

July 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room located in 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,
S. Hull, J. Andersen, R. Bacon.
Absent: NONE.

Invocation was given by R. Bacon 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 meeting minutes from June 13, 2023. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Public comment:

➤ Dr. Joyce deJong reviewed with the Board the 2022 Mason County Medical Examiner's Annual Report. Noted was the decrease in investigations from 111 in 2021 down to 88 in 2022 along with deaths from 373 in 2021 to 345 in 2022 which included a decrease in all categories of deaths. Commissioner Squires asked how referrals are designated, the response being if an individual is transferred from Mason County to another county where the death occurs, that County would claim the death and there is no cost to Mason County. Commissioner Bacon asked what Unclaimed Investigations are, with the response being there is no one available or willing to claim a body. DHHS is contacted for funds to cover the costs for disposition.

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

Chair Andersen stated that the public hearing was for the purpose of considering a proposal to grant funds not derived from Ad Valorem Taxation to the Ludington and Scottville Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Krieger explained MCL 46.11 (R) of Section 11 of Act 156 which requires the proposal to be heard at a public hearing before the County Board of Commissioners. The Board will receive quarterly reports if funds are granted.

Public Comment: None.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by S. Hull to close public hearing and return to regular session. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County has sought bids to rehabilitate Runway 8/26 and install Vertical/Visual Guidance System Runway 8 PAPI at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains and Airport Committee is recommending approval of the attached bid from Reith-Riley Construction Company, Inc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached bid from Reith-Riley Construction Company, Inc. contingent on the receipt of federal & state grants.

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, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the purchase of a drone for the Sheriff's office with funds coming from contingency and donations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of a drone for the Sheriff's office; funds to come from the attached budget amendments.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole is seeking authorization to sell and dispose of the attached surplus county assets; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending board approval of this request.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Mason County Sheriff Cole to dispose of the attached surplus county assets.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Ordinance No. 12 requires that an organizer of an outdoor assembly event attended by more than 500 attendants must apply for a license to conduct said event; and

WHEREAS, Noah Cameron has made an application to hold an event the weekend of August 25-27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee has reviewed the application and has found it to be complete.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the license for an outdoor assembly for Noah Cameron pursuant to Mason County Ordinance No. 12.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

Motion by J. Hartley 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 Shoreline Regional Development Commission as the Fiduciary for the 2010 Homeland Security Program; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission is requesting a letter confirming Mason County’s willingness to prepay expenses and then be reimbursed through grant funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves sending a letter confirming Mason County’s willingness to prepay expenses and then be reimbursed through grant funding related to the agreement with West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and authorizes the Board Chair to sign said letter.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

Motion by J. Hartley and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners requested proposals for Qualified Executive Search Services; and

WHEREAS, Mason County received the six attached proposals for these services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason considers the six attached proposals for Qualified Executive Search Services.

Chair Andersen informed the Board that she reached out to other entities who used these services to get their thoughts on how the process went and whether they were satisfied with the outcome. After discussion the Board narrowed their list to include Michigan Leadership Institute (MLI) and Walsh Municipal Services. She stated that the Board could interview the companies before making a decision.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by L. Squires to amend the Resolution to consider MLI and Walsh for Qualified Executive Search Services. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Krieger to amend the original motion and agree to interview MLI and Walsh only, seconded by J. Hartley.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Local Emergency Planning Committee has applied for a FY 2022-23 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,890.00 to the County of Mason.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves accepting the FY 2022-23 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 L. Squires and seconded by J. Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the West Shore ESD has agreed to partially fund a School Resource Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety & Courts Committee is recommending authorizing Sheriff Cole to start the hiring process for the third officer; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendment to fund this officer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Sheriff Cole to hire the third School Resource Officer.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by G. Castonia to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners requested proposals for services for the Connect-Mason County Project; and

WHEREAS, Aspen Smart Networks has submitted a bid of \$168,000.00 to design a county owned broadband infrastructure and provide an estimated cost of construction of a passive or active optical fiber network using a fiber-to-the premise/home architecture (FTTP).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the bid of \$168,000.00 from Aspen Smart Networks; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Discussion ensued, noting that it might be beneficial to wait to see what is offered to customers through private sector companies who may now be eligible to receive grants for this purpose.

Roll call vote:

AYES: Hull.

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

Motion Failed. (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, Mason County Clerk Kelly has requested additional funds to convert microfilm to digital documents; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendment to provide this funding.

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) S. Hull.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by L. Squires to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Ludington and Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting a \$50,000.00 contribution from the County of Mason to help fund economic development services; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending approval of the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Ludington and Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce to help fund economic development services; funds to come from the General Fund.

Commissioner Krieger clarified that the funding would actually be \$25,000 for 2024.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by L. Squires to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Mason County Housing Board of Review has requested additional funds to finish out the Housing Repair Project; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendment to provide this funding.

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) 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 July 11, 2023.

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

Road Patrol	\$187,500.00
Friend of the Court	\$146,750.00
Junk Ordinance Administration	\$ 8,000.00
Indigent Defense	\$ 38,375.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00
Probate Court Child Care	\$ 75,268.00
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 11,250.00

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, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan has requested that the Mason County Board of Commissioners review and approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Implementation Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Implementation Plan of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.

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, Director of Information Technology Diane Englebrecht requested authorization to purchase the attached Network Security/Firewall Appliance from the Computer Network Operation & Maintenance Fund; and

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Treasurer Kmetz is recommending the creation of the Mason County Land Bank Authority; and

WHEREAS, Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the County Board of Commissioners approve the attached Intergovernmental Agreement between the State Land Bank Authority and the Treasurer of the County of Mason, Michigan creating the Mason County Land Bank Authority.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Intergovernmental Agreement and further directs the County Treasurer to sign said agreement.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

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

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

June 08, 2023 totaling \$513,615.21: and

June 22, 2023 totaling \$235,735.93; 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 Board Chair J. Andersen and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, All Access Care PLLC provided medical services at the Mason County Jail from July 1, 2014 to July 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michelle Cranick-Kuster maintains that their contract was not properly terminated and is claiming \$144,000.00 for full payment of the contract; and

WHEREAS, County Administrator Knizacky has negotiated a \$70,000.00 settlement of this claim and is recommending Board approval.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves settlement of the claim by Dr. Michelle Cranick-Kuster and All Access Care PLLC in the amount of \$70,000.00; funds to come from the fund balance of the Jail Operation Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the payment will be made within 30 days and is contingent on receiving a signed release of liability from Dr. Cranick-Kuster and All Access Care PLLC.

Commissioner Krieger stated that County Departments and Officials need to understand their contractual obligations before making any changes.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: Castonia.

Motion Carried.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Surveyor Nordlund has requested additional funds to install monumentation boxes; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the attached budget amendment to provide this funding.

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 S. Hull to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the county receives funds from the revenues generated by the National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools that was reauthorized by P.L. 117-58 provides the county with the option of continuing to receive payments under the current 25 Percent Fund option or the “full payment” option, based on a new formula that is based in part on a county’s per capita income levels; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Treasurer Kmetz has reviewed these options and is recommending that the County take the option of continuing to receive payments under the current 25 Percent Fund option.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves taking the option of continuing to receive payments under the current 25 Percent Fund option.

Moved for your approval.

July 11, 2023

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Treasurer Kmetz emailed the Treasurer's report for June 2023. He thanked the Board for approving the Land Bank Resolution and noted that he is receiving back the Principal Residence Questionnaires.

Chief Deputy Clerk Holmes emailed the Clerk's report for June 2023.

Administrator Knizacky reported that the August Safety and BPDA Meetings have been moved from August 22nd to August 29th. He also noted that budget amendments bringing all budgets into balance, would be available at the next regular Board meeting on August 15, 2023.

Public Comment: Daniel Jensen spoke regarding the City Council meeting saying that City taxes were going to rise and the public may be hesitant to support a mileage on the Broadband.

Other Business: Chair Andersen reminded the Board of the upcoming Work Session to be held on July 25th.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

LORI HOLMES, DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR