

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.m. at the Mason County Airport terminal conference room.

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Andersen

Roll call was taken. Present: N. Krieger, J. Hartley, L. Squires, S. Hull, J. Andersen, R. Bacon.
Absent: G. Castonia.

Invocation was given by L. Squires 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. Motion carried.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the August 09, 2022 regular meeting. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

Public Comment: Bill Kerans, Scottville Senior Center, invited all the board members to a dinner on September 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. for the Kinship Caregivers. This dinner will recognize the heroes among us.

Drew Dostal, Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital CEO, presented to the meeting at the request of Commissioner Squires to provide an update on how the hospital is doing. Highlights include updating the inpatient rooms with showers and newer bathroom facilities. Also a cardiology unit, which will provide services four days a week. Additional comments regarding the new cancer bill, the name change of the facility, and COVID-19 were also provided. At this time, there are seven Covid inpatients as compared to last year's number of 100 inpatients.

Erin Kuhn, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission Executive Director provided an update for the Board. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is at the forefront of issues they are working on at this time. Additionally, they are hoping to use CARES Act funding to facilitate putting together a broadband summit to have each County talk about what they are doing. Hopes are to also partner with the Federal leaders to assist in facilitating.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason was authorized by the citizens of the County of Mason, to levy a millage of up to 0.2979 mill for the purpose of funding the operation and maintenance of Senior Centers and Senior Citizens Programs in the County of Mason; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Council on Aging and the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.2979 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason requests the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.2979 mill for the 2022 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason-Oceana 911 Center received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.14 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.14 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.14 mill for the 2022 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners approved funds from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 to purchase and equip a F150 Truck and a Dodge Durango; and

WHEREAS, the order for these vehicles was cancelled; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting an additional \$1,257.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 to purchase vehicles 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 \$1,257.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402 to purchase the attached vehicles in 2022; 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 two vehicles recommended by the Sheriff.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has offered the attached work agreement/quarterly report for Fiscal Year 2023.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) work agreement/quarterly report for Fiscal Year 2023 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 L. Squires and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Jail received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.58 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.58 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.58 mill for the 2022 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Road Patrol Millage request received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.30 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.30 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.30 mill for the 2022 levy.

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, 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 2019 Homeland Security Program; and

WHEREAS, the Region 6 Homeland Security Governing Board has authorized the purchase of 1 TruNarc equipment, TN7595; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason needs to adopt the attached Transfer of Ownership Agreement/Equipment receipt and acceptance for purchases under Federal Award Number 97.067.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Transfer of Ownership Agreement/Equipment receipt and acceptance for purchases under Federal Award Number 97.067 between West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium and Mason County and authorizes the Board Chair to sign these documents and all related forms on behalf of the County.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

Commissioner Hull wished to acknowledge the work of Emergency Manager Reimink with regards to the recent active assailant drill that took place at the Ludington Elementary School. The drill went very well, was very educational, and professionally executed.

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

August 04, 2022 totaling \$420,544.45: and
August 18, 2022 totaling \$647,398.35; 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 Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending a levy of 0.003 mill for 2022 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason requests the levy of 0.003 mill for 2022 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission and authorizes the County Clerk to certify the same.

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, Probate Judge Nellis is recommending the attached County Child Care Budget Summary with the State of Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached County Child Care Budget Summary with the State of Michigan; match funds to come from General Fund appropriations and the fund balance in the Child Care Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the County Board Chair and County Administrator to sign the County Child Care Budget Summary on their behalf.

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 City of Ludington has approved hiring a consultant to perform a Housing Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the City has asked Mason County to contribution towards the cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel & Rules Committee is recommending that the County contribute \$10,000.00 towards this project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves contributing \$10,000.00 towards the hiring of a consultant to perform a Housing Needs Assessment; funds to come from contingency.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Commissioner Krieger noted that at a previous work session, discussions were to have a senior services staff part-time. No action has been taken thus far and he feels it is worthwhile to see the needs that need to be addressed in the community for our senior citizens. He was informed by Chair Andersen that a proposal was presented at the last Finance, Personnel & Rules Committee meeting, but that the Committee was unable to review prior to its presentation. The issue is currently on the Budget work session list as well. Chair Andersen noted that the recommendation from the Committee was to fund the centers requesting, with Meals

on Wheels and Help Ministries not receiving funds at this time, because they were not in need of funding. It was noted that the Meals on Wheels program was given funding of \$30,000.00 last year.

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 Council on Aging has recommended fiscal year 2023 funding allocations of \$269,500.00 for the Scottville Senior Center, \$236,656.00 for the Ludington Senior Center, \$45,000.00 for the Tallman Lake Senior Center, \$0.00 for Mason County Central Schools Meal Program, \$0.00 for HELP, Inc., \$36,130.00 for the Free Soil Senior Center, and \$35,000.00 to hire a consultant to conduct a survey of the senior services currently offered, investigate organizational development, and develop a job description for the possible hiring of a director to oversee senior services in Mason County: and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending 2023 funding allocations of \$269,500.00 for the Scottville Senior Center, \$236,656.00 for the Ludington Senior Center, \$45,000.00 for the Tallman Lake Senior Center, \$0.00 for Mason County Central Schools Meal Program, \$0.00 for HELP, Inc., \$36,130.00 for the Free Soil Senior Center.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the fiscal year 2023 2023 funding allocations of \$269,500.00 for the Scottville Senior Center, \$236,656.00 for the Ludington Senior Center, \$45,000.00 for the Tallman Lake Senior Center, \$0.00 for Mason County Central Schools Meal Program, \$0.00 for HELP, Inc., \$36,130.00 for the Free Soil Senior Center.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for September 13, 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
Law Library	\$ 2,500.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Pam Wagner is retiring from the Clerk’s office; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the board approve the early hiring of the new employee for training purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the early hiring of the new employee in the Clerk’s office for training purposes.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, it is necessary to set the date for the annual Budget Work Session Meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason establishes September 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM as the date and the time for the annual Budget Work Session Meeting.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has provided the attached Group Benefit and Rate Renewal Summary; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending approval of this renewal summary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Group Benefit and Rate Renewal Summary and directs Mason County Administrator Fabian Knizacky to sign the appropriate documents.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Commissioner Krieger questioned why requests for less than \$1,000.00 needed to come before the entire board for approval. He was informed that it was due to the Account that it was being taken from, which needed full board approval.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Director of IT Englebrecht has requested authorization to purchase a telephone from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending purchasing this telephone from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of a telephone; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Commissioner Krieger noted that there is a request in the Capital improvement fund to add on to the building in Scottville and that spacing continues to be an issue. He feels a comprehensive discussion needs to take place and that due to the continued pressure from Lansing, the courts need to be the first priority with regards to spacing concerns. He questions whether to create an entire new space for the courts only to free up space at the court house and not add on to the Scottville office. Chair Andersen felt this may be a work session topic for the future.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, state planning statutes call for the establishment of a five year capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached five year capital improvement program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached five year capital improvement program.

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, Oakview Medical Care Facility received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for millage of up to 0.9715 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Department of Health and Human Services Board has the responsibility for the operation of Oakview Medical Care Facility; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mason requires notification each year of the amount of millage needed to be levied for the continued operation of Oakview Medical Care Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Mason County Department of Health and Human Services Board has indicated a need for the 0.9715 mill to be levied.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the Mason County Department of Health and Human Services Board request to levy 0.9715 mill for 2022 for the operation of Oakview Medical Care Facility and the County Clerk to certify the same.

Moved for your support.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Act 2 of 1968 (State Convention Facility Development Act), may have necessitated a public hearing in order to comply with Act 5 of 1982 (Truth in Taxation).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the County of Mason is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of such public hearing, and said notice be substantially in the form of the attached Exhibit A, in a newspaper of general circulation within the county district. The notice shall be published not less than six days before the public hearing and shall comply with all requirements of said Act 5 and shall post notice of said public hearing in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Acts.

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, new accounting standards established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board require the calculation of a liability for retiree health care benefits by an actuarial firm; and

WHEREAS, Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company performs the actuarial services for the County’s retiree health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the County approve the attached proposal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached proposal from Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company; funding to come from the Health, Life, & Pension Insurance Fund.

Moved for your consideration.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendment related to the reimbursement of active shooter exercise expenses.

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) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to increase public awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness in order to reduce injury, loss of personal property, and loss of life in hazardous circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the theme for 2022 is “A Lasting Legacy.”; and

WHEREAS, week one focuses on Children. Children are the future & an important part of building a national culture of preparedness. Prepare your kids for disasters and emergencies. Take time to make a plan and have conversations about preparedness. Help them know how to stay safe and navigate potentially scary situations. Disasters can leave children and teens feeling frightened, confused and insecure. Their responses can be quite varied. It's important to not only recognize these reactions, but also help children cope with their emotions; and

WHEREAS, week two urges everyone to start Building an Emergency Kit. An emergency kit should have everything you need to survive for several days. Keeping your kit stocked with necessities like food, water, and medical care can make the difference in the face of a disaster. Consider unique needs of your family. Include supplies that might be needed by pets, older adults, and those with disabilities in the event of the emergency. Don’t forget to include: Non-perishable food and water that can last several days, flashlights, radios & extra batteries, & a first aid kit; and

WHEREAS, week three concentrates on Making a Plan. Disasters can happen anywhere, any time. That’s why it’s important you’re prepared. Do you have a plan for yourself, your pets, and your family? Consider the specific needs you might have in an emergency. Make a plan that considers any special needs your family might have. Make sure your kids know important phone numbers. Learn your evacuation routes; and

WHEREAS, week four addresses Pets. Your pets are also part of your legacy! Add these items in your emergency bag in case you need to evacuate with your four-legged buddies: A selfie with them in case you get separated. Medicine & grooming items. Collar with an ID & a leash; and

WHEREAS, as the global pandemic remains it reminds us of the importance of preparing for disasters. Often, we will be the first ones in our communities to take action after a disaster strikes and before first responders arrive, so it is important to prepare in advance to help yourself and your community by visiting www.ready.gov/september or the Mason County Emergency Management web page for information and resources regarding the importance of emergency preparedness in Mason County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of Mason County urges all county residents to educate themselves and prepare for emergencies and do hereby proclaim September 2022 as Preparedness Month in Mason County.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Treasurer A. Kmetz emailed the Treasurer’s Report.

Clerk C. Kelly presented the monthly Clerk's Report. Clerk Kelly thanked the board for the approval to hire staff early for training purposes. The Clerk's report was emailed to the Board. Grant Township was picked by the State for an audit after the August 2, 2022 Primary Election. Clerk Kelly and Grant Township Clerk Mary Jo Janowiak and Deputy Pickard completed the full hand count audit on September 8, 2022 and found all items to be in order, completely matching the tape/reports submitted to the Board of Canvassers. It was noted that audits are not usually performed after an August Primary due to the short window to complete the November Election, but because of the political climate surrounding Elections, the Bureau of Elections, tasked one jurisdiction from each County with this duty. Clerk Kelly elaborated that she and staff are working diligently on the November 8, 2022 Election having gone to print last night. Applications for the open Elections/CPL position are due by Friday, September 16, 2022 at 1 p.m.; there is an upcoming 10-day jury trial with multiple jury trials scheduled for the month of October. Finally, the Apex software on-line system she hopes to have up and running before the end of the year. This system will provide constituents the ability to apply for certain services provided by the Clerk's office online so they do not have to present to the office.

Administrator Knizacky informed the Board that he was notified that the County will be audited next week with regards to the Michigan Indigent Defense Grant.

He updated the Board with regards to the State House Grant Program. This would allow constituents of Mason County to borrow monies to purchase homes and that if the Board wished to continue he would have to bring forward the guidelines to re-instate to help someone in the community. Commissioner Krieger inquired if these were USDA grants/loans and was informed from the Administrator that these would more than likely be a loan, but he was not fully sure.

Updated the Board regarding the most recent Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) newsletter which noted that local units are eligible to apply for grants for broadband. He is requesting input as to whether or not the Board wishes him to reach out to ASPEN Wireless for assistance with regards to the grant application. He was instructed by Commissioners to explore the application and proceed as needed.

Finally, he informed the Board that he had a recent meeting with Sheriff Cole in which Hamlin Township and the City of Scottville requested for the Mason County Sheriff's office to provide dedicated service to these entities. No agreements have been made at this time. Commissioner Hartley asked if there was a mistake and that it was Pere Marquette Township and Hamlin and was informed no, it was Hamlin and the City of Scottville.

Public comment:

Other unfinished business: Commissioner Hartley informed the board that he has heard that Frontier is going to be running fiber optic to the North Bayou and provide services starting at \$50/per month.

Commissioner Squires thanked Spectrum Health CEO, Drew Dostal, for coming and providing the update. Chair Andersen echoed these sentiments.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR