

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 J. Hartley and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by S. Hull to approve the agenda with the addition of the January 25, 2022 Special Meeting and amendment to the December 14, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Hull and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2022 Special Board meeting. Motion carried.

Clerk Kelly noted that there was an error in the December 14, 2021 Mason County Board meeting minutes regarding an issue with copy/paste of a resolution regarding the appointments to the Mason County Council on Aging. Motion was made by N. Krieger and seconded by G. Castonia to accept the amendment regarding the changes and let the minutes reflect the change. Motion carried.

Chair Andersen noted that she had received communication from James Kelly, Michigan State University Extension Director, noting that he was unable to attend due to illness.

No public comments.

Dr. Michelle Kuster, D.O. of All Access Care provided a slide presentation and handout to Board members regarding the contract that All Access Care has with the Mason County Sheriff's Office and to inform not only the Board but the constituents of Mason County, whose tax-paying dollars pay this contract will be affected moving forward. Noted is that All Access Care has had a contract with the MCSO since 2013, this contract automatically renewed July 1, of every calendar year and provided services for inmates at the Mason County Jail with quality, affordable, and timely care. She notes that Undersheriff Wilson gave no reason to her regarding non-renewal of the contract and she is requesting answers because there is still an outstanding contract with All Access Care in her opinion.

Veteran's Service Officer John Cotten provide a yearly report from the Veteran's Office. Highlights include continued partnerships with multiple organizations within the Community. Chair Andersen thanked him for his partnership within the community and with these organizations. Commissioner Squires inquired of the age group that is being assisted and was informed that it is all veteran's including Vietnam Veterans, Korean Veterans, and occasionally a WWI & WW II. A lot are Veterans that have been victims of exposure to Agent Orange.

Committee Report-Commissioner Krieger noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals met last week and that the requested variance was denied.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has offered a 2021 CRRSAA Act Agreement to the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the County approve the attached Agreement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached 2021 CRRSAA Act Agreement with the State of Michigan and directs the Board Chair to sign said agreement on their behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Coordinator Reimink and the Public Safety & Courts Committee are recommending the appointment of Mr. Jim Herrema 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. Jim Herrema to the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has agreed to participate in a regional project to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the attached contractual agreement with West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission to provide the update.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contractual agreement with West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission to update the Mason County Hazard Mitigation Plan and directs the Board Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

Committee Report. Commissioner Hartley noted that he attended the Northern Michigan County Organizational Meeting, which included 33 Counties. MAC gave a report regarding Connect Michigan regarding broadband. He received documentation regarding other counties having already set up County-wide broadband services and will forward to all Commissioners for review of their modules.

Additionally, he discussed Senate Bills SB597, SB598, in which Senator VanderWall arranged a one hour question and answer period with Senator Shirkey. Bottom line of these Senate Bills is that if they do not pass, neither will SB714 which is tied together. He provided the Clerk with a copy for the record.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved a budget for implementing courthouse security; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending hiring a bailiff as part of the plan for courthouse security.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Sheriff Kim Cole to hire a full time bailiff for courthouse security.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Commissioner Krieger noted that his opinion regarding courthouse security is changing, especially with regards to an incident that had happened on February 7, 2022, when he was in the courthouse. He elaborated that he had been involved with an altercation in which he became confrontational with the individuals, including having used profanity. This experience solidified his support for the need of Courthouse security. He publicly apologized for his indiscretion regarding this incident.

Commissioner Castonia inquired of what the bailiff will do when there is no trial. He was informed from the Administrator that he will be requested to walk through all areas of the building providing security when not in one of the three courtrooms.

Commissioner Squires requested a roll call vote:

AYES: Krieger, Castonia, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Bacon, Andersen.

NAYS: None.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved a budget for implementing courthouse security; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee has negotiated a contract with STT Security for courthouse security.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with STT Security for courthouse security and directs the Board Chair to sign said contract.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

Commissioner Squires noted that having security at the Courthouse needed to be done as Mason County was only one of the remaining in the State that did not provide security, and unfortunately with changes in society in general it is becoming apparent to have to protect not only the employees but those presenting for services. He requested a roll call vote.

Commissioner Castonia noted he is against the armed security noting that the Courthouse is within the City limits and the Ludington Police Department and Mason County Sheriff's Offices are only blocks away to assist. Commissioner Bacon respected the thoughts of Commissioner Castonia but noted that society as a whole has no value and he feels those departments are too far away.

Further discussion ensued. Comments were made that this is a starting point and that additional changes will more than likely be made to the courthouse security policy in the future.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Bacon, Hull, Squires, Hartley, Krieger, Andersen
NAYS: Castonia

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Cyndi Sarnowski has served the citizens of Mason County Family Court for over 19 years as Deputy Register; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi has served in all areas of the court in both Juvenile Court and Probate Court; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi has overseen all adoptions in the court since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi has been the lead on collections/reimbursements to the Court and also became a court reporter later in her career to help with the increase in volume of court hearings; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi was critical to the day to day operations of the office; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi’s ability to adjust and help in so many areas of the court office was just one of her greatest qualities. She truly could do almost anything in the office; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi is looking forward to spending more time with her grandkids on Bass Lake; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi is retiring from her position with the Mason County Family Court.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, does hereby, acknowledge with regret Cyndi’s decision to retire and offers her their best wishes in her 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 she has shown throughout her career; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution become a permanent part of the minutes of the February 8, 2022 Mason County Commissioners proceedings. Moved for your approval.

Janet 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 8, 2022.

Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

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 various entities under the umbrella of the Mason County Economic Development Alliance have moved out of the Airport Terminal resulting in the need to make revisions to the sign at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending the approval of these revisions with funds coming from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves making revisions to the sign at the Mason County Airport; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

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, the roof at the Mason County Courthouse will be 31 years old this fall; and

WHEREAS, we are starting to experience issues with the roof; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved hiring WTA Architects to develop bid documents to replace the roof; and

WHEREAS, the Building, Planning, Drains and Airport Committee has reviewed the bid documents from WTA Architects and are recommending that the County authorize going out for bids.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves seeking bids for the replacement of the roof at the Mason County Courthouse.

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

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

January 06, 2022 totaling \$493,158.87; and

January 20, 2022 totaling \$127,807.57; 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 Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Cyndi Sarnowski is retiring from the Probate Court office; and

WHEREAS, Probate Juvenile Agent Gunsell is requesting 80 additional hours to allow the new employee to be trained by Ms. Sarnowski; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the board approve the 80 additional hours for training purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the 80 additional hours in the Probate Court office for training purposes; funds to come from contingency.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Commissioner Krieger noted that the position in Probate Court is only a 35 hour per week position, why the need to authorize 80 hours? He was informed that Probate Court Administrator Gunsell requested 80 hours of training to be used.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Director of Information Technology D. Englebrecht requested authorization to purchase the attached server project from the Computer Network Operation & Maintenance Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending purchasing this equipment from the Computer Network Operation & Maintenance Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of the attached server project; funds to come from the Computer Network Operation & Maintenance Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for February 08, 2022.

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

Road Patrol	\$181,950.00
Jail Operations	\$162,000.00
Airport Operations	\$ 38,200.00
Health, Pension, & Life	\$231,550.00

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, the Mason County Computer Network Advisory Board is recommending migrating email storage to the cloud; and

WHEREAS, Director of Information Technology Englebrecht and the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the approval of the request to fund the Hosted Email Migration to MS Government Cloud from the Computer Network O&M Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the request to fund the Hosted Email Migration to MS Government Cloud; funds to come from the Computer Network O&M Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Commissioner Krieger requested clarification of the request to fund the Hosted Email Migration to MS Government Cloud and was informed that this purchase is for off-site storage not the purchase of internal hardware.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Andrew Bryant is unable to extend his lease on hangar #5 for the three year period offered by the County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryant would like to sign a six month lease; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending approving the attached airport hangar lease with Mr. Bryant.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached airport hangar lease with Mr. Bryant.

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, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has historically appointed ex-officio members to the Mason County Planning Commission to assist in the updating of the Mason County Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Planning Commission Ordinance states that "Ex officio members shall include the chief administrative official and one (1) member of the legislative body"; and

WHEREAS, I, Board Chairwoman Andersen, am recommending the appointment of County Administrator Knizacky and Commissioner Hull.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that County Administrator Knizacky and Commissioner Hull be appointed as ex-officio members to the Mason County Planning Commission to assist in the updating of the Mason County Zoning Ordinance.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Public comment:

There was no other business:

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR