

The regular meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room located in the Mason County Airport Terminal 5300 W. US 10 Ludington, MI.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Andersen.

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

Absent: None.

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

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

Motion by Bacon and seconded by Krieger to approve the meeting minutes from June 11, 2024. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public comment:**

Annette Quillan, Ludington, spoke regarding the homeless population in Mason County, along with affordable housing issues and questioned the need for changes to the Zoning guidelines within Mason County.

Dan Jensen, Ludington, spoke regarding the solar meeting held in Scottville and his concerns surrounding solar farms should they be allowed in Mason County.

Ray Karboske, Ludington, informed the Board of his continued work with the Michigan State Waterways Commission and issues he has been having with regards to a court case. He hoped to have resolution soon with the Court of Claims.

- Dr. Lisa Williams Ph.D. reviewed the 2022-2023 Annual Report from West Michigan Community Mental Health, and left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.
- Dr. Patrick Hansma reviewed the 2023 Mason County Medical Examiner's Annual Report, and left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.
- Cayla Sanders, Zoning & Planning Director reviewed the 2023 Zoning, Building, & Planning Annual Report and left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason has accepted the responsibility for electrical inspection services in the county; and

**WHEREAS**, Kevin Griener terminated his services as the Electrical Inspector for Mason County effective June 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Mason County received the attached two candidates to fill the position; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Don Taylor as the Mason County Electrical Inspector.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Contract for Electrical Inspection Services with Mr. Taylor and directs the Board Chair to sign it on its behalf.

Moved for your approval. AYES: Krieger, Hartley, Squires, Hull, Bacon, Andersen,  
NAYS: Johnson

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County has been approached about the possibility of selling a strip of county owned vacant land along N. Staffon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Building, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending that the property be offered for sale to the two (2) adjoining neighbors at a minimum bid of \$8,000.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves requesting bids from the two (2) adjoining neighbors with a minimum bid of \$8,000.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Krieger.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County Animal Control department has been providing euthanasia services to the public and hasn't raised fees related to these services since 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the department is requesting the attached increase in their euthanasia service fee schedule to address increased costs for the rise in euthanasia procedures, drugs to perform the service, and expenditures related to the incinerator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending approval of the attached changes to the schedule of rates for these services.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached changes to the schedule of rates for euthanasia services, raising the following fees:

Service	Previous Fee	Updated Fee
Euthanasia – Take Home and Bury	\$10.00	\$40.00
Euthanasia – Cremation and Bury	25.00	75.00
Euthanasia – Ash Return	100.00	150.00

Commissioner Squires, Chair of the Public Safety and Courts Committee noted that there was significant discussion with regards to these changes and felt they needed to move to the full Board.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Johnson

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County has been approached by Life EMS about the possibility of purchasing the retired ambulance that the County owns; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending that the ambulance be offered for sale for \$3,650.00.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves selling the retired ambulance to Life EMS at the price of \$3,650.00.

Questions were asked regarding if this sale included the entire vehicle (box), and it was noted that it does. Also noted is that the vehicle currently has over 400,000 miles on it.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hartley.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Life EMS, Inc. has requested that the County purchase four (4) new LifePak cardiac monitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety and Courts Committee is recommending the approval of the purchase of four (4) new LifePak cardiac monitors from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the purchase of four (4) new LifePak cardiac monitors; funds to come from the Equipment Replacement Fund 402.

Moved for your approval.

Motion carried. (Signed) Squires.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of the City of Scottville representative to the Mason County Board of Public Works is required.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Justin Coolman representing the City of Scottville be appointed to the Mason County Board of Public Works for a term ending December 31, 2024.

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 Prosecutor’s Office has requested additional help with legal services to cover misdemeanor prosecutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the approval of the attached agreement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the agreement for freelance prosecutor legal services with attorney Jason Gerber as well as 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 Krieger to approve the following resolution:

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Mason County Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee are recommending the purchase of fencing for the Johnson Road cul-de-sac; and

**WHEREAS**, The Committee is recommending the attached quote from Straight Fence.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the installation of fencing at the Johnson Road cul-de-sac with the quote from Straight Fence, funds from the Airport Improvement 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**, Michigan Community Capital has proposed the attached memorandum of understanding and draft request for proposals to facilitate the predevelopment phase of a housing development on county property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Building, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee is recommending the approval of the proposal.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached Memorandum of Agreement with Michigan Community Capital and further directs the Board Chair to sign said agreement on its behalf.

Commissioner Krieger made a motion to make a friendly amendment to the language, which was seconded by Hull. Motion was then amended by Krieger and seconded by Hull to authorize Administrator Knizacky to negotiate and/or revise provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding in need of correction and revision. Motion carried.

Questions arose regarding the parcel in question and Commissioners were informed this is the 40-acre parcel of property owned by the County located behind Lowes that abuts up to the Amber township parcel.

Motion by Andersen and seconded by Hull to amend the Memorandum of Understanding as presented by Commissioner Krieger with the noted changes.

Motion carried. (Signed) Hull.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, The Prosecutor’s Office has requested additional help with legal services to cover juvenile delinquency cases; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee is recommending the approval of the attached agreement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the agreement for freelance prosecutor legal services with attorney Layne Sakwa.

Moved for your approval.

Commissioners questioned the timeframe of the agreement with the upcoming election and were informed that this agreement is only for a three-month period.

Motion carried. (Signed) Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for July 11, 2023.

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

Road Patrol	\$213,475.00
Friend of the Court	\$153,750.00
Indigent Defense	\$ 38,375.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00
Probate Court Child Care	\$ 90,250.00
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 11,250.00

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

June 04, 2024 totaling \$494,331.89; and  
June 18, 2024 totaling \$643,455.43; 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, Hull, Bacon.

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

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, Empower administrates the County of Mason's Employee Deferred Compensation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Empower is recommending the attached changes to the plan.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the attached changes to the County of Mason's Employee Deferred Compensation Plan and directs Mason County Administrator Fabian Knizacky to sign the appropriate documents.

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**, Mason County has been involved in a number of opioid lawsuits; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's attorneys have reached a settlement with Kroger Co.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Commissioners of Mason County approves the attached settlement agreement with Kroger Co. and directs County Administrator Knizacky to sign the related Settlement Participation Agreement on their behalf.

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 Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) desires to eliminate local turf issues, build local partnerships, enhance communications and develop a better understanding of the

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economic development process in the County of Mason by involving representation of local units of government that play an important economic development role in the County of Mason; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Mason County EDC Board also serve on the Mason County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority(BRA) Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ludington recommends the following individual, by virtue of her position, be appointed to the Mason County EDC/BRA Board of Directors for the following term:

Ludington Interim City Manager Jeanne Oakes

December 31, 2029

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the appointment of Jeanne Oakes, to the Mason County EDC/BRA Board of Directors and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board by virtue of the position; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this individual will be automatically removed from the Mason County EDC Board of Directors and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board if she no longer holds her respective position as outlined above and her position replacement would require formal approval by the Mason County Board of Commissioners.

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**, Public Act 90 of 2023 was signed into law on July 19, 2023 with immediate effect and includes provisions for certain housing development activities as Brownfield Redevelopment eligible activities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Building, Planning, Drains, and Airport Committee has recommended the inclusion of the new provisions and eligible activities to be included in the County's Brownfield guidelines.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mason approves the inclusion of the new Brownfield Redevelopment provisions regarding housing in the County's guidelines.

Moved for your approval. Chair Andersen noted that approval of this resolution allows for more housing opportunities within the community.

Motion Carried (Signed) Andersen.

Treasurer Kmetz reviewed the 2023 Landbank report. He will follow up with the Treasurer's report when it is completed.

Clerk Kelly emailed the Clerk's report for June 2024. She thanked Commissioner Krieger for his assistance last month with regards to the Court of Appeals and the process as candidates for the August Election were appealing and wishing to be on the August ballot. The Clerk's office received the first ballot proposal for the upcoming November election from Mason County Eastern Schools. Clerk Kelly noted that there are three more election inspector training sessions along with setting up the Early Vote Site at the Custer Township Hall.

Administrator Knizacky reported that the MCNABB Board will be meeting on Monday, July 15, 2024, to review proposals and select a firm to recommend to the Board of Commissioners regarding IT services and Web Support services.

Public Comment was put on hold 10:51 a.m. due to a commissioner leaving the meeting and returned to session at 10:53 a.m.

**Public Comment:** Dan Jensen, Ludington, noted that he had sent an email to the Board regarding the Supreme Court ruling regarding Chevron compliance and asked if the Board had read the 114-page document.

**Other Business:** None.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

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CHERYL KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

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JANET S. ANDERSEN, BOARD CHAIR