

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, J. Hartley, L. Squires,  
S. Hull, J. Andersen, R. Bacon.  
Absent: NONE.

Invocation was given by J. Hartley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Motion by S. Hull and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the agenda with addition of the amendment to the employee handbook. Motion carried.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by S. Hull to approve the meeting minutes from June 14, 2022. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

**Public comment:** Mary Samuels, Director Mason County Road Commission, gave a brief update of items the Mason County Road Commission have been or are currently working on. It was noted that six major culverts failed and are being replaced.

Noel Nieman, City of Ludington District #2, informed the board that he is in the process of forming the Nieman Foundation to make Mason County a healthier and the most loving County in the State of Michigan. He would like to work with the Board regarding healthiness and attitudes.

➤ Liz Reimink, Emergency Manager, reviewed in great detail the 2021-2022 Mason County Emergency Management Annual Report with the Board. Highlights included: Regional Homeland Security Grants; Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates; Emergency Action Guidelines & Emergency Operations Center; Code RED Mass Notification System; Training and Exercises; Planning; Public Education; Cooperating Agency Partnerships; NIMS training; Incident Response & Monitoring; Staff Training & Activities; Future Goals & Projects; along with School Safety Planning Team. With the recent school shootings, many questions were asked by Commissioners, including where the eight different school districts are at with their Safety Plans. It was noted that each district has different needs and these vary based on where the district sets its priorities, some have high priorities and others have low priorities. At this time, encouragement of review of school preparedness has been challenging if the school themselves are not seeing the need.

➤ Dr. Lisa Hotovy-Williams presented the 2021 West Michigan Community Mental Health Annual Report. Noted was an increase in demand for services and the facility is working to meet the community's needs. Telehealth services continue to be allowed in areas that have reliable high speed internet. For those that do not have internet service, telephone services are utilized.

➤ Dr. Joyce DeJong reviewed with the Board the 2021 Mason County Medical Examiner's Annual Report. Noted is the continued struggle with not having medical investigators within the community. Also, Mason County has seen an increase in deaths, which resulted in an increase of costs for the County. Commissioners commended Dr. DeJong on the thoroughness of the report.

Administrator Knizacky left the meeting at 10:15 a.m. to attend his uncle's funeral.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains and Airport Committee is recommending approval of an extension of the lease with West Shore Community College for office space for the Michigan State University Extension Office.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an extension of the lease with West Shore Community College for office space for the Michigan State University Extension Office and further directs the Board Chair to sign the attached lease 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**, Mason County Sheriff Cole is requesting approval of the purchase of a radio from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners approve this purchase.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of a radio for the Sheriff's office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

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 and the Public Safety and Courts Committee are recommending the purchase of four (4) 2022 Ford F150 trucks from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of four (4) 2022 Ford F150 trucks; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Mason County Board of Commissioners approved funds from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 to purchase and equip a F250 Truck; and

**WHEREAS**, the order for that 2021 vehicle was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriff is requesting an additional \$7,583.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 to purchase the vehicle from a different vendor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the approval of this purchase from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves an additional \$7,583.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 to purchase a F250 Truck; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the sale of one vehicle recommended by the Sheriff.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joyce DeJong is recommending the appointment of Deputy Medical Examiners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the appointment of Dr. Ed Donoghue and Dr. Anna Tart as Deputy Medical Examiners.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Dr. Ed Donoghue and Dr. Anna Tart as Deputy Medical Examiners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the removal of Dr. Elizabeth Douglas from the deputy medical examiner roster.

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**, the various entities under the umbrella of the Mason County Economic Development Alliance have moved out of the Airport Terminal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has decided to hold its meetings in the conference room of the Mason County Airport Terminal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, & Airport Committee is recommending moving the County Administrator's office to the Airport Terminal to better coordinate with these meetings.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves moving the County Administrator's office to the Airport Terminal.

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

June 09, 2022 totaling \$676,935.82: and  
June 23, 2022 totaling \$277,514.09; 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 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 12, 2022.

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

Road Patrol	\$181,950.00
Friend of the Court	\$142,500.00
Jail Operations	\$162,000.00
Probate Court Child Care	\$ 67,250.00
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 11,250.00

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 Treasurer Kmetz has foreclosed on four parcels in the vicinity of the Ludington State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Treasurer Kmetz is recommending that these parcels be donated to the State of Michigan as an addition to the Ludington State Park.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves donating the attached parcels to the State of Michigan as an addition to the Ludington State Park.

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

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has offered a contract for the design of the rehabilitation of Runway 8/26 at the Mason County Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, under this contract the County of Mason will receive grants from the federal government totaling \$87,771.00 out of a total project cost of \$88,000.00.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves Contract No. 2022-0784 for a Federal/State/Local Airport Project for the design of the rehabilitation of Runway 8/26 at the Mason County Airport; local funds to come from the Airport Improvement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Anthony Meyaard is the President of the Michigan Assessors Association and serves on the State’s Local Government Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony has worked in the assessment administration profession for 23 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony is a Michigan Master Assessing Officer who is the currently Equalization Director for Arenac, Ionia, Mason and Van Buren Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony is the Assessor for Bedford Township, Saugatuck City and Saugatuck Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony is the owner and president of Assessing Solutions, which contracts assessing services at both the local and county levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony believes in mentorship and sharing his knowledge with others by instructing certification courses for the Michigan State Tax Commission, as well as continuing education courses for the Michigan Assessors Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony has been instrumental in the implementation of the Department of Treasury’s MEG (Michigan Equalization Gateway) system (through beta testing and education); and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony has testified at the local government committee level for HB4833 the Heavy Equipment bill; and

**WHEREAS**, Anthony has testified in front of the Senate Finance Committee for HB4534 regarding changes to the Principal Residence Exemption Program.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, do hereby, acknowledge Anthony Meyaard for his accomplishments and contributions to assessing in the State of Michigan; 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, offer their sincere thanks and gratitude for the dedication and professionalism that he has shown in his leadership during his assessment administration career; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution become a permanent part of the minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Mason County Commissioners proceedings. Moved for your approval.

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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 July 12, 2022.

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Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurers of Amber Township, City of Ludington, City of Scottville, Custer Township, Grant Township, Pere Marquette Charter Township, and Sherman Township have petitioned to strike the 2016 and prior Delinquent Personal Property Taxes from the Tax Rolls; and

**WHEREAS**, the attorney representing these local units of government is requesting the County to approve the attached Wavier and Consent to waive notice of the hearing and of the entry of judgement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Board Chairwoman Andersen to sign the attached Wavier and Consent to waive notice of the hearing and approves the entry of judgement.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Hartley requested to have someone explain the process of the waiving of personal property taxes. Commissioner Krieger informed him personal property taxes, which are delinquent for five years or more, gives the taxing units the ability to ask the Circuit Court to set them aside and eliminate the tax liability from the tax rolls. Notice has to be given under State Statute to all entities and the majority of the time, this process is requested due to businesses no longer in existence or unpayable taxes.

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 Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached amendment to the Mason County Employee Handbook.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached amendment to the Mason County Employee Handbook; effective July 12, 2022.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

➤ Treasurer Kmetz emailed the Treasurer's report for June 2022. He noted that the F65 report has been completed and accepted by the State. The Treasurer's Office has started collecting Amber Township Summer taxes and will soon be working on Board of Review. He thanked the Board for the approval to donate the foreclosed tax parcels to the State Park as it was costing the County money, and also thanked the Board for looking at the current policies and procedures and approving the change. He noted that with the most recent job interviews, it has been hard to attract qualified candidates. Commissioner Krieger wished to acknowledge the exemplary job that Treasurer Kmetz and his office staff have been doing. He notes that Treasurer Kmetz has assisted a lot of his clients with the ability to keep their homes and not have them foreclosed on. This is due to the ability of Treasurer Kmetz to go above and beyond to assist homeowners to be able to stay in their homes.

➤ Clerk Kelly distributed the Clerk's report at the beginning of the meeting. It was noted that she took the Mason County Canvass board to a training held in Muskegon County. Currently, she is working on the mandatory 2-year training for all of the Election Inspectors in Mason County. Multiple Training sessions have been held in the past three weeks with two more weeks to go. She is watching the court cases regarding the

candidates that are on the August ballot and encourages individuals who plan on voting to research candidates and remember to vote on August 2, 2022. Commissioner Squires inquired about the additional staff that was allowed to be hired by the Clerk’s office and was informed that the new hire is doing a great job. Other Staff members are also very supportive and doing a great job as well. Currently, the Courts are also keeping the Clerk’s office busy requiring two staff members to complete filings. Clerk Kelly praised her staff for jobs well done.

**Public Comment:** Mark Feltzman, 217 Lakeshore Drive, noted that he is an avid cyclist in the County and wished to express his concerns regarding the debris on the sides of roads in Mason County making it difficult for cyclists. He was directed to see the Mason County Road Commission Director, who was present in the audience regarding his concerns.

**Other Business:** Commissioner Squires inquired of the status of the Council on Aging and was informed that the Finance, Personnel & Rules Committee members were presented with amendments and have spent multiple meetings reviewing and making changes that were sent back to the Council on Aging for review. Chair Andersen noted that is important that the County needs to be responsible for contracting and providing services with the four Senior Centers in the Community and review programs offered. The Council on Aging is an advisory committee and issues may need to be brought back to the Board for the final say. At this time, the need for contracts with providers and exploration of avenues are important due to the County levying the millage. The potential need for establishing a part-time position to work for the Board and with the Senior Centers was suggested but further details need to be sought. Chair Andersen noted that the ability to be able to provide services and the extent that the volunteers go to is remarkable, and it is important to address all needs.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

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JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR

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