

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 5300 W. US 10 Ludington, Michigan.

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 L. Squires followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Motion by R. Bacon and seconded by S. Hull to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Krieger and seconded by S. Hull to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried.

No correspondence was read.

Public Comment:

James Kelly, MSU-E, wished to update the Board on new hires within the past few months with Michigan State University Extension. They have hired Julie Erickson as administrative support staff. Introduced was Lori Cargill, the new 4-H Coordinator.

Karla McLouth, Branch Township, Tallman Lake Senior Center, Vice President, thanked the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee for their several weeks of work with the senior allocations and with the appointment of the coordinator. She encouraged the Board to also support the proposed appropriations.

In her personal capacity, she thanked the Board for the Prepare Fair presentation that occurred this past weekend in the Walmart plaza. It provided insight for her that she did not previously have in her role as court reporter.

Tom Rotta, City of Ludington, noted that at the City of Ludington meeting held last night, two resolutions were passed regarding commercial rehab districts. He was in favor of one, but noted that the second parcel, the old Foster School District, in his opinion, did not meet the requirements for commercial rehabilitation. He cited the approval of this would be in violation of Act 210. This parcel is considered government and not allowable under the laws of the State. He informed the Board, that they have the oversight and ability to veto this project within 28 days if the site does not meet the requirements. He is requesting a meeting with the County Administrator to review. A copy of his transcript will be included with the official notes.

Cayla Sanders reviewed the Mason County Zoning & Building 2022 report in detail. Questions from Commissioners were answered. It was noted that Air B & B's do not have a separate ordinance to regulate.

Motion by L. Squires and seconded by S. Hull to leave regular session and move into a Public Hearing.

Motion carried.

Stephan Carlson, program manager for Economic Development and Local Government Services West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission provided an overview of why the County needed a hazardous mitigation plan and the impact of FEMA pre and post disaster mitigation projects need to be done. Commissioner Hartley noted that the information needed to be updated for the individual communities as it was outdated and that the infrastructure also needed addressing with regards to the wind mills, as these were not listed on the map.

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

Commissioner Krieger noted that he was able to attend the Mason-Lake Farm tour on August 31, 2023 and noted this annual event was well put-together and encouraged all Board members to make sure to attend any future events.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires Airports receiving federal funding to periodically undergo an airport consultant procurement process; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Office of Aeronautics has advised the County of the need to perform this process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the establishment of the Airport Consultant Selection Committee and names Commissioner Steve Hull, Commissioner Janet Andersen, Commissioner Nick Krieger, Airport Manager John O'Connor and Administrator Fabian Knizacky to said committee.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) N. Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County has applied for federal grant funds to rehabilitate Runway 8/26 at the Mason County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the attached FAA Forms 5100-129, 5100-130, 5100-131, 5100-132, 5100-134, and 5100-135 must be approved and signed as part of the grant process; and

WHEREAS, Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending approval of the forms and authorizing Airport Manager John O'Connor to sign the forms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves FAA Forms 5100-129, 5100-130, 5100-131, 5100-132, 5100-134, and 5100-135 and directs the Airport Manager O'Connor to sign said forms.

Moved for your approval.

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 Emergency Management Programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has offered the attached work agreement/quarterly report for Fiscal Year 2024.

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 2024 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 Public Safety and Courts Committee Chair G. Castonia and seconded by N. Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cole is requesting authorization to purchase two (2) tactical protective vests and helmets from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the purchase of these vests and helmets from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of two tactical protective vests and helmets from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) G. Castonia.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has approved a contract with STT Security for courthouse security that expires December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee has negotiated a three year extension to the contract with STT Security for courthouse security that calls for a 3% increase each year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves a three year contract with STT Security for courthouse security and directs the Board Chair to sign said contract.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Krieger doubted the effectiveness of the Courthouse Security and noted that it will only work when a uniform process applies to all, which he stated it is not. He cited seeing individuals being allowed to go around security and stated if that is the case, then there is no point in having security.

Commissioner Squires noted that he has been to the Courthouse several times. He believes the safety of the citizens is the overall benefit of having the security.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole has requested authorization to purchase a Jail CCTV Server Upgrade from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending approval of the purchase a Jail CCTV Server Upgrade from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending a related budget amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase a Jail CCTV Server Upgrade from the Equipment Replacement Fund and the attached budget amendment.

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, Courthouse Security Deputy Eric Nelson is requesting authorization to purchase a security camera for the exterior of the Mason County Courthouse; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of security camera for the exterior of the Mason County Courthouse; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Krieger noted that the new camera system costs more than an individual could make in an entire year and that he feels the security is a black hole and poor use of money. Chair Andersen noted that there would be a camera placed on all four sides of the Courthouse so that the security officers could see people approaching the entrance from the outside.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Board of Commissioners has authorized staffing levels of 1 Detective Sergeant, 2 Detectives, 5 Road Patrol Sergeants, 13 Road Patrol Deputies, and 3 School Resource Officers Deputies; and

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole and the Public Safety and Courts Committee are recommending amending those staffing levels by establishing a School Resource Officer Sergeant position and decreasing the number of School Resource Officers Deputies from 3 positions to 2 positions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves amending the staffing levels in the Mason County Sheriff’s Office.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Bacon asked if there were still three total School Resource Officers and was informed yes. One Sergeant and two officers.

Motion carried. (Signed) L. Squires.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Prein&Newhof, Inc. is requesting that the county approve the attached Amendment No. 1 & 2 to the Agreement for Professional Engineering Service at the Mason County Airport dated July 15,2022; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Amendment No. 1 & 2 to Agreement for Professional Engineering Service with Prein & Newhof, Inc. and directs the Board Chair to sign it on its 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, 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) 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, 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 its behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioner Hull requested from Juvenile Court Administrator Gunsell an explanation of the in-home care plan portion of the Child Care Budget Summary. Mr. Gunsell noted that two staff members prepare the home for the return of the Juvenile offenders as they want the environment to be a successful one. It was noted that Mason County only has a 19% success rate for the child to never re-offend. Additional question of truancy was addressed noting that the School Resource Officers will be assisting in this area.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair S. Hull and seconded by G. Castonia 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) 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, Alesha Miller is interested in purchasing a surplus broken safe; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending board approval of this sale for \$1.00.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes the sale of a surplus broken safe to Alesha Miller.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) S. Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

- August 03, 2023 totaling \$540,260.91; and
- August 17, 2023 totaling \$151,706.99; and
- August 31, 2023 totaling \$662,611.59.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County has applied to the State of Michigan for funding for the Veteran’s Affairs Department; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has offered the attached grant award to Mason County; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the County approve the attached grant award from the State of Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached grant award from the State of Michigan for the funding of a Veteran’s Affairs Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Board Chair Andersen to sign any necessary documents.

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 26, 2023 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 N. Krieger 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.

Commissioner Squires inquired if there was any increase in costs to these plans and was informed no and that this Medicare Advantage plan only impacted the retirees ages 65-70 that still remain on County insurance.

Motion carried. (Signed) R. Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Heather Edwaard is leaving the Prosecutor’s office; and

WHEREAS, Prosecutor Kreinbrink is requesting 72 additional hours to allow the new employee to be trained by Ms. Edwaard; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the board approve the 72 additional hours for training purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the 72 additional hours in the Prosecutor’s office for training purposes; funds to come from contingency.

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

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

Road Patrol	\$187,818.75
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00
Law Library	\$ 2,500.00
Equipment Replacement	\$ 92,575.00
Public Improvement	\$442,956.00

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 Board of Commissioners advertised for and hired a contractor to provide custodial services at the Mason County Courthouse in 2021; and

WHEREAS, that contract included an option to extend the contract for up to five additional years; and

WHEREAS, the successful contractor P.C.S. has proposed providing the services for three additional years; and

WHEREAS, the County has been satisfied with the services provided by P.C.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee recommends extending the contract with P.C.S. for three years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract with P.C.S. to provide contracted custodial services at the Mason County Courthouse and directs the Board Chair to sign on its behalf.

Moved for your support.

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 2023 is “Take Control in 1,2,3.”, which focuses on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation; and

WHEREAS, week one we will focus on Making a Kit of Emergency Supplies. 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 two we will concentrate 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 three urges us to Be Informed. Staying informed about what might happen and knowing what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region. For more information about specific types of emergencies, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY. Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. Above all, stay calm, be patient and think before you act. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected; 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.

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 2023 as Preparedness Month in Mason County.

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 Mason County Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending 2024 funding allocations of \$291,000.00 for the Scottville Senior Center, \$239,494.00 for the Ludington Senior Center, \$45,288.00 for the Tallman Lake Senior Center, \$0.00 for Mason County Central Schools Meal Program, \$0.00 for HELP, Inc., \$51,840.00 for the Free Soil Senior Center.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the fiscal year 2024 funding allocations of \$291,000.00 for the Scottville Senior Center, \$239,494.00 for the Ludington Senior Center, \$45,288.00 for the Tallman Lake Senior Center, \$0.00 for Mason County Central Schools Meal Program, \$0.00 for HELP, Inc., \$51,840.00 for the Free Soil Senior Center.

Moved for your consideration.

Commissioner Krieger thanked both the Finance, Personnel & Rules Committee and the Senior Centers for their work with regards to the proposed budgets. He felt that this is the most complete informational packet that has ever been presented during his time as Commissioner.

Chair Andersen additionally noted that this has been a good process for the Senior Centers and the Board as well. Scottville Meals on Wheels and Help Ministry did not request any funding at this time. Further noted was the Free Soil Senior Center previous volunteer director will now be a paid position, and they need to seek financial services for bookkeeping. All Senior Centers will have to provide quarterly reports. A positive response was felt by all.

Commissioner Hartley thanked the Finance, Personnel and Rules Committee for providing all the “heavy lifting” and extra work associated, but noted he felt all Centers were in a better place than they were a year ago. Commissioner Squires inquired of Scottville Senior Center Director Bill Kerans who expressed that so far it has been a positive experience and he welcomed the new changes.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, MCL 168.24c of Michigan Election Law requires the County Board of Commissioners to fill two vacancies on the Board of County Canvassers by electing a Democratic member and a Republican member from names submitted by the County Political Party Committees; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic County Political Party Committee has submitted Ms. Chris Foncesbeck, Ms. Mary Lynne Wickwire, and Ms. Janet Pollard; and

WHEREAS, the Republican County Political Party Committee has submitted Ms. Cynthia Johnson, Jason Kirkpatrick, and Ms. Shaun Shoemate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Chris Foncesbeck, Ms. Mary Lynne Wickwire, and Ms. Janet Pollard be considered for the Democratic member of the Board of County Canvassers for a term ending November 1, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ms. Cynthia Johnson, Jason Kirkpatrick, and Ms. Shaun Shoemate be considered for the Republican member of the Board of County Canvassers for a term ending November 1, 2027. Moved for your consideration.

Roll Call: Foncesbeck: Krieger, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Andersen, Bacon
Pollard: Castonia
Wickwire: None

Johnson: Castonia, Hartley, Hull, Andersen, Bacon, Krieger,
Kirkpatrick: Squires
Shoemate: None

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County has received a grant from the State of Michigan to implement the Mason County Indigent Defense Services Compliance Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the grant between the State of Michigan, Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and Mason County and directs the Board Chair to sign it on its behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) J. Andersen.

Treasurer A. Kmetz emailed the Treasurer’s report. The Mason County Land Bank Authority has held their organizational meeting and a subsequent meeting and has approved the Articles of Incorporation, operating Bylaws and Priorities, Policies and Procedures documents. They are working on developing several other required procedures and have received the guidelines for the Blight Elimination Grant. They are now in the process of identifying eligible projects and have a deadline to submit a project to the State Land Bank Authority by March 31, 2024.

The Sixth Circuit US Court of Appeals recently issued a published opinion in the Freed vs. Gratiot County that affirmed a lower court ruling that rejected fair market values as the measure of damages for tax foreclosed properties. This is a positive step for Michigan’s new foreclosure laws that allow for return of excess proceeds to former owners.

The deadline for the Wayside Settlement was September 5, 2023 and will be subject to a final approval on Nov. 8, 2023. The settlement administrators are verifying claims and we are waiting for information on how many claims, opt outs, and the total approved amount to be paid out.

Based on our calculations of foreclosures from 2013-2020 under the terms of the settlement, there is approximately \$826,000.00 to be paid out if all parcels had a claim for the full amount.

Clerk C. Kelly emailed the report earlier. She noted that the Clerk's office continues to work on Proposal 22-2 and the establishment of an Early Voting Site for Mason County Voters. At this time, the hopeful plan will be to utilize the Mason County District Library in Scottville. She further stated that she has been working with Librarian Smith for the past month and intends on presenting a final proposal to the Library Board on September 20, 2023 at 4 p.m. The Early Voting site is a result of a change to the State of Michigan Constitution that will impact voting jurisdictions in the 2024 Election year. This will result in up to a possibility of 27 days for early voting for voters adding to the Clerk's schedule (both County and local). Last Wednesday, the County Local Association of Clerk's met at the Amber Townhall for a three hour meeting to review with Bureau of Elections lawyer how this will impact voting jurisdictions. Mason County Election Commission members were present at this meeting. City of Ludington is requesting to be an Early Voting site for the voters of the City of Ludington. Clerk Kelly is completing a grant application to submit to the State of Michigan to help offset costs associated with the Early Voting Site. The local Clerk Association intends on having another meeting September 18, 2023 to further work on and discuss the details for a smooth transition for Mason County voters.

Clerk Kelly again thanked the Board for the APEX on-line ordering system noting that since it went live, there have been 43 requests for Marriage, Birth, and Death records.

Finally, Clerk Kelly noted that at the annual Clerk Conference held in Muskegon the end of August, she was unanimously elected by a board of her 83 peers to serve as Treasurer for the Michigan Association of County Clerks. She noted this will be her 6th year serving on the State Board and she is honored to have this opportunity to represent Mason County.

Administrator Knizacky noted that the County has been working for the last four years to get the runway project funded for runway 8-26 on the east side of the airport and the Board approved two resolutions today related to this project. Federal and State grants will cover 95% of the costs of the project which will cost approximately \$1,584,000.00. He intends to bring further information to the Building, Planning, Drain, and Airport Committee and then to the full Board in October for approval.

Public comment:

Karla McLouth, Branch, thanked the Board for approving the Senior millages. She further concurred with Commissioner Krieger's sentiments regarding employees bypassing security breeding a false sense of security.

Bill Kerans, Scottville, thanked the Board for their services. He noted he appreciated the expansion of the Free Soil Senior Center and noted that Ms. McLouth is an asset for the Tallman Center. He invited everyone to attend the retirement for Vickie Collins, Ludington Senior Center Director, on September 15, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. It noted that the Scottville Senior Center will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary on October 20, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. and all are invited.

Other unfinished business:

Chair Andersen reminded the Board of the upcoming housing needs assessment meetings to be held at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts Monday September 25, at 1:30 p.m. and then at Mason County Central High School Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Both meetings can be attended virtually.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR