

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room located in the Mason County Airport Terminal.

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Andersen

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

Invocation was given by N. Krieger Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed by all.

Approval of Agenda. Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by S. Hull Motion carried.

Motion G. Castonia and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 Regular meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Rochelle Armbruster, City of Ludington read a proclamation directed to the County of Mason. Tamara Shoemate, Custer Township, continued reading the proclamation presented by Rochelle Armbruster and presented a copy of this to Chair Andersen and to Clerk Kelly. The entire group that presented with Ms. Armbruster and Ms. Shoemate left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Annette Quillan, Ludington, cited her concerns with mass transit within Mason County and feels that this should be addressed. Ms. Quillan left the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

➤ 2020 Medical Examiner Report: Dr. Joyce deJong presented the 2020 Annual report from Western Michigan University Homer School of Medicine. Commissioner Bacon inquired of the differences between COVID versus respiratory/flu issues and was given an explanation from Dr. deJong. Dr. deJong invited all the Commissioners to visit the facility in Kalamazoo at any time. Dr. deJong left the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

➤ 2020 Road Commission Report: Chairman William Schwass noted that he wished to thank the management and crew of the Mason County Road Commission with their efforts at working and keeping each other safe through the 2020 Pandemic no staff became ill with Covid and that all protocols were followed.

Manager Mary Samuels presented the 2020 Mason County Road Commission Report. Highlights include the implementation of the Snow Pass Program, and scanning of all the old documents into a server for easier access, upgrade of bridges, and brining of roads.

Commissioner Krieger questioned why Tuttle Road North of Fountain where the bridge is being replaced appears to be wider than the rest of the road. Manager Samuels stated she would look into that. Additionally, with the scanning of all documents, Commissioner Krieger, inquired if these would be available for public use? Manager Samuels noted that is one of the goals moving forward, but anyone can contact the Road Commission and all documents are available if needed at any time.

Commissioner Squires noted that he has been hearing both positive and negative comments, but mostly positive comments regarding the Road Commission. He then asked several questions of Manager Samuels and is requesting further transparency with the Road Commission moving forward. Specific concerns were related to the MCRC purchase of a parcel of land in Custer, the status of a new building, and intentions of what will happen with the existing building.

Commissioner Hartley requested that moving forward with the proposed new building that the County Commissioners be informed of what is going on.

Chair Andersen noted that at township meetings she has attended, the Townships have been very welcoming and appreciative of the Road Commission’s attendance and complimented the MCRC on the new brine program.

➤ 2020 Planning & Zoning Report: Cayla Christmas, Zoning & Building Director, presented the 2020 Planning & Zoning report. Noted was that the Master Plan started in 2019 has been completed and in effect. Commissioner’s questions were answered. Commissioner Squires requested that Amber Township be notified of any issues happening in their township as it was felt there has been a lack of communication. Ms. Christmas noted that she is open to suggestions and complete transparency.

Chair Andersen thanked Ms. Christmas for the nice job she is doing at this time.

Ms. Christmas left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Commissioner Krieger did not have any committee reports but did wish to inform the public that District #10 Health Department is discouraging proof of Covid vaccination status.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, hangar #9 is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Tim Ferwerda of Ludington Rental, L.L.C. currently has a lease on hangar #12 and would like to terminate that lease and start a lease on hangar #9 effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending terminating the lease on hangar #12 and approving the attached airport hangar lease with Ludington Rental, L.L.C.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves terminating the lease on hangar #12 and approving the attached airport hangar lease with Ludington Rental, L.L.C.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan and the County of Mason have historically worked together to provide for Marine Safety Programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is offering an additional \$6,000.00 grant to provide funding for the cost of marine slow-no wake expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the attached grant agreement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached 2021 Marine Safety Slow-No Wake Grant Agreement between the State of Michigan and the County of Mason and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole is negotiating a contract for inmate medical services; and

WHEREAS, the contract needs to be completed and reviewed by legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee needs to determine how to address the additional cost of this service; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cole is requesting approval of this contract before the July 13th meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the Finance, Personnel & Rules Committee to review and approve a contract for inmate medical services and authorizes the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee has applied for a FY 2020-21 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,695.00 to the County of Mason.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves accepting the FY 2020-21 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant and directs the Board Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Grants are now being given on a regional basis; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason is a member of the Region 6 Homeland Security Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency now requires each Region to allocate funding to various national priority area funding requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Region 6 Homeland Security Governing Board has requested each county reallocate a portion of their local allocation from the FY 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program to fund the priority areas; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason needs to send a letter to the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division authorizing this reallocation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves reallocation of local funding, sending the attached letter and authorizes the Board Chair to sign this document.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole and the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending approval of the attached contract for food services with Canteen Services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with Canteen Services 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 G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Grants are now being given on a regional basis; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason is a member of the Region 6 Homeland Security Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, the Region 6 Homeland Security Governing Board had designated West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium as the Fiduciary for the 2018 Homeland Security Program; and

WHEREAS, the Region 6 Homeland Security Governing Board has authorized the purchase of the attached supplies; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason needs to approve the attached Certification of Goods Received.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Certification of Goods Received and authorizes the Board Chair to sign this document.

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 April 14, 2020.

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
Equipment Replacement	\$ 235,600.00

Moved for your approval.

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, representatives from the National Association of Counties has contacted the County of Mason asking the Board to consider membership in their organization; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners become a member of the National Association of Counties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves membership in the National Association of Counties; funds to come from contingency.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

Commissioner Krieger requested to know how much the cost was to join the National Association of Counties and was informed it was \$574.00 for the year. It was noted that at the Committee level it was a good contact to have and there was value in the information provided.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, in the early 1990’s, a Citizen’s Advisory Committee was appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason to examine the County’s financial situation and to make recommendations for improving it; and

WHEREAS, one of the recommendations made was that the County Board of Commissioners should evaluate fees and charges controlled by the County Board of Commissioners at least annually and adjust them as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee has evaluated the Equalization Department Fees and is recommending the attached fee schedule.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached fee schedule; effective June 9, 2021.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

Commissioner Krieger acknowledged that in his law practice he utilizes the Equalization Department and the fees in Mason County are considerably lower compared to other Counties.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, hangar #12 will be vacant effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Nick Swan currently has a lease on hangar #6 and would like to terminate that lease and start a lease on hangar #12 effective September 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending terminating the lease on hangar #6 and approving the attached airport hangar lease with Nick Swan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves terminating the lease on hangar #6 and approving the attached airport hangar lease with Nick Swan.

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

May 13, 2021 totaling \$691,285.87; and
May 27, 2021 totaling \$255,952.97; 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, J. Andersen, S. Hull

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, passing a screening questionnaire is a requirement for entry into the Mason County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Probate Court Judge Nellis has requested that the question related to traveling domestically be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending eliminating the question from both the questionnaire related to employees and visitors to the county buildings.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves eliminating the question related to traveling domestically from both the questionnaire related to employees and visitors to the county buildings.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, a pre-employment physical is a requirement of employment for Mason County; and

WHEREAS, the current pre-employment physical conducted by the Clerk’s office includes drug testing for marijuana; and

WHEREAS, marijuana usage is now legal in the State of Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves removing marijuana from the list of drugs considered in the pre-employment physical conducted by the Clerk’s office.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Commissioner Squires inquired of the legality and was informed by Administrator Knizacky that the County Labor Attorney advised to remove the testing from the pre-employment requirement or the County would have legal issues. Commissioner Hartley noted that it was no different than alcohol use.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved the reallocation of local homeland security funds; and

WHEREAS, these funds are used to pay a portion of the salary and benefits for the Emergency Management Coordinator position; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendments related to this reallocation.

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) J. Andersen

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, hangar #6 will be vacant effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending the attached airport hangar lease with Just Plane Aviation LLC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached airport hangar lease between the County of Mason and Just Plane Aviation LLC.

Moved for your approval.

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 Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has offered a contract to seal taxiway pavement surface/joints including the apron – sealing & marking (under 2021 statewide) – Construction at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, under this contract the County of Mason will receive grants from the federal government totaling \$9,702.00 out of a total project cost of \$9,702.00.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves Contract No. 2021-0680 for a Federal/State/Local Airport Project to seal taxiway pavement surface/joints including the apron – sealing & marking (under 2021 statewide) – Construction at the Mason County Airport.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect County allocated property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004, being MCL 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy, with the summer tax levies for 2005 and 2006 to be in the amount of 1/3 and 2/3, respectively, of the total County allocated tax, with the full amount of County allocated tax to be levied and collected as a summer tax levy in 2007 and thereafter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, the Mason County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2020, at the rate of 5.0967 mills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of each city, village and township in Mason County is directed to account for and deliver the County allocated tax collections for 2020 in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 357 of 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution constitutes certification of the levy of the County allocated tax and authorized collection of the County allocated tax on July 1, 2021, at the rate of 5.0967 mills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the County Administrator to the Treasurer of each city, village and township in Mason County.

Roll call vote: Yes: N. Krieger, G. Castonia, J. Hartley, L. Squires, S. Hull, R. Bacon, J. Andersen.
No: none

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer Kmetz noted that the Annual Investment Report was provided in the Board packet and he briefly reviewed the highlights with the Commissioners. Covid-19 issues did have an impact on investments.

Clerk Kelly handed out the Clerk’s report and noted that her Office is working towards finishing up the May Election. The County was tasked with two audits from this Election, one of which will be performed by the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections in Hamlin Township on June 21, 2021. The other township audit will be performed by the County Clerk on June 23, 2021.

The new Court TCS Software program is being integrated and went live on May 17, 2021. All staff members are required to learn the new system and things are proceeding as expected with all the system and changes.

The August 3rd Election for West Shore Community College’s millage renewal is in full swing and ballots were received today. Testing will be completed in the coming week.

Finally, it was noted that many jury trials are scheduled for this summer, one set to take place on August 3, 2021, which is the same day as West Shore Community College millage election, this will be a challenging day for the Office.

Administrator Knizacky noted he is finishing up the 2020 Audit. Drafts have been sent down to the auditors for review. The American Rescue Plan funds are also being reviewed. He reported that \$7,000.00 in grant funding from MMRMA was received for the Sheriff Department Body Cameras.

There was no public comment:

Other business: None

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR