

February 12, 2018

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 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 of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Motion by J. Andersen and seconded by T. Posma to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by W. Taranko and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence: No correspondence was read.

Public comment:

- John Schulke, Eden Township resident and Surveyor, expressed to the Board of Commissioners his grievances with regards to his no longer being recommended for the Mason County Remonumentation Peer Group and being removed from the list of surveyors eligible to perform Remonumentation Grant work, and his opinions as to why he felt that way.

- Noah Penn, Hamlin Township resident and Surveyor, also questioned several issues regarding no longer being recommended to the Mason County Remonumentation Peer Group and being removed from the list of surveyors eligible to perform Remonumentation Grant work and Rex Pope, elected County Surveyor's, actions in handling the 2018 Grant distribution of county corners. Mr. Penn is seeking fairness with regards to the Remonumentation Peer Group membership and the distribution of county corners.

- Rex Pope, County Surveyor, of Pere Marquette Township, responded to the allegations against him noting that a County Board meeting was not the proper place in which to discuss the concerns that Surveyors Schulke and Penn had, and that they both should have contacted him regarding any concerns.

Ken Ferwerda, newly appointed president to the Western Michigan Fair Association, introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief history of upbringing in Mason County. He noted that the annual report was submitted for the Board of Commissioners to review and due to its length; he would not be reviewing it in its entirety but would answer questions if needed. No questions were asked of Mr. Ferwerda.

Motion by W. Taranko 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 January 11, 2018 totaling \$377,949.05 and January 25, 2018 totaling \$468,859.39; 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) W. Taranko, C. Lange

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Network Administrator Tim Hansen has requested authorization to upgrade Microsoft Office from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending upgrading this software from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves upgrading Microsoft Office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) W. Taranko

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting \$63,556.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to purchase two (2) Dodge Chargers; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the approval of this purchase from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves \$63,556.00 to purchase two (2) Dodge Chargers; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the sale of two vehicles recommended by the Sheriff.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mike Lyons served the citizens of Mason County for over 15 years as a Corrections Officer at the Mason County Jail; and

WHEREAS, Mike served three different Sheriffs earning honors for excellence in his work from each: a Department Letter of Appreciation for his work during a homicide trial, a Department Life Saving Award for quick actions taken during an attempted suicide of an inmate, and a Unit Citation for actions taken during the evacuation of the jail due to a bomb threat; and

WHEREAS, Mike also received several Department Commendations: as the agency T.A.C. (Terminal Agency Coordinator) during an audit by the Michigan State Police LEIN Field Services Section, for 100% compliance ratings during state jail audits in 2005 and 2008, and for actions taken during a felony assault in the Mason County Jail; and

WHEREAS, Mike has been dedicated to excellence in his work, displaying consideration and courtesy in working with the public, and cooperation and friendship with his fellow employees, court staff, attorneys, and other law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, Mike has been a long time active member of the Mason County Fin and Feather Club; and

WHEREAS, Mike has retired from his position at the Mason County Jail.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, does hereby, acknowledge with regret Mike’s decision to retire from his position as a Corrections Officer at the Mason County Jail and offers him their best wishes in his 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 he has shown throughout his career; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution become a permanent part of the minutes of the February 13, 2018 County Commission proceedings. Moved for your approval.

Charles Lange, Board Chairperson

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 February 13, 2018.

Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

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Motion by L. Squires and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, proposals to legalize the general use of marijuana are being placed on the ballot in communities across Michigan; and

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence demonstrating that non-medical or recreational use of marijuana has a profoundly negative impact on our youth, particularly teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Mason County youth report via the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) in 2014 that only 39% of students thought marijuana use was risky, 45% of students surveyed reported that it would be easy or very easy to get marijuana, and 12% reported that they have used marijuana in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, *The National Institute on Drug Abuse* reports that one in six teens that use marijuana become addicted to its use; and

WHEREAS, *Monitoring the Future, 2013* reports that in states where medical marijuana use has been legalized, about one third of 12th graders reported access to another person's medical marijuana supply; and

WHEREAS, *Rocky Mountain HIDTA 2015* reports that there was a 40 percent increase in drug-related suspensions and expulsions in Colorado from school year 2008/2009 to 2013/2014; and

WHEREAS, *National Highway Traffic Association* reports that driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with an increased risk of car crashes, especially fatal crashes; and

WHEREAS, The University of Colorado, Denver reports that marijuana-impaired driver related fatalities have risen 114% in Colorado since that state legalized the use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, *Join Together* reports that the active ingredient in marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), has increased significantly from an average of 1% in 1970 to 30% in 2013 making today's marijuana an alarmingly more potent drug; and

WHEREAS, general marijuana use and possession is not permitted by federal and state law; and

WHEREAS, it is not possible to foresee and mitigate all the associated risks and impact to our communities through the legalization of marijuana for general use; and

WHEREAS, Mason County recognizes the need to educate all sectors of our community regarding the dangers of non-medical marijuana use.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason is opposed to the legalization of marijuana for general use and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason encourages other communities to oppose the legalization of marijuana for general use including the adoption of similar resolutions in opposition to the legalization of non-medical marijuana.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Castonia questioned the way the resolution read as to whether or not the board was opposing placing this issue on the ballot or opposing the legalization of this issue. Commissioner Squires called for a Roll Call vote. Ayes: Taranko, Squires, Hull, Andersen, Posma, and Lange. Nays: Castonia.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires

Motion by 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 design for the rehabilitation of taxiways 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 W. Taranko to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting \$34,161.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to purchase and equip a 2018 Ford Edge SEL AWD; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the approval of this purchase from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves \$34,161.00 to purchase and equip a 2018 Ford Edge SEL AWD; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the sale of one vehicle recommended by the Sheriff.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

Motion by J. Andersen and seconded by S. Hull 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 design for the rehabilitation of the terminal apron 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 T. Posma and seconded by J. Andersen to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for February 13, 2018.

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

Jail Operations	\$133,333.00
Equipment Replacement	\$205,100.00
Airport Operations	\$ 37,450.00

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 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.

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, new accounting standards established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board require the calculation of a liability for retiree health care benefits by an actuarial firm; and

WHEREAS, Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company performs the actuarial services for the County's retiree health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the County approve the attached proposal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached proposal from Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company; \$5,000.00 in funding to come from the Health & Life Insurance Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) T. Posma

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Motion by T. Posma and seconded by G. Castonia 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) T. Posma

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the attached Lease Agreement has been proposed by the District Health Department #10.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Lease Agreement between the District Health Department #10 and Mason County and directs the Board Chair to sign said agreement on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by J. Andersen to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Great-West Retirement Services administrates the County of Mason's Employee Deferred Compensation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Great-West Retirement Services is recommending the attached changes to the plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached changes to the County of Mason's Employee Deferred Compensation Plan and directs Mason County Administrator Fabian Knizacky to sign the appropriate documents.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the selection committee has reviewed proposals and interviewed firms for the computer network administration and are recommending approval of the selection of I.T. Right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the selection of I.T. Right to perform network administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Chairman Lange to sign the attached service agreement upon the completion of legal review.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the December 2017 and the January 2018 Treasurer's Report. He noted that 2017 had an increase in investment interest income of 54.8%.

Clerk C. Kelly presented the December 2017 and the January 2018 Clerk's Report. She informed the Commissioners of the following:

- There would not be a May Election, as no one submitted a request by the 4:00 p.m. deadline of February 13th.
- Due to State Mandated training, the Clerk's office will be running on a skeleton crew February 21st and March 2nd.
- The August primary will see the addition of a new party, the Libertarian party. Voters can cast their vote not only for Republicans or Democrats, but will also have the opportunity to cast a vote for the Libertarian candidate as well.

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- She encouraged everyone to really look at the upcoming candidate's platforms as some candidates want closed primaries for elections which would require voters to declare a party and may mean a future increase in the costs to the County to run elections.

Administrator Knizacky updated the board on the status of the Mason County Indigent Defense Council Plan and Governor Snyder's 2019 budget.

Public Comment:

- Noah Penn, Hamlin Township, stated his opinion noting that he believed County Surveyor, R. Pope, has lied on the information that was previously presented. He felt this is a double standard and hoped that the Board would address this issue.

There was no other Any other business:

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

CHARLES LANGE, BOARD CHAIRMAN