Vanderwall asked if there were any worries regarding the taxes and Treasurer Kmetz stated no, that taxes are on schedule.

Clerk Kelly presented the November 2016 Clerk's Report. Clerk Kelly informed the board of the recount for the presidential election that was scheduled to take place Friday December 9, 2016. She noted that 58 people were signed up to assist. These included local clerks, precinct chairpersons, election inspectors, the County Canvass Board, and two volunteer greeters. Clerk Kelly commended the local township and city clerks and inspectors for their willingness to assist in this monumental task, and informed their Commissioners of the wonderful job they have all been doing. The recount was cancelled on the 8th after all arrangements had been made to conduct it.

Administrator Knizacky noted that the following boards have vacancies on them: Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board, Michigan State University District #5 Advisory Council, Mason County Planning Commission, Mason County Construction Code Board of Appeals, and the Mason County Growth Alliance. Should the Board know of anyone that may be interested in serving, please have them send a letter of interest to Administrator Knizacky. Additionally, Administrator Knizacky has been allowed by the Mason County Board of Commissioners to be a board member on the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association (MMRMA) and expressed his pleasure at being re-elected to this board.

There was no public comment.

Other Business: Motion by T. Posma and seconded by J. Andersen to hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Board Rules and meeting dates for 2017 will be considered at that meeting.

Commissioner VanderWall thanked all of the Board members that he has worked with over the past six years. He congratulated Lew Squires on his victory representing the citizens of District #4. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

CURTIS S. VANDERWALL, BOARD CHAIRMAN