

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 Chair J. Andersen

Roll call was taken. Present: N. Krieger, G. Castonia, C. Lange, L. Squires,  
S. Hull, J. Andersen, R. Bacon  
Absent: NONE

Invocation was given by S. Hull and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Lange and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 Regular meeting. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

Public comment:

- Herb Stenzel, of Mason County, presented the Mason County Board Chair J. Andersen a resolution and other information regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and Mason County becoming a Sanctuary County for 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights. Mr. Stenzel requests that the Board of Commissioners review the enclosed information and he will return to next month's meeting for the vote.

- Carolyn Cater, of Ludington, also was in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and making Mason County a Sanctuary County. She addressed her concerns surrounding Red Flag Laws and that every day citizens are being targeted and that it is an infringement on the Rights of the Constitution.

- Vicki Sawicki, presented her 2019 North County Cooperative Invasive Species Management report highlighting their efforts in Mason County. She passed out additional handouts regarding Exotic Aquatic Plants and the North County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. Commissioner Lange inquired if she was going to work with the Lake Boards within Mason County and she noted that she has intentions of reaching out to all of the Counties respective Drain Commissioners regarding this issue.

- James Wincek from the Mason County Veterans Affairs Office, presented his first report of the newly established Veterans Affairs Office in Mason County. The office opened in July of 2019, and was able to serve 52 area Veterans through the end of 2019. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for opening this office and providing these services to area Veterans. Additionally, he noted on May 15, 2020, there would be a Veterans Summit. This would be the first Summit to organize all agencies that serve Veterans in one location at the same time.

- Commissioner L. Squires stated that he appreciated the great work Mr. Wincek has provided and commended him on his efforts in getting his accreditation, as well as getting the office up and running in 2019. He also asked if there was any intention of inviting Congressman Bergman to the Summit on May 15, 2020.

- Chair J. Andersen informed Mr. Wincek that she has personally received positive comments regarding the services provided by this office and the passionate dedication given to each and every Veteran. She thanked him for the excellent service to the residents of Mason County.

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chair G. Castonia and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriff is requesting \$69,310.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 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 \$69,310.00 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 Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee Chair C. Lange and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for February 11, 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
Equipment Replacement	\$205,600.00
Airport Operations	\$ 37,450.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

Motion by Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee Chair C. Lange and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County applied for a grant to be used for education, communication, and outreach regarding the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan has awarded the county a grant for \$7,101.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending approval of the attached letter of agreement with the District Health Department #10 to provide the education, communication, and outreach services required under the grant.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the letter of agreement with the District Health Department #10 to provide the education, communication, and outreach services and directs the Board Chair to sign said letter on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) C. Lange

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Dean Samuels has served the citizens of Mason County for 25 years as a Mason County Reserve Officer starting in June of 1995, a Part-Time Corrections Officer with the Mason County Jail starting in January 1999, and then moving into a Full-Time Corrections Officer position in June 1999 ; and

**WHEREAS**, Dean received a Mason County Sheriff’s Office Commendation on August 1, 2006 for his willingness to work extra hours during several emergency events in the Mason County Jail; and

**WHEREAS**, Dean received a Mason County Sheriff’s Office Commendation on January 17, 2007 for his leadership and evacuation of jail inmates during a bomb threat at the Mason County Jail; and

**WHEREAS**, Dean received a Mason County Sheriff’s Office Life Saving Award on August 18, 2010 for his actions in responding to and prevention of an attempted suicide in the Mason County Jail; and

**WHEREAS**, Dean received a Mason County Sheriff’s Office Commendation on January 26, 2013 for his quick performance and professionalism in the line of duty during an attempted suicide in the Mason County Jail; and

**WHEREAS**, Dean 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 law enforcement personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, Dean is retiring from his position at the Mason County Sheriff’s Office Corrections Division.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, does hereby, acknowledge with regret Dean’s decision to retire from his position at the Mason County Sheriff’s Office 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 11, 2020 County Commission proceedings.

Moved for your approval.

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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 February 11, 2020.

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Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County Clerk Kelly is seeking authorization to sell and dispose of the attached surplus county assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending board approval of this request.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Mason County Clerk Kelly to dispose of the attached surplus county assets.

Moved for your approval.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull 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

January 09, 2020 totaling \$345,726.45: and  
January 23, 2020 totaling \$448,141.44; 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) C. Lange, J. Andersen, S. Hull.

Motion by R. Bacon 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 contracts with Nordlund & Associates and Surveyor Rex Pope.

**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) R. Bacon

- Commissioner Krieger commented that he hoped the corners don’t move too much.

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by N. Krieger 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, Surveyor Rex Pope, Mr. Dennis Dunlap, Mr. Pat Johnson, and Mr. Sam Barnett to the Remonumentation Peer Group.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Mr. James Nordlund, Surveyor Rex Pope, Mr. Dennis Dunlap, Mr. Pat Johnson, and Mr. Sam Barnett and further directs the Board Chair to sign the related contracts on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has reached a tentative agreement with the Teamsters State, County, & Municipal Worker Local 214 for the Corrections/Clerical employees of the Mason County Sheriff Department.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the labor contract with the Teamsters State, County, & Municipal Worker Local 214 for the Corrections/Clerical employees of the Mason County Sheriff Office and directs the Board Chair to sign said agreement on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

- Commissioner Squires commented on the good job done by the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee and Administrator Knizacky regarding the labor contract.

- Commissioner Krieger inquired of Administrator Knizacky if the pay changes reflected in this contract are in alignment with what was offered to non-union employees of Mason County. Administrator Knizacky informed him that over the four-year period, ultimately yes.

- Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer’s Report. The Treasurer’s Office is working on demolishing a burned out structure at 2290 N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Sheridan Township. This is a 2019 foreclosure that was not purchased at auction. The Treasurer’s office is finalizing bid packets to go out and will be taking bids throughout March. The hope is to have the contract awarded early April and have the process completed by June. Then the property will go up for bids as they have had several neighboring property owners inquire about bidding on the cleaned up lot. Tax foreclosure funds will be used to clean this parcel up and eliminate the current hazards it presents.

- Clerk Kelly noted that the Clerk Report is in the packet and would answer questions if anyone has any. Also that Year- end is complete from the Clerk Office perspective. The Clerk’s Office continues to be extremely busy regarding Real I.D. implementation from the Secretary of State’s Office, with the impact of getting birth records, divorce records, and marriage records. Real ID allows an individual to fly in the U.S. and enter Federal buildings among other things with the Star on their Michigan ID.

Additionally, the Clerk’s Office is in full Election mode-they are currently working on the March Presidential Primary and have also started the May 2020 Election. The following 4 precincts will have a May election- Grant, Meade, and Scottville 1 & 2. Arrangements are being made to consolidate the Meade voters to vote at Grant Township. Voters in Grant will be voting on the Manistee Area Public Schools Proposal and the Manistee ISD proposal. Meade will be voting on the Manistee ISD request. And City of Scottville residents have an important vote to consider regarding changes in their Charter Amendment.

Clerk Kelly has been conducting Electronic Poll Book trainings over the past two weeks for the Townships that have not had an election in 2019 and those that wanted a refresher course.

Election Inspector training sessions for the March Presidential Primary Election will be held on February 24, 2020 at the City of Scottville from 9:30-11:30 and February 27, 2020 at City of Ludington basement classroom, there will be an afternoon training session and an evening training session.

The public test for the March Presidential Primary Election will take place February 26, 2020 in the basement/Equalization area of the Courthouse.

- Administrator Knizacky presented the Administrator’s Monthly Report. Administrator Knizacky reported that the books for 2019 are closed and that all offices came under budget across the board. He noted that the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Board, which Mason County is a member of, approved at their January Board meeting, a \$33,575,603.00 distribution to members who renew their membership in 2021.

- Chair J. Andersen thanked all individuals that attended the meeting tonight as they reached out to the board regarding an issue that they had. She noted the importance of the Commissioners to represent those that they serve. She also notes that all Commissioners take their Oaths of Office seriously. She will be referring the submitted 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary item to the Rules Committee to review and gather more information before the March meeting. She informed the Public that their comments are important and appreciated. She again thanked them for attending this evenings meeting.

There was no public comment:

There was no other business:

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

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CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

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JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR