

July 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room located in Mason County Airport Terminal, Ludington MI.

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 L. Squires followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Hull and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the meeting minutes from June 8, 2021 with the change of Annette Quillan leaving the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

Public comment:

Bob Neal- House of Flavors owner, voiced his support of the broadband initiative that is being considered. He has 230 employees that he communicates with via email and this would assist him.

Jeff Risley, Ludington-S. James Street: He also is in support of the broadband proposition as he works from home. He considers himself highly technological, but is concerned regarding the costs of broadband. He did research into three companies in the United States (and other Country's) and wondered if the Board had looked into Starlink.

Emergency Manager Liz Reimink presented her yearly report. Highlights included COVID-19 and vaccinations. Six off-site clinics are now being offered to obtain the vaccination. The largest vaccination day was 800 and the lowest was 300. On March 17, 2021, CODE Red did a test with a mass call on the system. This test showed the need for education of the CODE RED system, as many of the calls went to voice mail and were not answered. It was suggested by Emergency Manager Reimink to place the number for CODE RED in your phone contacts. September 11, 2021 the Michigan State Police will be hosting a Prepare Fair at Walmart in Ludington. This pop-up event is designed to educate residents on the simple ways to prepare for potential emergencies in their homes, communities, businesses, and schools.

Chair Andersen thanked Emergency Manager Reimink for going above and beyond regarding the coordination efforts of the pandemic. It was appreciated.

Dr. Lisa Hotovy-Williams presented the FY 2019/2020 Community Mental Health Board Annual Report in detail. She thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the board and Commissioner Bacon, who is the current appointee on the Community Mental Health board. Noted was the effects of the COVID pandemic that started in March of 2020 and the transitioning into Telehealth services. Commissioner Squires inquired of the need for services and funding difficulties and was informed that the need for services significantly went up in 2020 and that COVID grant monies assisted with funding issues.

Chair Andersen complimented Dr. Williams regarding their coordination with North West Michigan Community Health Services noting that the partnership would be a great benefit for the Community.

Motion by N.Krieger and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County is the vendor for fuel sales at the Mason County Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending revising the fuel rate formula as outlined in the attached document after factoring in the wholesale cost of fuel, credit card costs, and all applicable federal and state taxes.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached fuel rate formula for establishing the fuel rate at the Mason County Airport.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION  
FOR A PARTIAL TERMINATION  
of a Farmland Development Rights Agreement  
**- PUBLIC INTEREST -**

At a regular meeting of the Mason County Board, Mason County, Michigan, held at the County seat of said County on the 13th day of July, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Eastern Standard Time.

PRESENT: Krieger, Castonia, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Andersen and Bacon.

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Krieger and seconded by Commissioner Bacon.

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2021 the County Board received a request from William Stakenas for approval to have a certain parcel released from **Farmland Development Rights Agreement number 53-12474-123138 79** extension which was executed in accordance with the provisions of PA 116 of 1974, commonly known as the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act ("The Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board has reviewed this request and DETERMINED that THE RELEASE IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST and meets one or more conditions of 36111a. (1) (b) (i) of Part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the parcels proposed for release from the agreement is 31.11 acres in size; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board finds that the request for release of the particular parcel is acceptable.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASON COUNTY BOARD AS FOLLOWS:**

(1) That the County Board hereby approves the request to release the following described piece of property from said Farmland Development Rights Agreement,

See attached Exhibit "A"; and

(2) **That the County Board hereby CERTIFIES that relinquishment is in the public interest as described in 36111a. (1) (b) (i) of Part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.**

(3) That the County Clerk is hereby directed to transmit certified and sealed copies of this resolution to the person making the request **and** to the Farmland Unit of the MI Dept. of Agriculture.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Krieger, Castonia, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Bacon and Andersen

NAYS: None

State of Michigan)

)ss.

County of Mason)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting County Clerk for Mason County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the County Board of said County at a regular meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

Signed

Printed/typed: Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**MICHIGAN COMMUNITY RESOLUTION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL**  
**AGREEMENT TO MANAGE FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT**  
**FOR THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**Community A (NFIP community:) Hamlin Township Community/Entity B**

**(enforcing agency): Mason County**

**WHEREAS**, **Hamlin Township** currently participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by complying with the program's applicable statutory and

regulatory requirements for the purposes of significantly reducing flood hazards to persons, reducing property damage, reducing public expenditures, and providing for the availability of flood insurance and federal funds or loans within its community; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP requires that floodplain management regulations must be present and enforced in participating communities, and utilize the following definitions which also apply for the purposes of this resolution:

- **Flood or Flooding** means:
  - A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from: 1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters, 2) the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, 3) mudflows, and
  - The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding, as defined in paragraph (a)(1) of this definition.
- **Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM)** means an official map of a community, as may have been issued by the FEMA, where the boundaries of the areas of flood, mudslide (i.e., mudflow) related erosion areas having special hazards have been designated as Zone A, M, and/or E.
- **Floodplain** means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of flooding).
- **Floodplain management** means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, and floodplain management regulations.
- **Floodplain management regulations** means zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances (such as a floodplain ordinance, grading ordinance, and erosion control ordinance) and other applications of police power that provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.
- **Structure** means a walled and roofed building that is principally above ground, gas or liquid storage facility, as well as a mobile home or manufactured unit.

**WHEREAS**, the Stille-Derossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act”, Act No. 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, (construction code act), along with its authorization of the state construction code composed of the Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Building Code [and its Appendices (specifically Appendix G)] contains floodplain development and management regulations that comply with the FEMA NFIP minimum floodplain management criteria for flood prone areas as detailed in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Section 60.3, and

**WHEREAS**, by the action dates of this document or an existing historical agreement dated August 12, 2014, Mason County affirms/agrees on behalf of Hamlin Township to function as the designated enforcing agency to discharge the responsibility of administering, applying, and enforcing the construction code act and the state construction code, specifically the Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Building Code, and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings to all development within Community A’s political boundaries, and

**WHEREAS**, Hamlin Township and Mason County enforce floodplain regulations of the construction code act, and Hamlin Township wishes to ensure that the administration of that code complies with requirements of the NFIP, and

**NOW THEREFORE**, to **maintain** eligibility and continued participation in the NFIP,

- Hamlin Township and Mason County agree that Mason County’s officially designated enforcing agency for the construction code act, Mason County Building Inspector, be directed to administer, apply, and enforce on Hamlin Township’s behalf the floodplain management regulations as contained in the state construction code (including Appendix G) and to be consistent with those regulations, by:
- Obtaining, reviewing, and reasonably utilizing flood elevation data available from federal, state, or other sources pending receipt of data from the FEMA to identify the flood hazard area, and areas with potential flooding, and
- Ensuring that all permits necessary for development in floodplain areas have been issued, including a floodplain permit, approval, or letter of no authority from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality under the floodplain regulatory provisions of Part 31, "Water Resources Protection," of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and

- Reviewing all permit applications to determine whether the proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding. Where it is determined that a proposed building will be located in a flood hazard area or special flood hazard area, Mason County shall implement the following applicable codes according to their terms:
  - All appropriate portions and specifically the floodplain management regulation portions and referenced codes and standards of the current Michigan Residential Code.
  - All appropriate portions and specifically the floodplain management regulation portions and referenced codes and standards of the current Michigan Building Code.
  - Appendix G of the current Michigan Building Code.
  - All appropriate portions and specifically the floodplain management regulation portions and referenced codes and standards of the current Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings.
- Reviewing all proposed subdivisions to determine whether such proposals are reasonably safe from flooding and to ensure compliance with all applicable floodplain management regulations.
- Assisting in the delineation of flood hazard areas; provide information concerning uses and occupancy of the floodplain or flood-related erosion areas, maintain flood proofing and lowest floor construction records, and cooperate with other officials, agencies, and persons for floodplain management.
- Advising FEMA of any changes in community boundaries, including appropriate maps, and
- Maintaining records of new structures and substantially improved structures concerning any certificates of flood proofing, lowest floor elevation, basements, flood proofing, and elevation to which structures have been flood proofed.
- Hamlin Township and Mason County assure the Federal Insurance Administrator (Administrator) that they intend to review, on an ongoing basis, all amended and revised FHBMs and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and related supporting data and revisions thereof and revisions of 44 CFR, Part 60, Criteria for Land Management and Use, and to make such revisions in its floodplain management regulations as may be necessary to assure Hamlin Township’s compliant participation in the program.
- Hamlin Township further assures the Administrator that it will adopt the current effective FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS), FHBMs, and/or the FIRMs by reference within its Floodplain Management Map Adoption Ordinance or similarly binding ordinance documentation.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, both communities declare their understanding that, until this resolution is rescinded or Hamlin Township makes other provision to enforce the construction code act:

- Mason County must administer and enforce the construction code act in accordance with the terms and the conditions contained herein, and
- For Hamlin Township to continue its participation in the NFIP, the construction code act must be administered and enforced according to the conditions contained herein.

**Community A:** Hamlin Township Date Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Name: Nancy Vandervest Title: Township Supervisor

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name: Insert Name Title: Insert Title

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community/Entity B:** Mason County Date Passed: July 13, 2021

Officer Name: Janet S. Andersen Title: Board Chairwoman

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: July 13, 2021

Witness Name: Cheryl Kelly Title: County Clerk

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: July 13, 2021

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger

Due to the length of the Michigan Community Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement to manage floodplain development for the National Flood Insurance Program Resolution, it was not read in full by presenting Commissioner Krieger as all Commissioners had a full copy of the resolution.

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chair G. Castonia and seconded by J. Hartley 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 has designated West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium as the Fiduciary for the 2020 Homeland Security Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending approval of an agreement with West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an agreement with West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium and authorizes the Board 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 N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan and the County of Mason have historically worked together to provide for Emergency Management Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan has offered a supplement payment for Fiscal Year 2020.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Emergency Management Performance COVID-19 Supplemental Grant (EMPG-S) Grant Agreement for FY 2020 from the State of Michigan and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County Sheriff Cole has requested authorization to purchase three (3) 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 three (3) radar units; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County Ordinance No. 12 requires that an organizer of an outdoor assembly event attended by more than 500 attendants must apply for a license to conduct said event; and

**WHEREAS**, Bryce and Noah Cameron have made an application to hold an event the weekend of August 27-29, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee has reviewed the application and has found it to be complete.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the license for an outdoor assembly for Bryce and Noah Cameron pursuant to Mason County Ordinance No. 12.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley

Motion by J. Hartley 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 fourteen (14) Protector Plus Tactical Sling Bags and one (1) Planor 1404 Protector Series Case; 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) J. Hartley

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Prosecutor Kreinbrink is 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) L. Squires

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink is requesting authorization to purchase supplies for the ID Credentialing Machine; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending the 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 supplies for the ID Credentialing Machine for the Emergency Management Coordinator’s office, funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, N51E, INC. has purchased the large hangar on the Mason County Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, Owner Charles Coleman is requesting a Fixed Base Operation and Hangar Ground Rent Agreement with Mason County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee has negotiated the attached agreement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves a Fixed Base Operation and Hangar Ground Rent Agreement with N51E, INC. and further directs its Board Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval. J. Anderson abstained from vote

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**, Mason County Sheriff Cole needs additional imprest cash to efficiently run his office.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the request for to increase the imprest cash account for the Mason County Sheriff’s office to \$200.00.

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:

**WHEREAS**, good budget management practice recommends the amendment of the budgets as necessary; and **WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the attached budget amendments as proposed by the various Department Heads.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached 2021 General Fund and Special Revenue Funds budget amendments as recommended by the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee.

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:

**WHEREAS**, County Clerk Kelly has requested that the Board of Commissioners pass a resolution authorizing the collection of a fee for marriage to be compliant with MCL 551.7 (4).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the County Clerk's Office to collect a fee for performing marriage ceremonies in the amount of \$10.00; effective July 14, 2021.

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:

**WHEREAS**, Have Broom Will Travel has advised the County of their intent to retire effect July 31, 2021; and **WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee sought proposals from firms to perform custodial services at the Mason County Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached two bids were received and County Administrator Knizacky is recommending accepting the low bid from P.C.S.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with P.C.S. to provide contracted custodial services at the Mason County Courthouse and directs the Board Chair to sign on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull

Commissioner Krieger inquired regarding the cost difference from the two bids that were submitted and was informed there was a \$1,100.00 difference.

(Break at 9:46 a.m.)  
(Reconvene at 9:50 a.m.)

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for July 13, 2021.

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

Welfare Child Care	\$ 28,400.00
Road Patrol	\$179,400.00
Friend of the Court	\$140,000.00
Jail Operations	\$139,100.00
Social Welfare	\$ 6,000.00
Probate Court Child Care	\$ 67,250.00
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 10,250.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan has requested that the Mason County Board of Commissioners review and approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Implementation Plan.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Implementation Plan of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County has been awarded a Veterans’ Affairs Service Grant for the 2020/2021 state budget year; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of activities that were planned under this grant have been cancelled due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the demand for services from the office has increased due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending increasing the hours for the Veterans’ Affairs Officer from 20 hours per week to 22.5 hours a week until September 30, 2021.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves increasing the hours for the Veterans’ Affairs Officer from 20 hours per week to 22.5 hours a week until September 30, 2021.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen 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

June 08, 2021 totaling \$373,175.62: and  
June 24, 2021 totaling \$352,203.88; 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) J. Andersen, S. Hull, R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) project is to provide reliable ultra-high speed fiber internet connection availability to all Mason County residents and businesses at a reasonable cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Mason has identified ultra-high speed fiber internet connection availability to all County residents and businesses as an objective which promotes economic development, quality of life, housing development, County infrastructure and otherwise furthers the major goals of the County’s strategic plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the ultra-high speed fiber internet connection service is included within the definition of telecommunication service under Act 48 of the State of Michigan of 2002, as amended (Metro Act);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason supports the pursuit of ultra-high speed fiber internet connection availability for all County residents and businesses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the following actions to be undertaken by County staff in furtherance of the goal, of obtaining ultra-high speed internet connection availability for all County residents and businesses, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Act 48 of the State of Michigan of 2002, as amended (Metro Act). The Board of Commissioners recognizes that under the Metro Act, these actions are required prior to the passage of any ordinance or resolution authorizing the County to either construct telecommunication facilities or provide telecommunication or cable modem service provider through a broadband internet access transport service.

1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP). Develop and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for competitive sealed bids which meets the requirements of the Metro Act and allows for the determination of whether a bidder is qualified to complete the work described in the RFP.
2. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS. If less than 3 qualified bids have been received from private providers, and more than 60 days has elapsed from the date of the RFP was issued, the County may undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) for the construction of telecommunication facilities and the providing of



telecommunication or cable modem service provided through a broadband internet access transport device. The CBA shall meet the requirements of the Metro Act and shall include reasonable projections for at least a 3 year period and total projected direct costs of, and the revenues to be derived from constructing the telecommunication facilities and providing the telecommunication service.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING. The County of Mason shall conduct at least one public hearing before the passage of any ordinance or resolution authorizing the County to construct telecommunications facilities or provided telecommunication service. Notice of the hearing shall be provided as required by law and the hearing shall occur no sooner than 30 days from the release of the CBA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should any section, clause or phrase of this Resolution be declared by the courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole, nor any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Ayes: Bacon, Hull, Squires, Hartley, Castonia, Krieger, and Andersen.

Nays: None

Abstained: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED STATE OF MICHIGAN (COUNTY OF MASON) ss:

I the undersigned, the fully qualified Clerk of the County of Mason, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County of Mason at a regular meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, the original of this resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Kelly  
Mason County Clerk

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Commissioner Squires noted that with the economic development within the community, the Broadband Project would be positive for the out-county residents and feels that the project should move forward.

Chair Andersen noted that the connectivity issues are essential for kids in school and for tele health services, as well as jobs. The digital divide in the community is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Castonia questioned if the County was going out for bids and that what the financial obligation is. He was informed by Chair Andersen that this proposal would allow for exploration into what the project would involve. At this time, the passing of this resolution does not have any financial obligation associated with it.

Commissioner Krieger reiterated that the passing of this resolution was in no way obligating the County to pay for this project. He has had members of the community approach him with questions regarding these concerns as well.

Chair Andersen allowed members of the public that were present who have been working on the Broadband Project to speak as well. These included:

Monica Schuyler, Pennies from Heaven representative, spoke on how this project came to fruition and what benefits it would be for the community.

Mike Reen of Aspen Wireless, the Engineering Firm, who conducted the feasibility study. He noted that with the passing of the resolution, there is the opportunity to request for proposal for private companies to place their plans to provide internet services to the entire County. Outlined were the steps needed prior to moving forward with the \$46 million dollar project. If no bids are received, the County is back to “square-one”.

Commissioner Hartley noted that he has done lots of research regarding set-ups for internet service providers and with the cost of setting up at \$500 and monthly bills at \$100, this puts people in a range that they cannot afford.

Commissioner Krieger agrees with all that is said and further notes that it is important to realize that the Rescue Plan dollars only pay for a tiny piece and that the County would have to borrow \$45 million dollars to set this plan up. There are lots of things to think through and hopefully a better plan will be presented. He felt the resolution needed to move forward to investigate options available.

Chair Andersen noted that the resolution also needed to be passed in order to be compliant with the Metro Act to address the issue.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Veterans Affairs Officer Cotten was hired at a probationary hourly wage of \$20.00 an hour with the possibility of an increase to \$21.42 an hour after six (6) months of satisfactory service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is satisfied with Officer Cotten’s performance.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an increase in the hourly wage of Veterans Affairs Officer Cotten from \$20.00 an hour to \$21.42 an hour effective July 26, 2021.

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 Mason County Computer Network Advisory Board has reviewed the performance of I.T. Right and is recommending approval of the attached Network Administration Services Agreement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached service agreement and directs the Board Chair to sign it on their behalf.

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**, Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason previously approved joining a federal opioid litigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the leadership in the federal opioid litigation is recommending that Mason County to vote to approve the Purdue Bankruptcy Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, our attorneys are recommending a vote to approve the Plan.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves a vote to approve the Purdue Bankruptcy Plan and directs the County Administrator to cast a yes vote on our behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Andersen, Krieger, Castonia, Squires, Hull, and Bacon.

NAYS: Hartley

Commissioner Hartley noted that he was at the Finance, Personnel and Rules meeting that approved the Purdue Bankruptcy plan. This prompted him to look further into other court cases that impacted human life and noted that there is a \$10 billion dollar reserve for Round-Up victims. He further notes that the bankruptcy plan allows for less than 40% for the opioid epidemic and is much worse in his opinion; and therefore, he could not support the passing of this resolution as it was not punitive enough.

› Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer’s Report. He noted that he has been working with BS&A, the software provider for the County’s financials, regarding the General Ledger update on the chart of accounts that will take place 8-21 to 9-21. He continues to meet with offices regarding these General Ledger changes. He noted that the Tax Foreclosure Sale will be on-line on August 16, 2021 with 13 parcels available.

Commissioner Squires thanked him for his work and inquired if the County has received any interest on bonds. He was informed by Administrator Knizacky that the County does not have any bonds.

› Clerk Kelly noted that the Clerk report was emailed to the Commissioner’s and she would answer any questions they had. She noted that Hamlin Township was picked for a State Audit after the May 4, 2021 Election and was happy to report that the State gave them an “A” Grade, all went well. The office is continuing to navigate through the new TCS software program used for Circuit Court access and noted that it continues to be challenging. She reminded everyone of the upcoming West Shore Community College’s Special Election on August 3, 2021 for a millage renewal. A Public test on July 21, 2021 starting at 8 p.m. at City of Ludington-all are invited to attend. Circuit Court Jury trials are starting to significantly impact the office and at this time there is one scheduled on Election Day-August 3, 2021. Finally, she notes after the August election, the reapportionment project will begin. She inquired of commissioners if they had any questions or suggestions to feel free to offer them.

Commissioner Krieger asked if the new system had E-Filing capabilities set up and was informed by Clerk Kelly that they are currently charging for them (\$25) but that she was not aware that E-Filing option was available at this time.

> Administrator Knizacky informed the board that the Veteran’s Officer Hours have been increased to 22 ½ hours a week and the County has applied for additional grant funds that would pay for the additional hours until September 30, 2022. The addition of these hours will provide more services to our area Veteran’s. He reminded the Commissioners of the following upcoming meetings: Township Officer’s Meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Meade Township, The West Central Michigan County Alliance Meeting on July 26, 2021 and the budget meeting August 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

There was public comment:

Russell Manning, owner of Sync Wave, noted that he would love to share his ideas regarding internet services. He feels that broadband is the “Ferrari” in the internet world, but that using the Ferrari would not fix what he feels are the issues with the digital divide in the community. He feels there is a human component with not understanding technology or use of end point devices. Along with the digital divide, are the folks that couldn’t pay for the services or are currently on the blacklist. He feels that lack of tech support is the reason for the digital divide and he would like to share more ideas in the future with the Commissioners.

Eric Smith, Mason County Librarian, thanked the board for the approval of the resolution to look into broadband services and encouraged the commissioners to look into this issue for their constituents.

Jeremy Brown, Spectrum Health, noted that patients are struggling with access to healthcare and broadband services would be able to provide them with the needed internet access for telehealth purposes. He would like to see the adoption of a common platform across the County.

Chair Andersen thanked all who came out today to speak regarding the community’s future.

There was no other business:

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

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JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR