

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room located at the Mason County Airport Terminal 5300 W. US 10 Ludington, MI.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Andersen.

Roll call was taken. Present: Krieger, Johnson, Hartley, Squires, Andersen, Bacon, Hull.
Absent: None.

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

Approval of Agenda was made by Bacon and seconded by Hull. Motion carried.

Motion Bacon and seconded by Krieger to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 regular meeting and the May 02, 2024 work session and May 28, 2024 work session minutes. Motion carried.

Reading of Correspondence: Chair Andersen read a letter received from Julia Chambers, AFFEW President regarding Material Management Plan Suggestion.

Public Comment: Gene Kyle, 304 Court Street, read an email that was sent to the Board of Commissioners regarding a request for new Community Center and encouraged everyone to take the survey that was attached.

David Holden, 3161 W. Hansen Rd., introduced himself. He is a veteran and is currently running for the 4th Commissioner seat.

Sheriff Cole presented five Mason County Sheriff Department officers and two Life EMS EMT's with commendations for saving lives of inmates at the jail in November of 2023.

Kevin Hughes, District Health Department #10, presented the annual report.

Heath Scarbrough, Mason County Emergency Manager, presented the annual report.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics (MDOT-Aero) and the Mason County Airport will be completing a Crack Seal and Painting project utilizing the Federal one-time Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee has recommended the approval of this contract.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached MDOT-Aero Crack Seal and Paint Marking contract and directs Board Chair Janet S. Andersen to sign the contract on its behalf.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Mason County Sheriff Cole is seeking authorization to sell the retired command bus; 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 the Administration Department to sell the retired command bus.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Johnson.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason-Oceana 911 Center received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.14 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.14 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.14 mill for the 2024 levy.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hartley.

Commissioner Squires wished to publicly thank Commissioner Krieger for the invocation tonight regarding Commissioner Castonia.

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chair Squires and seconded by Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Sheriff Cole has requested the purchase of computers for the Road Patrol; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the purchase of the computers out of funds in the Equipment Replacement Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason, approves the purchase of computers for the Road Patrol; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Squires.

Motion by Public Safety and Courts Committee Chair Squires and seconded by Bacon to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Squires.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Jail received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.58 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.58 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.58 mill for the 2024 levy.

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 Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending a levy of 0.003 mill for 2023 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason requests the levy of 0.003 mill for 2023 for the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Commission and authorizes the County Clerk to certify the same.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for June 11, 2024.

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

Road Patrol	\$213,525.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00

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, Director of Information Technology Englebrecht and the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee are recommending the approval of the request to purchase replacement switches at the Courthouse, Jail, and Scottville Offices from the Computer Network O&M Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the request to purchase replacement switches at the Courthouse, Jail, and Scottville Offices; funds to come from the Computer Network O&M Fund.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, there has been a resignation in the Clerk’s office; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee is recommending that the Board approve the early hiring of the new employee for training purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the early hiring of the new employee in the Clerk’s office for training purposes not to exceed 160 hours; funds to come from the attached budget amendment.

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:

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

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hull.

Motion by Bacon and seconded by 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 2025 Annual Implementation Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Implementation Plan of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

May 07, 2024 totaling \$730,552.50; and
May 21, 2024 totaling \$211,594.16; 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) Andersen, Bacon, Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Clerk Kelly has expressed the need for compensatory/overtime for training due to previously scheduled time off and busy election calendar year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the use of compensatory/overtime for County Clerk employees to comply with the Court request.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

Commissioner Krieger then made a motion to consolidate all three Lake Board Accounting Services into one motion to approve at once, which was seconded by Hartley. Motion carried.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Mason County Road Patrol Millage request received the support from the citizens of the County of Mason for a millage of up to 0.30 mill; and

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending that the Board of Commissioners levy 0.30 mill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason instructs the County Clerk to certify the levy of 0.30 mill for the 2024 levy.

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, Mason County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect County allocated property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004, being MCL 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy, with the summer tax levies for 2005 and 2006 to be in the amount of 1/3 and 2/3, respectively, of the total County allocated tax, with the full amount of County allocated tax to be levied and collected as a summer tax levy in 2007 and thereafter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, the Mason County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2024, at the rate of 5.0967 mills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of each city, village and township in Mason County is directed to account for and deliver the County allocated tax collections for 2024 in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 357 of 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution constitutes certification of the levy of the County allocated tax and authorized collection of the County allocated tax on July 1, 2024, at the rate of 5.0967 mills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the County Administrator to the Treasurer of each city, village and township in Mason County.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Krieger, Johnson, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Bacon, Andersen.

Nays: None

Absent: None

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, Michigan State University is offering services to provide a community needs assessment in regards to the opioid settlement funds to help local units of government understand needs surrounding opioid crisis remediation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason authorizes Deputy County Administrator Kaitlyn Szczyпка to engage with Michigan State University to conduct a community needs assessment.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan's Solid Waste Program was updated with the passage of amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, that became effective March 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the amendments require existing county Solid Waste Management Plans to be replaced with a new Material Management Plan (MMP) which focuses on sustainable materials management approaches, such as recycling and composting instead of just landfilling waste; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2023, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) notified counties that the materials management planning process would be initiated as of January 8, 2024. County boards of commissioners, or elected executives, are given the first opportunity to assume authority over MMP development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, if Mason County accepts this authority, a Notice of Intent (NOI) is required and must be submitted in order to prepare an MMP within 180 days of the date that the EGLE Director initiates the process; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners will appoint representation of members to the Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC); and

WHEREAS, the Board will select a Designated Planning Agency (DPA) which will collaborate with County staff and the MMPC in overseeing the MMP development process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) of the County of Mason will serve as the County Approval Agency (CAA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BOC approves the submission of the NOI to EGLE to prepare the MMP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BOC approves authorizing the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (Region 14) to serve as the DPA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BOC approves participation in a multi-county MMP with other counties under contract with Region 14 and the multi-county interlocal agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MMP must be approved by the BOC by resolution and approved by 2/3rd of the municipalities by 2027 in Mason County before it is considered adopted and submitted to EGLE to be accepted.

Commissioner Krieger wished to make a friendly amendment to the resolution as presented, but the motion failed due to lack of a second. Commissioner Squires asked if this was a universal resolution, and was informed by Administrator Knizacky that all Counties were using the Resolution that was submitted by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Andersen.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2024, Governor Whitmer released her Executive Budget Recommendation for fiscal year 2025 which included under the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) recommended budget a \$1,000,000.00 cut to Michigan Conservation District’s operating budget.

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2025 budget recommendation for MDARD also recommended the termination of local Conservation District Technicians who administer the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and replace them with 24 State employees.

WHEREAS, this recommendation undermines the local conservation delivery system led by local Conservation Districts covering all 83 Michigan counties using the voluntary, non-regulatory, educational approach used all across the country to address natural resources concerns at the local level.

WHEREAS, Michigan passed Public Act 297 of 1937 to establish Conservation District’s as local units of State Government to work with landowners in every county to address natural resource concerns driven by a five member publicly elected Board of Directors. These Boards establish conservation priorities based on their local needs and voluntarily work with landowners to address critical natural resource concerns, the only organization that can do this on private land with the trust of the landowner.

WHEREAS, Michigan Conservation Districts have been critically underfunded for decades. This has left many Conservation Districts without staff to implement programs or provide assistance. Because of this, Michigan Conservation Districts experience high employee turnover which undermines the success of programs and the ability to administer assistance to the public.

WHEREAS, Michigan cannot effectively allocate federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Title II of the Farm Bill due to the lack of funding provided by the State of Michigan. This leaves critical federal dollars on the table that is reallocated to other States that can deliver Farm Bill dollars more effectively.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Mason requests that the FY 2025 budget maintain the operational budget for Michigan Conservation District’s at \$3,000,000.00 and maintain the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) at its current capacity with local technicians employed by Conservation Districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county of Mason implores the legislature to properly fund Michigan Conservation Districts and work with MDARD and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) to find or develop a restricted funding source to provide Conservation District’s with a yearly allocation of \$13,000,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senators Rick Outman and Jon Bumstead, Representatives Curtis Vanderwall and Joseph Fox, Senator Sarah Anthony and Representative Angela Witwer, Chairs of their respective Appropriations Committees, as well as the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director Tim Boring and Deputy Director Kathy Angerer and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Moved for your approval.

Significant discussion ensued amongst the Commissioner’s regarding this Resolution.

Roll Call vote was requested: AYES: Johnson, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Bacon, Andersen.
NAYS: Krieger
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Signed By: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

- Treasurer A. Kmetz reviewed his annual investment report in detail. Commissioner Hartley thanked him for helping out the 911 Board with their investments.
- Clerk Kelly noted that the report was emailed. Further noted was that the office is diligently working on the upcoming August Primary Election. Six three-hour training sessions have been scheduled to train over 100 Election Inspectors to obtain their certification in order to work the elections. They are an integral part of the Election Process. Public tests are scheduled for June 24, 2024 at Pere Marquette Charter Township Hall for all jurisdictions, except City of Ludington, whose public test will be held on June 26, 2024.
- Administrator Knizacky noted that both runways at the Mason County Airport are now open. They will need to briefly be closed in the fall for final marking. Final marking will take place once the asphalt has cured.

Public Comment:

Dan Jensen, gave his opinion regarding the agricultural issues with solar farms. He cited many concerns that he has with regards to solar farms.

Bill Kearns-Scottville Senior Director, invited everyone to the Scottville Senior Center on Saturday for a car show at 3 p.m.

Dani McGarry, Mason-Lake Soil Conservation District, thanked the Board for their consideration on the Resolution and all the work that comes before them.

Other business:

Chair Andersen noted that there will be a Public Hearing on June 18, 2024 at the Mason County Central gymnasium, for a proposed text amendment regarding solar.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR

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