

June 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room located at the Mason County Airport Terminal 5300 W. US 10 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,
J. Andersen, R. Bacon.
Absent: S. Hull.

Invocation was given by L. Squires and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

Approval of Agenda with the removal of the Ludington-Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce resolution was made by N. Krieger and seconded by L. Squires. Motion carried.

Motion R. Bacon and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the minutes of the May 09, 2023 Regular meeting and the May 22, 2023 work session minutes. Motion carried.

Reading of Correspondence: Chair Andersen noted that there were numerous items in the packet, along with correspondence from Annette Quillan for the Board to review.

Public Comment: Rita Copenhagen, Amber Township, addressed her concerns regarding the jail renovation project and why the Jail did not go out for bids. She noted that the LDN/MCP listed an estimate of \$285,000 for the project. She feels not getting bids sets a bad precedent for future projects.

Wally Cain, Ludington, volunteer member on the Council on Aging Board, read a termination letter addressed to himself, created by himself. Copy of the letter will be requested for the packet.

Motion by G.Castonia and seconded by N. Krieger to leave regular session and move into public hearing. Motion carried.

Steve Begnoche, Parks and Recreation Chair reviewed in detail with the Commissioners the request to update the following projects at the Mason County Campground: Electrical-\$178,693.00, Trail project-\$432,000.00; Playground-\$65,000.00; Wi-Fi-\$10,356.82; Contingency-\$137,209.00; Engineering \$171,512.00.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by N. Krieger to close public comment and return to regular session. Motion carried.

Armas Soorus, President Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council provided a handout for the Board, reviewed with the board The Natural Rivers Program, and notified them that Grand Valley State University will be conducting a survey of the Little Manistee Watershed residents this summer: June through August 2023. The survey is intending on gathering input from residents within the Little Manistee Watershed regarding a Michigan Natural Rivers designation for the Little Manistee River. The results will demonstrate if there is sufficient support within the watershed community to consider adding the Little Manistee River to the Natural Rivers program. If the survey demonstrates that there is not widespread support for the program, further community involvement will be necessary.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cole is requesting funds from the Public Improvement Fund to replace the rail system with a mesh mezzanine wall at the Mason County Jail; and

WHEREAS, the Building, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners approve this request.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the request from Sheriff Cole to replace the rail system with a mesh mezzanine wall at the Mason County Jail; funds to come from the Public Improvement Fund 470.

Moved for your approval. (Signed) N. Krieger.

Discussion ensued, noting that the Public Safety and Courts Committee advised the Sheriff to obtain bids. Further discussion noted that due to the cost of the project, recommendation was made to hold off for the additional bids; otherwise, the Board would be breaking their own policy. It was noted that Administrator was able to obtain a \$50,000 RAP Grant to be used towards the project. Recommendation was suggested to approve the project and dollar amount based on the information presented, but also get more bids.

AYES: Krieger, Castonia, Andersen, Squires, Bacon

NAYS: Hartley.

ABSENT: Hull.

Motion carried.

Then a motion was made by L. Squires and seconded by N. Krieger to amend the approval of a jail mezzanine project at the Mason County Jail from the Public Improvement Fund adding a cap not to exceed \$285,000.00, with the understanding if bids submitted came in under, to approve said bid.

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

NAYS: Hartley.

ABSENT: Hull.

Motion Carried.

Moved for your approval. (Signed) N. Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County supports the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) submission of an application titled, “Mason County Campground and Picnic Area Improvements” to the Spark Grant Program, for improvements which include electrical upgrades to 56 campsites, paving a 10’ trail from the Campground to Picnic Area, replacement of the playground in the Campground with an accessible design, and the addition of wireless internet access at the pavilion in the Picnic Area, the following improvements will take place both at the Mason County Campground and Mason County Picnic Area; and,

WHEREAS, the location of the proposed project is within the jurisdiction of Mason County; and,

WHEREAS the proposed project, if completed, will be a benefit to the community; and,

WHEREAS, with this resolution of support it is acknowledged that Mason County is not committing to any obligations; financial or otherwise.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mason County hereby supports submission of a Spark Grant Application for Mason County Campground and Picnic Area Improvements, by the DNR.

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

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Hull.

MOTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by Mason County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held on June 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Pere Marquette Charter Township, with a quorum present.

_____ Dated: _____
Clerk

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chair G. Castonia 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 Marine Safety Programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached 2023 Marine Safety Grant Agreement between the State of Michigan and the County of Mason 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 R. Bacon 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 2023 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Motion by J. Hartley and seconded by R. Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has authorized the development of a Request for Proposals to solicit offers from qualified executive search firms for the County of Mason; and

WHEREAS, Administrator Knizacky has developed the attached Request for Proposals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Request for Proposals and authorizes seeking proposals.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting \$38,225.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund to purchase a 2023 Ford Edge SEL; 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 \$38,225.00 to purchase a 2023 Ford Edge SEL; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending a levy of 0.003 mill for 2023 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 2023 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission and authorizes the County Clerk to certify the same.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County of Mason participates in the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS); and

WHEREAS, Act 427, Public Act of 1984, as amended, provides for the purchase of additional credited service by employees of governments participating in MERS; and

WHEREAS, Mason County employee Angela Hunter has requested permission to purchase 4 years and 11 months of additional credited service and has agreed to pay both the member and employer cost related to this purchase of additional credited service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of 4 years and 11 months of additional credited service by Mason County employee Angela Hunter and further directs Board Chair Janet Andersen to sign the appropriate paper work upon payment of all related costs.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by L. Squires to waive the reading of the resolution.

Moved for your approval. Motion carried.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County (“Employer”) is a participating Municipality with the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System of Michigan (“MERS”) and has adopted one or more retirement, insurance, investment or other post –employment benefit products administered by MERS;

WHEREAS, MERS requires signatures of an authorized representative of the Employer to execute contracts with MERS, the entry of which is authorized by the governing body and permitted under the applicable MERS Plan Document(s);

WHEREAS, the Employer wishes to designate certain job position(s), the holder(s) of which may sign MERS’ contracts relating to the adoption, amendment and termination of MERS’ products, and defined benefit service credit purchase approvals on behalf of Employer to implement decisions and actions of the governing body;

WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to apply to MERS forms or any other MERS document except as specifically mentioned herein,

THEREFORE, the Governing Body resolves: The holders of the following job position(s) are hereby *Authorized Officials* that can sign: (1) MERS Adoption Agreements, Resolutions, Participation Agreements, Administrative Services Agreements, Withdrawal Agreements and any other contracts between MERS and the Employer with respect to Employer’s participation in any MERS-administered product and any amendments and addendums thereto, and (2) MERS Defined Benefit service credit purchase approvals:

1. Board Chair

This Resolution may be revoked in writing or amended by the Governing Body at any time, provided that it will not be effective until such writing or amended Resolution is received by MERS. The Governing Body agrees that MERS may rely upon this Resolution as conferring signing authority upon the holders of the above job position(s) to bind Employer with respect to MERS.

Adopted at a regular/special meeting of the Governing Body on June 13, 2023.

Authorized Signature (must be currently in a position named above): _____

Name: Janet S. Andersen

Title: Chair of the Mason County Board of Commissioners

Witness Signature: _____

Witness Name: Cheryl Kelly

Witness Title: Mason County Clerk

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 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	\$187,500.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00
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, the Mason-Lake Conservation District has worked cooperatively with the Conservation Districts from Manistee and Oceana Counties to develop a program for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste for the residents in Mason County; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the attached agreement for services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Agreement for Services between Mason County and Mason-Lake, Manistee and Oceana Conservation Districts and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

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, the Director of Information Technology Diane Englebrecht is recommending the replacement of a Ctera Backup Appliance; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the purchase be made out of the Computer Network Operation & Maintenance Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase a Ctera Backup Appliance; funds to come from the Computer Network Operation & Maintenance Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Treasurer’s Office has historically provided accounting services for the Lincoln Lake Improvement Board; and

WHEREAS, Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the County Board of Commissioners approve the attached Lake Board Accounting Services Agreement to continue this relationship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Lake Board Accounting Services Agreement and further directs the County Chair to sign said agreement.

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, 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 2023 for the operation of Oakview Medical Care Facility and the County Clerk to certify the same.

Moved for your approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the bed space in the facility, noting that this is due to staffing issues, which continue to plague the facility. Questioned was whether or not to continue to levy the entire millage if the facility was not able to offer full services. This will be watched moving forward by Commissioners.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen 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 2023 levy.

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 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 2023 levy.

Moved for your approval. It was noted during discussion that the Sheriff Department has had two or more openings since last fall and that two officers were moved to cover the School Resource Officer positions that arose recently.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded R. Bacon 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 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 2023 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Victory Township Board of Election Commissioners (“Township Election Commission”) is charged with the possession and control of voting equipment owned and used by the township under the provisions of the Michigan Election Law, 1954 P.A. 116, MCL 168.1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Election Commission does not have adequate storage space for all of its electronic voting equipment and has asked the County Clerk to store some equipment on its behalf; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Clerk Kelly has offered to store these items for the Township Election Commission and is willing to hold the equipment in safekeeping in a locked, secure area; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of Mason County for the County Clerk to store this electronic voting equipment in a safe, secure facility where it will be protected from damage and available for the statutorily required public tests; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Agreement to Store Voting Equipment between the County of Mason and the Victory Township Election Commission and directs the Mason County Clerk and Chairperson of the Mason County Board of Commissioners to sign said agreement on its behalf.

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, 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, 2023, 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 2023 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, 2023, 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: Castonia, Hartley, Squires, Bacon, Krieger, Andersen.

Nays: None.

Absent: Hull.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

May 11, 2023 totaling \$749,464.15; and

May 25, 2023 totaling \$250,591.27; 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 Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by L. Squires to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Airport Manager O'Connor and Prein & Newhof, Inc. have determined that there is surplus airport property and are requesting that the county approve the attached Professional Service Agreement for the purpose of having this property released from federal obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the attached agreement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Professional Service Agreement and directs the Board Chair to sign it on its behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the three parcels adjoining the Airport. It was explained to the Board that in order to release any of the properties at this time, a resolution would need to be passed. It was noted that passing this resolution will not deter any future growth of the Airport.

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 County has airport property that is considered surplus and no longer needed for airport purposes; and

WHEREAS, two different developers have inquired about the possibility of purchasing 40 acres of this property for development; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the sale of said property by offering it for bids with a \$400,000.00 minimum bid requirement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the sale of surplus airport property by offering it for bids with a \$400,000.00 minimum bid requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any bids received will be brought to the full Board for consideration.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Krieger encouraged the Board to vote no on this request noting that part of the property includes wet lands with endangered species on them along with two species of orchids that are protected under State law. Discussion ensued with information being relayed that two developers were inquiring, one with an interest/affiliation to the airport, and the other for a proposed housing project. Commissioner Squires cited that housing is a more urgent issue and should be considered along with protecting the wetland area. Roll call vote was requested.

AYES: Squires.

NAYS: Hartley, Bacon, Krieger, Castonia, Andersen.

ABSENT: Hull.

Motion failed. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Motion by Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by L. Squires to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, PROS Consulting has made the attached proposal to work with the Mason County Community Center Exploratory Committee on the development of a feasibility study to determine the feasibility of building an indoor recreation and wellness facility; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a request for a \$5,000.00 contribution towards the cost of the study; and

WHEREAS, Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has forwarded this request to the full Board of Commissioners without a recommendation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves a request for a \$5,000.00 contribution towards the cost of a feasibility study to determine the feasibility of building an indoor recreation and wellness facility; funds to come from contingency.

Moved for your approval.

Kaylee Peterson, Corewell Health was allowed to speak at this time noting that multiple agencies were coming together to do this feasibility study and they wished the County to also assist with funding. Discussion ensued noting that there is no legal authority for the Board to give monies to this project, nor to any project that may involve a private entity. Roll Call Vote was requested:

AYES: None.

NAYS: Squires, Bacon, Krieger, Castonia, Hartley, Andersen.

ABSENT: Hull

Motion failed. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Treasurer A. Kmetz presented the monthly Treasurer's report. He informed the Commissioners of a recent Tyler V. Hennepin County Supreme Court ruling related to tax foreclosures in the news. This was related to a case where the County foreclosed on a parcel and Minnesota foreclosure laws do not allow for return of excess proceeds. Michigan had updated their laws in 2020 to allow for former owners to collect excess proceeds and

we have been following that since signed into law. While the Supreme Court did not cite Michigan's current law, they signaled having a mechanism in place to allow for collection of surplus is sufficient which gives us reassurance that our new laws meet constitutional requirements.

The Treasurer's Office is currently working on compiling the F-65 report due to the state on June 30, 2023.

Overview on the Investment report for 2022: Interest and dividend earnings totaled approximately \$1.4 million in 2022, which is an increase of 18.57% over the previous year. Interest and dividend earnings saw significant interest rate increases as the federal funds rate saw seven increases starting from 0.25% and ending at 4.50% in December 2022. Notably, US Treasury Bonds had been the area of most value towards the end of 2022, while bank certificate of deposits lagged into 2023 before seeing more competitive rates. Most new investment purchases were short term duration as the uncertainty of the Fed's decision of interest rates increases loomed throughout the year. This allowed us to reinvest maturities and take advantage of the increases in rates. At this time in 2023, the Fed is signaling holding off on rate increases and possibly seeing lighter rate decreases so investments of longer term may show value in one to two year ranges. The Treasurer's office is seeing predicted rate drops being priced into new investments as the yield curve is still inverted.

Clerk Kelly noted that the report was emailed last week for review. She further wished to inform Board members of the following:

Elections:

Proposal 2 implementations: Several bills are moving through the House and the Senate at this time, these will impact the nine days of early voting. Early Voting Bills SB367 and SB368, House Bill 4695 and 4696. These bills include three options for early voting to choose from: Those run by 1. Municipality for that municipality only, 2. Those under a municipal agreement-more than one jurisdiction, and 3. Those under a County agreement-an agreement between one or more municipalities and the county to conduct early voting. Multiple stipulations apply to each, specifically timelines for when county clerks must decide if they are going to allow county agreements, and for municipalities to also decide which method they will utilize, when agreements must be signed, and when early voting plans must be complete. Note: There are companion bills sentencing guideline measures for reporting early voting results prior to the close of polls on Election Day, which is a five-year felony.

At this time, until legislation is complete, I do not know which route I will take regarding hosting a County voting site. I do not have enough staff nor spacing to conduct one at this time.

Additional implementations include Permanent mail voter list. Pre-paid postage and signature matching/curing, drop boxes and requirements of which these bills clearly state that the SOS is to pay for the drop boxes their installation and any required video monitoring. It also removes the current statutory requirement for video monitoring on new drop boxes. Please be advised that Mason County has one jurisdiction that does not have a town hall, Logan Township. I have been working with the Bureau of Elections, our State Representatives, the township officials, as well as the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Association of County Clerks on how to implement the drop box and video monitoring system. The bonus of this bill is that the Secretary of State has to pay for all the drop boxes, installation fees and any video monitoring should they pass.

SB 374 looks to increase precinct size from the current 2,999 to 5,000. For Jurisdictions like Hamlin, they may wish to combine into one moving forward, but this is ultimately their decision.

Recall paperwork was submitted last week for the City of Scottville. The Clarity and Factual hearing will be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. This is an open meeting.

Call to Election was made for the Pere Marquette Charter Township Treasurer Position was called on June 1, 2023. Yesterday at 5 p.m. was the filing deadline for candidates wishing to run against Ms. Bleau. Four candidate packets were handed out, but only one was submitted by the filing deadline.

Mr. Bleau has until this Friday, June 16, 2023 at 5 p.m. to Challenge the petition signatures. If the Clerk's office does not hear from him by that date, the Official Call to Election for the PM Supervisor Position will be June 22, 2023. Candidates will need to file by July 3, 2023 at 5 p.m. to run for this position.

There will not be an August Election.

Filing deadline for proposals for the November 7, 2023 Election is Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 4 p.m.

OTHER ITEMS:

The Apex On-Line Ordering software program went live last week. We have been live in the office for about a month now, but as we all know with software systems, there were a few minor glitches to work out. We are hoping that this new software application will allow residents of Mason County the ease to order and apply for records online, which include birth, death, marriage records. CPL's, DBA's, and Notary.

COURTS:

Enactment of Clean Slate Michigan Public Act 213 of 1965-Set Aside Convictions went live on April 11, 2023 What does this mean for Mason County?

1. Set-Aside Cases (New additional work added from the State)
 - a. Since April 11, 2023:
 - i. 535 criminal counts have been set aside for Circuit Court.
 - ii. 488 case files need to be physically marked non-public.

1. All cases are stored in boxes at the health department.
2. Marking these cases will take away from time at staff's desk entering current court documents and helping customers.
- iii. 92 cases have missing or incomplete case numbers.
 1. Many predate the computer system and will have to be researched by hand
- iv. *Our office has not had time to locate or mark a single file*.
- b. Requests for information/background checks on criminal cases now require:
 - i. Researching if the case contains non-public counts.
 - ii. Researching if the case contains protected personal identifying information (i.e. birth dates, driver's licenses, social security numbers, and financial account information).
 - iii. Thoroughly reviewing and redacting each document or Register of Action entry that contains PPII (protected personal identifying information) or set-aside counts.
- c. Just announced 06/07/23:
 - i. Michigan Supreme Court is considering requiring courts to redact protected personal identifying information from court transcripts.
- d. With the new law regarding set asides, clerks can now be criminally charged if they give out non-public information. There is a lot of pressure to get this right.

Commissioner Krieger concurred with Clerk Kelly regarding the Set-Aside cases, noting that he has experienced the additional workload with his work in the Probate Office. It was further noted that this new law impacts all Courts throughout the County and State.

Administrator Knizacky noted that he has completed the County Audit noting there was no adjustment to records. He and Chair Andersen attended a meeting regarding Trail projects in Mason County.

Public Comment:

Rita Copenhaver, Amber Township, thanked Commissioner Hartley for his vote on the Jail mezzanine resolution and thanked Commissioner Krieger for his concerns regarding environmental issues.

Dani McGarry, Mason-Lake Conservation District, thanked the Board for their continued support of the Household Hazardous Waste. This year's collection date is set for August 19, 2023 from 9 to 1 p.m. at the Road Commission in Scottville. Donations and volunteers will be accepted. In addition, she thanked the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council as this group of volunteers do more work than the public is aware of. She informed the Board that the Conservation District is here to help figure out how to manage land and would be available to assist on the County's surplus parcels.

Gene Kyle, Ludington, requested rationale for the County not being able to provide funding for the feasibility study.

Other business: Commissioner Krieger noted that there were two items on the agenda tonight, one was removed at the beginning of the meeting and one that was voted down. He informed the Board members that it is important to note that the County cannot be a funding source for projects because they have no statutory authority to do so, especially with private entities. The County can participate in economic development and non-profit per statute. He noted that local municipalities have more liberties to participate with private organizations. He encouraged these groups to seek their own legal counsel.

Commissioner Squires thanked Commissioner Krieger as Board Parliamentarian for the information provided. He noted that this Board has been very generous in doing what is best for the County.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR