

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room located at the Mason County Airport terminal.

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Andersen

Roll call was taken. Present: N. Krieger, J. Hartley, S. Hull, J. Andersen, R. Bacon, G. Castonia, and L. Squires.

Absent: None

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

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the agenda with the addition of Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement. Motion carried.

Motion by G. Castonia and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the February 09, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

Public comments: James Kelly, Michigan State University Extension Director presented to the meeting and provided an update on what MSU-E has been working on for the past year during the pandemic. Transitioning to on-line services was noted with an increase in food safety and cooking at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked Commissioner's Hull and Krieger for their participation in meetings, their commitment and engagement in MSU-E.

Commissioner Krieger thanked Mr. Kelly for all the MSU-E Advisory Committee does for the community and found his presentation very informative.

- Sheriff Cole provided an annual update for the 2020 calendar year. Highlights included seven fatal wrecks and two drownings. Commissioner Squires thanked the Sheriff for his service. He inquired as to whether the increase in assaults was due to drug & alcohol use or mental illness issues during the pandemic. Sheriff Cole believes it was a combination of all issues. Commissioner Hartley wished to clarify when the deputies were on the COVID scheduling of 7 days of work on, and 14 days of work off, that deputies were required to attend training on the off days. He was informed yes by the Sheriff. Commissioner Hartley then thanked the Sheriff for his sacrifices.
- Ken Ferwerda, President of the Western Michigan Fair Association presented his annual report. Highlights included completion of the new stalls prior to the Harbor Classic Horse Show. Crossbeam Construction donated time to this effort. Ray Janish utilized the fairgrounds for distribution of food boxes during the pandemic. The replacement of the wooden fence around the fairgrounds has been a work in progress with the fair board members donating time to tear down and a company is coming in to put it back up. The Harbor Classic Horse show will be moving from seven days to twenty days. The fair board is looking into the viability of a covered arena and expansion of the campground area. Mr. Ferwerda thanked the Commissioners and especially Administrator Knizacky for their help. Commissioner Andersen thanked Mr. Ferwerda for all of his and other volunteers' time spent at the fairgrounds, as she feels ours is the nicest fairgrounds in the State as she has been to all of them.
- Jody Maloney, Mason County Promise Zone Director, presented her annual report to the Commissioners. Additionally, she noted that the Promise Zone is looking into a program called Reconnect. This will allow individuals over the age of 25 opportunities to also utilize the Promise Zone. Commissioner Squires thanked Ms. Maloney for being an excellent leader in the community. Commissioner Andersen noted that she values the work that Ms. Maloney provides. She wondered if through the Promise Zone, there is the ability to retain local talent and is the Promise Zone tracking these scholars? She was informed that a system was not set up but they are working towards that. Commissioner Andersen thanked Ms. Maloney for all the work she has done.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Larsen's Landscaping, LLC has agreed to provide mowing services at the Mason County Airport in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the County has been satisfied with the services provided by Larsen's Landscaping, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee recommends extending the contract with Larsen's Landscaping, LLC for one year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves extending the contract with Larsen's Landscaping, LLC for one year to provide grass mowing services and further directs it's Chair to sign the contract on its behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has the right to first refusal on the sale of any hangar at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has been notified of the pending sale of hangar number 3 for \$60,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the County Board not exercise this right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee recommendation that the County Board not exercise its' right of first refusal on hangar number 3.

Moved for your consideration.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County hired C&S Companies to compile an Independent Fee Estimate in relation to professional engineering services by Prein & Newhof; and

WHEREAS, C&S Companies has completed the attached estimate; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee has reviewed the estimate and is recommending that the Board approve the submittal of the attached letter of acceptance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the submittal of the attached letter of acceptance and authorizes the Board Chair to sign said letter of acceptance.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

Motion Public Safety and Courts Chair G. Castonia and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink is requesting ninety (90) additional hours for her part-time clerical position to perform duties related to the FY 2020-21 Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the approval of ninety (90) hours for the part-time employee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves ninety (90) hours for the part-time Emergency Management employee for 2021; salary consistent with the part-time position salary schedule.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

Motion Public Safety and Courts Chair G. Castonia and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the purchase of the power washer 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 power washer for the Animal Control Office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

Commissioner Squires informed the Board that the company that gave the bid for the power washer is a local company, and would like to keep it local.

Motion Public Safety and Courts Chair G. Castonia and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, under Public Act 390, the County of Mason is required to maintain a current Emergency Operations Plan or Emergency Action Guidelines (EAGs). According to the State's new plan development guide (Publication 201a), the Board of Commissioners is required to review and the Chairman sign the EAGs every four years; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety & Courts Committee and Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink are recommending a policy that the Emergency Management Coordinator will bring any changes made to the EAG's between the four year review periods to the Public Safety & Courts Committee for review and determination whether the changes are material enough to be sent to the full board prior to the four year review period.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the above policy as recommended by the Public Safety & Courts Committee and Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

Motion J. Hartley and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole has requested authorization to purchase two (2) radar units; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of two (2) radar units; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Motion J. Hartley and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink and the Public Safety & Courts Committee are recommending the appointment of Mr. Larry Gaylord, Mrs. O'Nealya Gronstal, Drain Commissioner Dan Rohde, and Deputy Equalization Director Joe VanHassel 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. Larry Gaylord, Mrs. O'Nealya Gronstal, Drain Commissioner Dan Rohde, and Deputy Equalization Director Joe VanHassel to the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Motion J. Hartley and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Sheriff's Office and the United States Department of Agriculture, Huron-Manistee National Forests have historically worked together to provide for patrolling of the National Forests in the County of Mason.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement between the Mason County Sheriff's Office and the United States Department of Agriculture, Huron-Manistee National Forests and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole has requested authorization to purchase four (4) radios from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending purchasing these radios from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of four (4) radios; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

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

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.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the appointment of the City of Scottville representative to the Mason County Board of Public Works is required.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Kathy Shafer representing the City of Scottville be appointed to the Mason County Board of Public Works for a term ending December 31, 2021.

Moved for your approval.

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, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for March 09, 2021.

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

Road Patrol	\$179,400.00
Jail Operations	\$139,100.00
Law Library	\$ 3,750.00
Health, Pension, & Life	\$540,000.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by N. Krieger 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) S. Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has the right of first refusal on the sale of any hangar at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has been notified of the pending sale of hangar number 11 for \$18,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the County Board not exercise this right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee recommendation that the County Board not exercise its' right of first refusal on the sale of hangar number 11.

Moved for your consideration.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Prein & Newhof, Inc. is requesting that the county approve the attached Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Professional Engineering Service to provide the 2019 Airport Layout Plan Update at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the attached amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for Professional Engineering Service with Prein & Newhof, Inc. and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

February 04, 2021 totaling \$275,329.41; and
February 18, 2021 totaling \$321,280.21; 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) R. Bacon, S. Hull, J. Andersen.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Judge Sniegowski is requesting authorization to purchase two chairs for the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the purchase of these chairs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of two chairs for the courtroom; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the appointment of the City of Scottville representative to the Mason County EDC Board of Directors and the Mason County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board is required.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Kathy Shafer representing the City of Scottville be appointed to the Mason County EDC Board of Directors and the Mason County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board for a term ending December 31, 2023.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has the right to first refusal on the sale of any hangar at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has been notified of the pending sale of hangar number 17 for \$70,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the County Board not exercise this right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee recommendation that the County Board not exercise its’ right of first refusal on hangar number 17.

Moved for your consideration.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason has rescinded its Natural River Zoning District for the Pere Marquette River system effective April 20, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the state zoning rules provide for the appointment of a State Zoning Review Board to act on requests for variances from the Natural River zoning standards; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason is afforded two regular and two alternate representatives on the State Zoning Review Board; and

WHEREAS, Brady Selner has resigned from his position.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Ms. Cayla Christmas as a representative on the State Zoning Review Board.

Moved for your adoption.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason and their commissioners would like to recognize the Mason County Promise Steering Committee and the Mason County Commissioners for their vision in the creation and implementation of the Mason County Promise Zone Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Promise Scholarship gives all students that reside within Mason County, or a Mason County School District and graduate from a public or non-public school with a GPA of 2.0 and above the option to attend West Shore Community College for 72 credit hours for a degree or certification; and

WHEREAS, this privilege is also extended to those Mason County residents who obtained a GED during or after 2018 and would like to further their education at West Shore Community College; and

WHEREAS, this privilege gives the residents and students of Mason County “The element of hope with the opportunity for growth and a promise of a better future”; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017 at 9 am, the Steering Committee of the Mason County Promise, consisting of Annette Quillan, Jason Kennedy, Jeff Mount, Scott Ward, Paul Shoup, Fabian Knizacky, Jamie Bandstra, and Andrea Large met with representatives of the Mason County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners consisting of Charles Lange, Janet S. Andersen, Wally Taranko, Gary Castonia, Lewis G Squires, D.C., Steven Hull, and Thomas Posma had the vision to allow the establishment of the Mason County Promise Zone Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee and the Commissioners would like to recognize all the citizens who had input in the development of the Mason County Promise Scholarship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, speaking for the citizens of the County of Mason and for themselves, offers sincere thanks and gratitude for the dedication and professionalism shown in the development of the Mason County Promise Zone Scholarship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that I, Janet S. Andersen, Chairwoman of the Mason County Board of Commissioners encourage all community members to take advantage of this valuable resource available to Mason County residents. 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 9, 2021.

Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, severe weather, in the form of thunderstorms, wind storms, heavy rain, flooding, and tornados, are a threat to the safety and welfare of all Michigan citizens; and

WHEREAS, each year, flooding and rising waters kill more people in the United States than any other thunderstorm related hazard; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2020 heavy rainfall over a 48 hour period fell across the State of Michigan causing a historic dam failure in Midland, and other notable issues throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, all individuals are encouraged to be aware of the warning signs of severe weather and follow proper safety and emergency procedures; 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 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 declares March 21 – March 28, 2021 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Mason County.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Melanie Tomaski from Ludington Area Schools made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners about their Work-Based Learning Training Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners was supportive of the program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tomaski is proposing the attached agreement to place a student at the Mason County Airport.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Work-Based Learning Training Program Agreement with Ludington Area Schools and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

➤ Treasurer Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer’s Reports for February 2021. Treasurer Kmetz noted that his office is working to settle with the local Treasurers. Delinquent forfeitures occurred March 1, 2020. Three hundred and fifty-five parcels went into forfeiture, which is eighty-two less than the 2020 calendar year. He is currently working on foreclosed properties through the Circuit Court. Last year the County foreclosed on fourteen parcels. His goal is less than fourteen by utilizing local resources to assist those in foreclosure. Commissioner Hartley noted that he did a poll at Grant Township regarding whether or not they wanted the County to opt-in or opt-out on the foreclosure process and was informed that Grant Township would like them to opt-in and continue to work locally with homeowners. Commissioner Hartley noted that the Grant township officials appreciated the work being done by the Mason County Treasurers Office. Treasurer Kmetz also wishes to continue to work with those impacted by foreclosures locally and provide that personal touch.

Commissioner Krieger felt it was appropriate to say that the Treasurer’s Office has assisted several of his clients (not related to being a Commissioner) that were given assistance and the service was excellent, and with a quality of service not provided elsewhere.

Commissioner Andersen appreciated the work done with Five-Cap and requested that Treasurer Kmetz relay to his staff of a job well done.

➤ Clerk Kelly presented the Clerk’s report. She noted that her office is currently in full swing working on the May 4, 2021 election and wished to clarify that the only items on the ballot would be a renewal millage for the West Shore Educational Service District and Manistee Area Public Schools Bond Issue, which would affect Grant Township voters in that school jurisdiction only. There has been some misinformation out in the public stating that another entity was on the ballot, but they are not. Additionally, she noted that a hiring had taken place and Joanne Kalchik was hired to replace retiring Court Deputy Kathy Keson, who has served the County for the past 19 years. Training is underway at this time for Deputy Keson’s position.

➤ Administrator Knizacky noted that the County has successfully filled the two positions: the new Zoning Administrative Assistant the Assistant Animal Control Officer. Additional upcoming hires will take place in the Zoning Office for a new zoning field person and a new electrical inspector. His office has started the 2022 budget process and he is currently working on the impacts that the current stimulus package will have on the County budget.

Public Comment: Mary Samuels, Mason County Road Commission, reviewed with the Board the upcoming 2021 projects that the Mason County Road Commission has scheduled. The following road ways will be impacted, Rasmussen Rd & Hansen Rd, Stiles Rd & Amber Rd, West Forest Trail in Grant Township, wedging of Hawley Road and multiple other roads. This wedging will be completed by Mason County Road Commission staff with a savings to the County. Services to be provided on Tuttle Road, chip and seal of South Scottville Road to Washington Rd which will be a 9 mile stretch, Stiles Rd to Marrison Rd to Washington Rd; pavement markings; and finally, working on preliminary plans for a bypass road behind both Shop N Save, and on Jebavy Dr. to Jackson Road. In closing she invited the County Board to attend the upcoming meetings as these will be held at the Mason County Airport.

There was no other business:

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR