

June 14, 2022

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 R. Bacon and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed by all.

Approval of Agenda. Motion by G. Castonia and seconded by S. Hull Motion carried.

Motion R. Bacon and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Regular meeting and the May 24, 2022 work session minutes. Motion carried.

Reading of Correspondence: None.

Public Comment: None.

➤ Director Janet Vyse-Staszak presented the 2021 Mason-Ocean MDHHS report. Questions were asked and answered. It was noted that Mason County received \$9 million in food stamps for the 2021 calendar year.

➤ Cayla Sanders, Zoning & Building Director presented the 2021 annual report. Questions were asked and answered.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by S. Hull to move into Public Hearing for discussion of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893. Motion carried.

Chair Andersen inquired if anyone wished to speak during the Public Hearing.

Hearing no request to speak, motion was made by L. Squires and seconded by N. Krieger to close the Public Hearing and move back to regular session. Motion carried.

Commissioner Krieger brought to the Board's attention that various lot owners are receiving well and septic permits into platted private roads through the District #10 Health Department. He has also brought this to the attention of Kevin Hughes, Director.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Airport Manager O'Connor has sought bids for seal coating the parking lot at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners accept the low bid from West Michigan Seal Coat LLC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves accepting the low bid from West Michigan Seal Coat LLC for seal coating the parking lot at the Mason County Airport and directs the Board Chair to sign said bid.

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

WHEREAS, Maintenance Supervisor Enbody is recommending the repair of the flagpole at the Mason County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending approval of the attached bid and Terms and Conditions of Sale.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached bid and Terms and Conditions of Sale from Flagpoles Etc. to repair the flagpole at the Mason County Courthouse; funds to come from the Courthouse building repair and maintenance budget.

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 Ms. Carlene Zielinski and Ms. Barbara Wood 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 Ms. Carlene Zielinski and Ms. Barbara Wood to the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

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, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing (Docket No. ETA-2022-0003), which would require states, with no exceptions, to use state merit staff to provide Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Service (ES) services; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would reverse current federal policy that allows states maximum flexibility in staffing to provide ES services; and

WHEREAS, a 1998 settlement agreement (Michigan v. Herman) has allowed the State of Michigan to use local merit staff employees to deliver ES services through the local network of Michigan Works! Agencies to more than 86,000 job seekers in 2021; and

WHEREAS, our primary concern is the negative impacts of this proposal to Michiganders and the primary customers of the workforce development system – both job seekers and employers; and

WHEREAS, a key benefit to greater staffing flexibility is strong local strategic relationships with businesses, higher education, nonprofits, childcare, elementary and secondary education, adult education providers and other partners, which allows for more efficient customer service to connect job seekers with in-demand jobs, training opportunities and facilitates a pipeline for those students to local employers; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Works! West Central Workforce Development Board, comprised of business, labor and community leaders, is currently responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of six Michigan Works! American Job Centers in Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola counties using 15 ES local staff, and this rule would take away local control of Employment Services; and

WHEREAS, with this required staffing model, staff and service reductions are inevitable as services are currently provided by more than 400 Michigan Works! staff would be reduced to approximately 100 State of Michigan staff, resulting in significantly longer wait times for job seekers and delays in services for the 32,000 businesses served annually; and

WHEREAS, this change would risk the potential loss of several of the 99 full and satellite Michigan Works! American Job Centers across the state, and would negatively impact our constituents by decreased assistance filling job openings, reduction and elimination of job fairs, cutting of industry-led collaboratives and decreased or no access to job training programs; and

WHEREAS, limiting ES staffing to state staff would eliminate the advantage of the streamlined current staffing model in Michigan, which leverages other program funding from WIOA Title II Adult Education, SNAP, TANF, TAA and others to supplement the Wagner-Peyser state allocation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners in the County of Mason:

1. urges the USDOL to abandon this proposed rule change;
2. urges Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Congressional Delegation to support local control by the Workforce Development Boards and oppose this rule; and
3. urges Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to notify the USDOL Secretary that it would have an adverse impact on the Michigan “One-Stop” workforce development system.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be:

1. sent to U.S. Employment and Training Administration/U.S. Department of Labor;
2. sent to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer;
3. sent to our U.S. Legislators; and
4. sent to our State Legislators.

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

NAYS: Krieger.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified chair of the Board of Commissioners in the County of Mason certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the board at its June 14, 2022, meeting.

Mover: J. Hartley Signature: _____ Date: 6/14/2022

Seconder: G. Castonia Signature: _____ Date: 6/14/2022

Chair: J. Andersen Signature: _____ Date: 6/14/2022

Commissioner Squires inquired if other counties were also in agreement with this resolution and was informed yes. It was noted that Commissioner Hartley and Les Johnson, City of Ludington

Commissioner, both serve on the board. Commissioner Krieger noted that he voted against this resolution due to not having enough information to make an informed decision.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee has applied for a FY 2021-22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,110.00 to the County of Mason.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves accepting the FY 2021-22 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) 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 June 14, 2022.

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

Road Patrol	\$181,950.00
Indigent Defense	\$ 38,375.00
Jail Operations	\$162,000.00
Law Library	\$ 2,500.00

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, the Mason County Economic Development Corporation Board and Mason County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board have requested that Mason County provide services that include financial records, minutes, and dissemination of information, keeping of records, and other support duties necessary to keep both entities in order.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Management Agreement with the Mason County Economic Development Corporation Board and Mason County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Board Chair Andersen to sign the attached service agreement.

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, hangar #5 is currently vacant; and

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

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

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, Zillow has spearheaded legislation to undermine the integrity of the Register of Deeds and Treasurers offices' across the state of Michigan greatly reducing revenues needed to fund the daily operation of both offices; and

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for profit corporation, is asking the State of Michigan legislature to pass legislation that will provide them ALL the records of the Mason County taxpayers from both the Register of Deeds and the Treasurer's offices at a huge discount or in some instances 100% free of charge; and

WHEREAS, Zillow will then sell those records for profit putting our constituents at a higher risk of fraud or theft while placing the burden to fund the offices on the taxpayers of Mason County; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Association of County Treasurers and the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, both bipartisan organizations, unanimously oppose these bills.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mason County Board of Commissioners stand in solidarity with the Mason County Register of Deeds and the Mason County Treasurer to oppose HB's 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4732 and stand up to corporations that data mine records for profit while placing the burden on Mason County taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution in opposition to the above bills be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senate Majority Leader and the Governor of the State of Michigan.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Questions arose from Commissioner Castonia regarding who sponsored the House Bills involved with this legislation and was informed that the following representatives were sponsors: Julie Calley, Mary Manoogian, Steve Marino, John Cherry. It was noted that twenty-eight (28) counties have passed resolutions opposing these house bills.

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 12, 2022 totaling \$597,449.91; and

May 26, 2022 totaling \$172,091.54; 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 S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendment related to the reimbursement of conference fees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached budget amendment.

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, MIFlight Tours is requesting the right to provide helicopter rides while being stationed at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending approving the attached Airport Flight Operations Agreement with MIFlight Tours.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Airport Flight Operations Agreement with MIFlight Tours.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Commissioner Krieger inquired if the agreement was updated to include monthly fees and questioned the liability limits on the insurance. He was informed by Administrator Knizacky that a legal opinion was obtained and the liability would be theirs not the County's.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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, 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, 2022, 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 2022 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, 2022, 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:

Ayes: G. Castonia, J. Hartley, L. Squires, S. Hull, R. Bacon, N. Krieger, J. Andersen.

Nayes: None.

Abstained: None.

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

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, Michigan, held in the conference room at the Mason County Airport Terminal on the 14th day of June, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: N. Krieger, G. Castonia, J. Hartley, L. Squires, S. Hull, R. Bacon, & J. Andersen.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION BY: Commissioner J. Andersen.

SUPPORTED BY: Commissioner N. Krieger.

WHEREAS, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") of the County of Mason, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended (the "Act"), has prepared and recommended for approval by the Mason County Board of Commissioners, a Brownfield Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to and in accordance with Section 13 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has, at least ten (10) days before the meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners at which this resolution has been considered, provided notice to and fully informed all taxing jurisdictions which are affected by the Financing Plan (the "Taxing Jurisdictions") about the fiscal and economic implications of the proposed Financing Plan, and the Board of Commissioners has previously provided to the Taxing Jurisdictions a reasonable opportunity to express their views and recommendations regarding the Financing Plan and in accordance with Sections 13 (10) and 14 (1) of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has made the following determinations and findings:

The Plan constitutes a public purpose under the Act;

The Plan meets all of the requirements for a Brownfield Plan set forth in Section 13 of the Act;

The proposed method of financing the costs of the eligible activities, as described in the Plan, is feasible and the Authority has the ability to arrange the financing;

The costs of the eligible activities proposed in the Plan are reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act;

The amount of captured taxable value estimated to result from the adoption of the Plan is reasonable; and

WHEREAS, as a result of its review of the Plan and upon consideration of the views and recommendations of the Taxing Jurisdictions, the Mason County Board of Commissioners desires to proceed with approval of the Plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Plan Approved. Pursuant to the authority vested in the Mason County Board of Commissioners by the Act, and pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Act, the Plan is hereby approved.

Severability. 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 this Resolution as a whole nor any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Repeals. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

AYES: G. Castonia, J. Hartley, L. Squires, S. Hull, R. Bacon, N. Krieger, & J. Andersen.

NAYES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

(STATE OF MICHIGAN)
(COUNTY OF MASON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting 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 Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of June, 2022, the original of which is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 14th day of June, 2022.

Cheryl Kelly, Clerk
County of Mason

It was noted by Chair Andersen that the City of Ludington will have to take action on this plan.

Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer’s report and reviewed in detail the 2021 annual investment report. Interest and dividend earnings totaled \$1,187,032.96 in 2021, a decrease of 15.45% over the previous year. Interest and dividend earnings on liquid type investments (checking/saving accounts, money market funds) saw near zero interest rates as the federal funds rate saw no changes. With the COVID-19 pandemic still creating uncertainties, we did not see significant raises in longer term investments. Investment pools such as Michigan Class and Gov Mic that provided excellent rates on liquid funds were also close to zero interest rates which resulted in a drop of return on monies needing to stay liquid such as the funds collected during the property tax collection cycle.

Longer term investments, monies on deposit with MMRMA and funds loaned to entities such as the City of Scottville for sewer debt helped continue to provide interest earnings through the dip in rates we saw throughout 2021.

For 2022, investment returns on available investments are increasing, but there is a lot of uncertainty in the market as the Federal Reserve Board tries to combat inflation. Treasury Bonds yields as of recent are around 2.4% for six months and just over 3% for a year. New investment purchases will be shorter in duration as we monitor the Federal Reserve’s rate hikes. We are also seeing investment pools increase such as Michigan Class so earnings on liquid funds will see a return again on our tax collection cycle along with banks starting to slightly increase returns. CD’s at the various financial institutions are trailing on increasing the rates as banks have excess cash on hand and are not in need of more funds on deposit for lending purposes.

Again, I thank you for your support of opposition to HB 4729-4732.

My office is currently preparing the state F65 report that is due at the end of June and we are also preparing to collect summer taxes for Amber Township that will be mailed out in July.

Clerk Kelly presented the Clerk’s report for the month of May 2022.

Administrator Knizacky informed the Board that the audit was finished and went smoothly. He reported that the construction firm that will be doing the roofing project has mobilized and is starting the project this week. He informed the Board that he received the December 31, 2021 copy of Michigan-MERS report for retirees of Mason County and that a significant change in the assumption for investment earnings has been applied. This will result in an increase in the pension contributions that the County will need to make in the future. Additionally, the stock market is down 20%, which is affecting the assets set aside for retirement benefits.

There was no public comment.

Other business: None.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR