

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.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: Krieger, Johnson, Hartley,  
Hull, Andersen, Bacon, Squires.  
Absent: None.

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

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

Motion by Krieger and seconded by Hartley to approve the minutes of the April 09, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public comment:** Becky Lederer introduced herself to the Board and announced that she was running as one of the candidates for Mason County Prosecutor. Ms. Lederer was born and raised in Mason County, graduated from Cooley Law School and for the past 17 years has been working with criminal defense work in the courts.

Jordan Miller, 1015 N. Sherman, Ludington, also announced that he would be running for the Mason County Prosecutor's position. He grew up in Leroy, MI and graduated from Valparaiso University Law School. The past five years he has been serving as the Manistee County Assistant Prosecutor and his two reasons for running for this position is care and investment in Community ties; and he noted that Mason County needed better leadership in the Prosecutor's office.

➤ **Jannice Lamm- Oakview Medical Care Facility Report** -Ms. Lamm reviewed the 2023 Oakview Medical Care Facility report via power point presentation and provided a handout.

Commissioner Krieger informed the Board that District 10 Health Department has an upcoming stakeholder meeting scheduled for May 20, 2024 at noon at the Health Department. All Board members are invited to attend.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Ludington Police Chief Jones is requesting that the County provide the City the "format number & facility code" for their HID System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending approval of this request.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves Ludington Police Chief Jones request that the County provide the City the "format number & facility code" for their HID System.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

Commissioner Squires informed the Board that WMSRDC will be holding a meeting May 20, 2024 in Lake County. All Board members are invited.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair Hull and seconded by Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

April 09, 2024 totaling \$1,171,952.98: and  
April 23, 2024 totaling \$357,022.18.

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) Andersen, Bacon, Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County Clerk Kelly is requesting approval of the replacement of the table and chairs in the courthouse conference room from the Equipment Replacement Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules 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 replacement of the table and chairs in the courthouse conference room; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hull.

Motion by Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee Chair Hull and seconded by Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the vehicle used by the Zoning Fieldman needs to be replaced; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains & Airport Committee is recommending the purchase of one used vehicle to replace it.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, approves the purchase of a vehicle for the Zoning Department; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund and further authorizes the County Administrator to sell the old vehicle.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hull.

Motion by Bacon and seconded by Hull 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; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the requirements of the grant was the hiring of a Managed Assigned Counsel Administrator to oversee the Indigent Defense Attorneys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the attached contract to the Independent Contractor Agreement with Indigent Defense Consultants, P.C.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached contract to the Independent Contractor Agreement with Indigent Defense Consultants, P.C. and directs the Board Chair to sign it on its behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, County Clerk Kelly is requesting authorization to hire a temporary student intern to assist with the scanning of loose court filings dating back to the 1980's; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending approval of this request and the attached hourly wage and budget amendment to fund this position.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves hiring a temporary student intern in the County Clerk Office; funds to come from the attached budget amendment.

Commissioner Krieger noted that Clerk Kelly had given him a tour of the vault and provided historical information regarding the multitude of court cases dating back to the 1980's that were erroneously sent to be microfilmed prior to being closed. This request is a necessary request.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

Commissioner Andersen noted that a Senior Summit was held on Friday, May 10, 2024, here at the airport and organized by Senior Services Coordinator Susan Evans. The Summit provided non-profit partners with the ability to share a full day of information and services for seniors.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, May is Mental Health Awareness month; and

**WHEREAS**, mental health is important for our individual well-being and vitality, as well as that of our families, communities, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a reminder of the importance of integrating mental health into preparedness and response for public health emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers, and adult caregivers reported having disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation associated with COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, one out of every five adults in the U.S. will have a diagnosed mental health condition in any given year; and

**WHEREAS**, one in six U.S. children aged 2 to 8 years will have a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness is a biologically based brain disorder that cannot be overcome through "will power" and is not related to a defect in a person's "character" or intelligence; and

**WHEREAS**, West Michigan Community Mental Health is a federally certified community behavioral health clinic, and

**WHEREAS**, West Michigan Community Mental Health serves as the public behavioral health care provider for people with mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorders in Mason, Lake and Oceana counties; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason hereby recognizes May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month and calls upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our state to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness to promote recovery.

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 Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for May 9, 2023.

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

Road Patrol	\$213,575.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00
Law Library	\$ 2,500.00
Airport Operations	\$ 41,500.00

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Mason County Sports Hall of Fame and Museum is a not-for-profit historical recognition institution dedicated to honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to our local sports; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, 2024, marks the 20th such class of individuals and teams to be inducted in its illustrious hall through its unveiling at Historic White Pine Village through a partnership with the Mason County Historical Society and an induction banquet at Lincoln Hills Golf and Country Club; and

**WHEREAS**, its Board of Directors selected six former athletes/teams for induction to the Mason County Sports Hall of Fame; and

**WHEREAS**, the 20th class of inductees includes **Robert Kapcia**, a 1976 Mason County Eastern graduate and 10-time varsity award winner. Robert scored 1,520 career points, 710 points in a season, and 54 points in one game. He was selected First Team All-State in basketball and All-Conference in basketball and baseball. Robert played basketball at Lake Superior State College. **John Kasley**, a 1981 Ludington graduate, was the first LHS swimming state champion, winning the 50 freestyle in 1981. Kasley was runner-up the same year in the 100 freestyle, and a member of the state-runner up 400 freestyle relay. Kasley held six LHS school swim records and was awarded the NISCA Top Ten Award in the 50 and 100 freestyle. Kasley was a member of the Michigan State University swim team, qualifying four years for Big Ten Championship meets, setting an MSU record in the 400 freestyle relay. **Theresa (Knizacky) Shoop**, a 1985 Free Soil graduate, earned 19 varsity letters. Shoop played volleyball, winning three districts and a regional title. In 1985 her team

advanced to the final four, she was selected to the Muskegon Chronicle All-Area team and placed fourth in the shot put at the MHSAA State Track & Field Meet. In basketball, Shoop scored 1,326 career points, was All-Conference and All-State Honorable Mention. An All-Conference softball player, her team won a district and regional title. At Aquinas, Shoop competed in indoor and outdoor track & field, holding the javelin record from 1989-2023. She was a three-time NAIA qualifier in shot put and javelin and placed fourth in javelin. **Derek Shoup**, a 1999 graduate of Ludington High School, holds 10 Mason County records. Shoup ran for Mason County Eastern for three years, then transferred to Ludington, with track records at both schools. He set the county records in the 100 and 400 meters. His relay team's county records are in the 800 & 1600 meter relays. Shoup won two 1998 MHSAA State Championships, in the 400 & 800 meter relays. At the 1998 U.S. Track Federation Jr Olympic State Meet, he won the 100, the long jump; and placed third in the 400. Qualifying for the Regional Jr Olympics. Shoup advanced to the finals in the 100 & 400 meters and won the long jump, to qualify for Jr Olympics National Finals, where he placed sixth. Shoup competed in track & field at Western Michigan University. The **1974 Free Soil State Runner-up Baseball Team**, amassed a record of 17-1. In the district and regional tournaments, the Pirates won all five games in come-from-behind, one-run, victories. They won their semi-final, 13-1, before losing 2-0 in the Championship game. The Free Soil team was the first in Mason County to win a baseball regional title. Team members were Max Carey, Jr., Mike Rybicki, Charles "Buzz" Jacobson, Mickey Heath, Scott Heath, Matt Knizacky, Ben Knizacky, Rich Papes, Tom Papes, John Shereda and Curt Luomala and Coach Max Carey, Sr. The **2017 Ludington State Champion Equestrian Team**, won the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association Division B State Championship. In the regional competition, Ludington rallied in the final five events to earn a spot in the finals. In the State Championships, entering the fourth and final day of competition, Ludington trailed the leader. Success in the Saddle Seat Pattern and 2-Person Relay secured the championship. Team members were Garrett Bennett, Carley Hindman, Brianna Hindman, Carly Holcomb, Claire Leikert, Jasmin Martinez, Zach McMaster and Ella Wickham; Grooms: Chesney Griffis, Lydia Hale, Allie Long and Evan Bennett; Coaches Doyle Fenner, Tanya Walter, Lynne Bennett; Assistant Coaches: Janelle Beaver, Meghan Gillies and Alyssa Walter. Leikert and Holcomb earned All-State honors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, does hereby declare June 22, 2024, as Mason County Sports Hall of Fame Day and that this resolution become a permanent part of the minutes of the May 14, 2024, County Commission proceedings; 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 congratulations to the 2024 inductees to the Mason County Sports Hall of Fame. Moved for your approval.

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Janet S. Andersen, Board Chairperson  
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 May 14, 2024.

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Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk

Treasurer Kmetz previously emailed the monthly Treasurer's Report. He noted the results for the 2023 PRE Audit (principle residence exemptions) involved sending out 101 questionnaires to property owners with a total of 49 of those parcels being denied principle residence exemptions due to various reasons such as claiming another PRE elsewhere, no response, claimant was deceased, PRE carried over from prior owner and was not updated at time of sale. The Treasurer's office had one appealed to the tax tribunal and was ultimately upheld as a result of that hearing and one was resolved by stipulation after documentation was provided based on no response to the original questionnaire. The total returned to schools along with the interest and penalty was \$96,665.33.

➤ Clerk Kelly noted the Clerk's Report for April 2024 was emailed and that the office is focusing currently on Elections and the Courts. She noted that a sample chair was in the Administrator's office for the Commissioners to see for the new meeting room. She thanked Commissioner Krieger for taking the time out of his busy schedule to tour the Clerk vault and see the circumstances surrounding the request for the intern. She thanked the Board for this approval.

➤ Administrator Knizacky noted that the Phase 1 Environmental Study came back clean, and the County will be moving forward on the purchase. The owners will need to provide a title search report to complete the transaction. Finally, he noted his office is working with the auditors this week.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Other business:** Commissioner Squires commended the Board on their work with the Seniors and moving forward.

Chair Andersen read a flyer sent by the City of Scottville inviting all to their Fall Celebration September 14, 2024.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 A.M.

