

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Mason County Airport.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Andersen.

Roll call was taken. Present: Krieger, Johnson, Hartley, Squires, Andersen, Bacon.
Absent: Hull.

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

Motion made by Bacon and seconded by Squires to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Bacon and seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting and the November 28, 2023 work session. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Chair Andersen read an email received from one of the candidates who applied to be on the Library Board, Sue Hasenbank, requesting to withdraw her letter for consideration of this appointment.

Public comment: None.

Brandon Quillan provided highlights of the 2023 Western Michigan Fair Association. Commissioners thanked the Fair Board for their efforts with regards to the grounds of the facility being in immaculate condition. Fair board members were thanked for their volunteer hours.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee has worked with Airport Manager John O'Connor and Airport Engineer Prein & Newhof to develop the attached proposed Airport Capital Improvement Plan for the Years 2024-2028; and

WHEREAS, the County must submit a proposal to the State of Michigan to be eligible for state and federal funding at the Mason County Airport.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached proposed Airport Capital Improvement Plan for the Years 2024-2028 and further directs County Administrator Fabian Knizacky and Airport Manager John O'Connor to present the plan to the Michigan Office of Aeronautics.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are two (2) positions on the Mason County Planning Commission with a term expiring on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Evelyn Bergaila, Mr. Kevin Hackert, and Mr. Jason Wolven have expressed a desire to be appointed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Evelyn Bergaila, Mr. Kevin Hackert, and Mr. Jason Wolven be considered for appointment to the two (2) positions on the Mason County Planning Commission for a term that expires December 31, 2026.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Krieger wished to address Mr. Wolven with regards to his application to this board, noting that due to his applying to another board, he would vote for him there.

Roll Call Vote was requested: Bergaila: Krieger, Johnson, Hartley, Bacon, and Andersen
Hackert: Krieger, Johnson, Hartley, Squires, Bacon, Andersen
Wolven: Squires

Absent: Hull

Appointed: Bergaila, Hackert

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved 2024 appropriations for senior services; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has negotiated the attached contract with the City of Ludington for senior services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with the City of Ludington for senior services and directs the Board Chair to sign said contract.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one vacancy on the Mason County Hospital Finance Authority Board with a term that expires January 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there is one response from the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Mr. Ron Bacon.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Ron Bacon be appointed to the vacant position on the Mason County Hospital Finance Authority Board for a term ending January 31, 2026.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Fresh Coast Aviation is requesting a Fixed Base Operation and Lease Agreement with Mason County; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee has negotiated the attached agreement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves a Fixed Base Operation and Lease Agreement with Fresh Coast Aviation and further directs its Board Chair to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Gary E. Castonia has recently retired from the Mason County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Gary has shown his dedication to the citizens of Mason County and the City of Ludington in many different ways over the years, both through his role as a public servant and his involvement in numerous community activities and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Gary faithfully defended his country as a member of the United States Armed Forces, serving with the United States Army in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Gary continued to serve the community after returning home through his work as a police officer with the Ludington Police Department, a position in which he had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of countless area residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Gary's involvement in local government first began when he joined the Ludington Planning Commission; he then proceeded to serve on the Ludington City Council for more than 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Gary was appointed to the Mason County Board of Commissioners in 2017 and then elected to a full term in 2018; he was subsequently re-elected to the county board of commissioners in 2020 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, Gary "Cazie" Castonia is well known for his longtime work in local sports broadcasting, having been the color commentator and statistician for "The Voice of the Orioles," a broadcast program dedicated to Ludington High School sports; and

WHEREAS, Gary also served on the Board of Directors of the Mason County Sports Hall of Fame, where he helped to encourage local athletes and commemorate the accomplishments of Mason County's sports legends; and

WHEREAS, Gary is not only passionate about Ludington and Mason County high school sports; he is also a tireless and devoted fan of University of Michigan athletics, the Detroit Tigers, the West Michigan Whitecaps, and other professional teams; and

WHEREAS, Gary is a loving husband, father, and grandfather, profoundly devoted to his wife Kay, his sons Tim and Mark, his grandchildren, and his entire extended family; and

WHEREAS, Gary is a gentleman and true voice a reason, always willing to listen to all sides of an issue and provide an insightful observation or helpful tip before making a decision or reaching a conclusion; and

WHEREAS, Gary does it all with a smile, instantly erasing tensions and instilling positive energy with his infectious sense of humor and optimistic attitude; and

WHEREAS, Gary's presence on the Mason County Board of Commissioners will be greatly missed by commissioners, county officials, county employees, and members of the public alike;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mason County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and honors Gary E. Castonia on the occasion of his retirement from the county board of commissioners and wishes him and his family the very best in all future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Mason County Board of Commissioners, speaking for the people of the County of Mason and for themselves, do hereby thank Gary E. Castonia for his many years of distinguished and worthy service to the United States of America, the County of Mason, and the City of Ludington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be publicly read and presented in recognition of the exceptional and selfless accomplishments herein described, and shall be made a permanent part of the proceedings of the December 12, 2023 regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners.

IT WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, as duly authorized representatives of the County of Mason, have hereunto set their hands and seal, this 12th day of December, 2023, at Ludington, Michigan.

Janet S. Andersen
Chairperson, Board of Commissioners

Cheryl Kelly
Mason County Clerk

Moved for your approval.

Commissioners thanked Gary for his service, leadership, friendship, and job well done for his years of service to Mason County in every capacity that he has served in. Commissioners in addition thanked his wife, Kay, noting that behind every good servant is a supporting spouse.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are two (2) positions on the Mason County Parks and Recreation Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there were two (2) responses to the advertisement notice published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Ms. Charity Johnston, and Mr. Jeffery Schwass.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Charity Johnston, and Mr. Jeffery Schwass be appointed to the two (2) positions on the Mason County Parks and Recreation Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2026.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Johnson.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one (1) position on the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Inc. Board of Directors with a term expiring on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there were three (3) responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Ms. Susan Evans, Dr. Kim Halladay and Ms. Mary Wickwire.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Susan Evans, Dr. Kim Halladay and Ms. Mary Wickwire be considered for the one position on the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Inc. for a term to expire on December 31, 2024.

Moved for your approval.

Roll Call Vote: Evans: Johnson, Hartley, Squires, Bacon, Krieger, And Andersen
Halladay: None
Wickwire: None

Absent: Hull

Motion carried. (Signed) Johnson.

Commissioner Hartley noted the resolution the Board previously passed regarding West Michigan Works, that was sent to Governor Whitmer, did find support from the Governor. He thanked the Board for their efforts with this.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole is requesting approval of the purchase of eleven (11) portable and twenty (20) mobile radios 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 eleven (11) portable and twenty (20) mobile radios for the Sheriff's office; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one position on the Mason County District Library Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, this position must be filled by a candidate who resides in the County of Mason exclusive of the City of Ludington, the Township of Hamlin or Pere Marquette Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, there are two (2) eligible responses to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Ms. Sue Hasenbank and Mr. Sean W. Henne.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Sue Hasenbank and Mr. Sean W. Henne be considered to fill the one vacancy on the Mason County District Library Board for a term expiring on December 31, 2027.

Moved for your approval.

Chair Andersen noted that Ms. Hasenbank withdrew her letter of intention. Therefore, Mr. Henne was appointed.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there are vacancies on the Mason County Department of Public Works, and the Mason County Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board due to the retirement of Pere Marquette Supervisor Gerald Bleau; and

WHEREAS, these positions are mandated to be filled by a representative of Pere Marquette Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township has appointed Kelly Smith as Supervisor and has indicated that he will replace Mr. Bleau on various boards.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason appoints Kelly Smith to the Mason County Department of Public Works for a term ending December 31, 2026, and the Mason County Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board for a term ending December 31, 2029; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this individual will be automatically removed from the Mason County Department of Public Works, and the Mason County Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board if he no longer holds his position as outlined above and his position replacement would require formal approval by the Mason County Board of Commissioners.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hartley.

Commissioner Squires reported on activities of the Medical Control Board.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the appointment of the Hamlin Township and the City of Ludington representatives to the Mason County Board of Public Works is required; and

WHEREAS, there were two responses from Mr. Larry Rees representing Hamlin Township and Mr. Mitch Foster representing the City of Ludington.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Larry Rees representing Hamlin Township and Mr. Mitch Foster representing the City of Ludington be appointed to the Mason County Board of Public Works for terms ending December 31, 2026.

Moved for your approval. Commissioner Krieger inquired whether the appointment needed to be a Board member from Hamlin Township. It was on the recommendation of Hamlin Township Board to appoint Mr. Rees, as he has previously held the position.

Motion carried. (Signed) Squires.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one position on the Mason County Board of Public Works representing Mason County General Public with a term expiring on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there was one response to the advertisement notice that was published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Mr. Robert Allard, Jr. representing Mason County General Public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Robert Allard, Jr. be appointed to the one position on the Mason County Board of Public Works representing Mason County General Public for a term ending December 31, 2026.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Squires.

Due to the absence of Commissioner Hull, Resolutions were brought forward by Commissioners' Bacon and Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for December 12, 2023.

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

Road Patrol	\$187,500.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00
Landfill Post Closure	\$ 40,000.00
Employees Vacation & Sick Leave	\$ 50,000.00
Social Welfare	\$ 15,000.00
Workers Compensation	\$ 10,000.00

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has approved new furniture for a number of offices; and

WHEREAS, the old furniture is taking up a lot of needed storage space; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending board approval to dispose of this furniture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Maintenance Supervisor Enbody to dispose of the surplus furniture.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioners inquired of the surplus and were informed that lists were sent to all offices regarding the extra equipment. Offices already had gone through what was available and this is the surplus. All items will be sold on the online auction.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Register of Deeds Englebrecht is recommending the purchase of a SSL certificate from the Register of Deeds Automation Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending the approval of the purchase of this certificate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of a SSL certificate from the Register of Deeds Automation Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

Motion by Bacon and seconded by Johnson to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one position on the Mason County Tax Allocation Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there was one response to the advertisement notice published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Mr. Tom Posma.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Tom Posma be appointed for the one (1) position on the Mason County Tax Allocation Board with a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the County of Mason and the Mason County District Library and the citizens they serve, that the County continue to provide accounting services for the Library.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Accounting Services Agreement with the Mason County District Library for 2024 and further directs the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the County.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, it is necessary to set a date for the annual Budget Amendment Meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason establishes, December 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM as the date and the time for the annual Budget Amendment Meeting.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one position on the Lakeshore Regional Entity Policy Oversight Board with a term expiring December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Lakeshore Regional Entity Policy Oversight Board is recommending the reappointment of Ms. Rebecca Lange.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Rebecca Lange, be appointed for the one position on the Lakeshore Regional Entity Policy Oversight Board for a term ending December 31, 2026

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved 2024 appropriations for senior services; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has negotiated the attached contract with the Tallman Lake Senior Center for senior services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with the Tallman Lake Senior Center for senior services and directs the Board Chair to sign said contract.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Clerk's office has requested clarification on the reimbursement for meals policy; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending approval of the attached amendment to this policy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached amendment to the Mason County Business Travel Expenses Policy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there is one vacant position on the Mason County Zoning Board of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, there was one (1) response to the advertisement notice published in the Ludington Daily News and the Mason County Press from Mr. Jason Wolven.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Jason Wolven be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending December 31, 2026.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved 2024 appropriations for senior services; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has negotiated the attached contract with the Scottville Senior Center for senior services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with the Scottville Senior Center for senior services and directs the Board Chair to sign said contract.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Airport Manager O’Connor has requested clarification on the Holidays Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending approval of the attached amendment to this policy.

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

November 09, 2023 totaling \$654,832.86; and
November 23, 2023 totaling \$263,247.49; 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) Bacon, Andersen, Hull.

Motion by Board Chair Andersen and seconded by Hartley to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Steve Hansen has served the citizens of Mason County for over twenty four (24) years with the Mason County Sheriff’s Office; and

WHEREAS, Steve has served as Road Patrol Deputy, Undercover SSCENT Detective, Road Patrol Sergeant, Chief Deputy of the Road Patrol and Detective; and

WHEREAS, Steve served many years as an Accident Reconstructionist – Recognized as an Expert Witness with the Courts; and

WHEREAS, Steve served many years as a West Shore Community College Adjunct Instructor training Police Recruits; and

WHEREAS, Steve served many years as an Operator and Sniper for the Sheriff’s Emergency Response Team; and

WHEREAS, Steve served many years as the Sheriff’s Office armor and is recognized by his peers as a firearms expert; and

WHEREAS, Steve was the recipient of the 2005 Traffic Safety Award from the Office of Highway Safety Planning from the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Steve received Departmental Commendation in 2006 for Outstanding Service to his community; and

WHEREAS, Steve received Departmental Commendation for his work in the 2010 Homicide/Suspect Suicide investigation; and

WHEREAS, Steve received Departmental Commendation for his work in a 2011 Armed Robbery / Attempted Homicide investigation; and

WHEREAS, Steve received Departmental Commendation for his work in a 2011 Homicide investigation of baby Katherine Phillips; and

WHEREAS, Steve received Departmental Commendation for his work in a 2013 Homicide investigation of Trooper Paul Butterfield; and

WHEREAS, Steve is retiring from his position with the Mason County Sheriff’s Office to spend more time with his family and hunting and of course golf.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, does hereby, acknowledge with regret Steve’s decision to retire and offers him their best wishes in his future endeavors; 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, offers their sincere thanks and gratitude for the dedication and professionalism that he has shown throughout his career; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution become a permanent part of the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Mason County Commissioners proceedings. Moved for your approval.

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 December 12, 2023.

Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved 2024 appropriations for senior services; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee has negotiated the attached contract with the Free Soil Area Senior Center, Inc. for senior services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with the Free Soil Area Senior Center, Inc. for senior services and directs the Board Chair to sign said contract.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority provides liability, vehicle physical damage, property and crime insurance coverage to the County of Mason; and

WHEREAS, the County’s agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority expires on January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending approval of extending the agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves extending the agreement with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority and further directs the County Administrator to sign said agreement.

Moved for your approval.

Chair Andersen thanked Administrator Knizacky for his work with MMRMA and also with regards to the Grant Applications through MMRMA. Administrator Knizacky noted that Mason County applied for 18 Risk Avoidance grants and was awarded 17. It was a good year for Mason County to be a member of MMRMA.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has hired a Deputy Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Administrator Knizacky is recommending authorization to purchase various equipment for this position from the Equipment Replacement Fund with a not to exceed budget of \$3,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel and Rules Committee is recommending approval of these purchases from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of a various equipment for the Deputy Administrator position with a not to exceed budget of \$3,500.00; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Dr. Patrick Hansma as the Mason County Medical Examiner for a term ending June 30, 2025 pursuant to MCL 52.201.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Open Meetings Act provides for closed meetings in a few specified circumstances; and

WHEREAS, one of the specified circumstances is for strategy and negotiation sessions necessary in reaching a collective bargaining agreement, as permitted under the Michigan Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268 Section 8 (b); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves entering into a closed for strategy and negotiation sessions necessary in reaching a collective bargaining agreement, as permitted under the Michigan Open Meetings Act MCL 15.268 Section 8 (b).

Moved for your approval.

Roll Call Vote was taken: AYES: Hartley, Squires, Bacon, Krieger, Johnson, Andersen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hull

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

Chair Andersen noted to hold moving into closed session and continue the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Treasurer Kmetz had emailed the report and will answer any questions. He noted that the Mason County Land Bank Authority is holding a meeting December 18th to evaluate responses for a consultant. We are looking at various sites to apply for funds on the blight demolition grant and will review new information and update information from sites previously discussed. The Treasurer's office will be working with the various offices to ensure a smooth closing of the 2023 books.

Clerk Kelly had emailed the Clerk's report and will answer any questions. Clerk Kelly noted that Election audits for the November 7, 2023 Election were performed today for Free Soil Township, with no issues, and will be performed on Friday at 9 a.m. by the State of Michigan, Bureau of Elections, for the City of Ludington Early Voting Site. The office is currently working on the February 2024 Presidential Primary, as well as year-end for accounts payable and payroll in conjunction with the Treasurer and Administrative offices.

Administrator Knizacky reminded the Board that there are still vacancies in the following committees:

Construction Code Board of Appeals: 3 spots

Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate): 1 spot

MSU District #5 Advisory Board: 2 spots

EDC/Brownfield: 1 spot

Candidates are encouraged to apply and send a letter of intent to the Administrator's Office.

Administrator Knizacky noted that the County applied for a Federal Home Improvement Grant for \$500,000.00, which will allow Mason County homeowners to apply for grants ranging from \$1,000.00- to \$40,000.00. The County will partner with Five Cap with regards to issuing of funding for these projects.

Public comment: Gary Castonia, Ludington, thanked everyone for their kind words. He noted it was a great Board to work with and he wished he could stay, but his health issues were impacting his ability. He noted that he will definitely miss picking on Commissioner Krieger.

Jason Wolven, Ludington, thanked the Board for their vote and trust in appointing him to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Bill Kerans, Scottville Senior Center Director, appreciated the Board recognizing Commissioner Castonia for his multiple services provided to Mason County. He additionally thanked the Board for the Senior Services Contracts and the support of all the Senior Centers.

8:10 p.m. Public Comment was closed.

Chair Andersen called for a break prior to moving into closed session so the public could leave the meeting for the closed session.

8:30 p.m. Move to Closed session.

9:51 p.m. Return to regular session via motion by Squires and seconded by Krieger. Motion carried.

December 12, 2023

Any other unfinished business: Motion by Squires and seconded by Hartley to set Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for the 2024 County Board of Commissioners Organizational meeting date.
Motion carried.

Commissioner Squires thanked Chair Andersen for her remarkable leadership with the Board this year, as well as the goodies she provided this evening.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 P.M.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR