

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 by electronic video/teleconference via Zoom Meeting pursuant to the County of Monroe's State of Emergency Declaration. Chairman Brant called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, as follows:

PRESENT		ABSENT
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters	David Hoffman (Excused)
Dawn Asper	David Swartout	
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr. (joined at 5:02)	
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens	

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to conduct business.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Asper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lemasters to approve the May 4, 2021 agenda as presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (05/04/2021 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Jondro to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented and waive the reading thereof.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION

1. Presentation by Ms. Stephanie Kasprzak, Executive Director of MCOP, highlighting accomplishments of MCOP in 2020.

- Emergency & Supplemental food distribution
 - MCOP's food programs shifted from client choice from in-person to mobile / delivery
 - 75 Mobile food pantries were held across the county during the year
- THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER @ ALCC
 - During COVID-19 the Opportunity Center @ ALCC was an emergency distribution site for food, including:
 - Delivering warm meals to seniors in quarantine and offering youth a meal three days a week
 - The Center went through a \$660,000 renovation during this year
- AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCES
 - 2,714 seniors remained independent, in their own homes and safely quarantined due to MCOP's interventions
- SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION
 - MCOP's Transportation Department kept all lifesaving appointments for clients for non-emergency medical treatments, such as dialysis and chemotherapy.
- HOMELESS & VETERAN SERVICES
 - A total of 355 households avoided eviction during 2020, helping 947 people avoid homelessness
 - MCOP's Eviction Diversion Staff won a "homeless hero award" for their efforts
- HOUSING QUALITY & ENERGY CONSERVATION
 - Weatherization and Housing Rehabilitation stopped temporarily due to COVID-19, however several programs were available to meet the communities needs during this time, including:
 - Water Arrearage Program in partnership with local municipalities and water systems across Monroe County

- **SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM**
 - MCOP allocated \$17,500 to support local small businesses during this challenging time.
 - Most support was provided to women and minority-owned businesses who were forced to shut down or met a great need during the pandemic.
- 2. Presentation by Ms. Melissa Strong, Director of Juvenile Services/Probate Court Administrator and Mr. Jim Risinger, Youth Center Director, regarding a new community-based program at the Youth Center called Enhancing Strengths & Supports (ESS).
 - **NEW COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM**
 - **EXISTING SERVICES**
 - Juvenile probation services
 - Secure detention
 - Secure residential treatment
 - **NEW SERVICES**
 - Community-based non-secure programming will provide a missing piece of our service continuum.
 - **WHY IS COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING NECESSARY?**
 - Removing kids from home interferes with their ability to nurture healthy relationships.
 - It's expensive to lock kids up.
 - **THE OBJECTIVE**
 - Targets youth who have demonstrated that they are at-risk of becoming delinquent.
 - Provides an alternative to other interventions (school suspension or delinquency petition.)
 - Provides services to both the family and the youth to help strengthen the family's connection to the community.
 - **FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS**
 - Funding through Child Care Fund which is a 50-50 partnership between the state and the county.
 - Airport Schools has been selected as initial partners because of their outstanding work with restorative justice.
 - CMH is a partner and has received a federal block grant to provide screening and services.
 - **THE PROGRAM**
 - Youth are screened and accepted to the program if they meet criteria.
 - The program runs from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday. ESS staff will transport youth to the site and return them home each day.
 - Daily programming will involve school, life skill activities, individual and family counseling, and physical recreation activities. All meals will be provided on-site.

- Maximum number of youth is 8 with ages from 11-17.
 - The length of the program will be between 90 - 180 days.
 - GOALS AND OUTCOMES
 - Short Term:
 - Stabilize familial relationships
 - Increase youth's confidence and interest in education
 - Highlight existing strengths in family and youth to increase pro-social choices
 - Intermediate:
 - Improve familial relationships
 - Improve academic performance and effort
 - Avoid introduction to juvenile court system
 - Long Term:
 - Sustained positive familial relationships
 - Eliminate police contact and involvement with the court system
 - Completion of high school diploma / GED
3. Presentation by Mr. Jeff McBee, Director, Community Planning & Engagement, regarding the Commission on Aging Annual Report.
- Due to the pandemic, this is the first reduction in seniors served in several years.
 - Due to congregate meals being limited or stopped in 2020, Monroe County's Senior Millage funded senior centers quickly adapted and developed carry-out meal programs that allowed for the continued nutritious meals.
 - The creative use of technology allowed for the necessary continuation of legal assistance, mental health counseling, and senior resource advocacy, among other services that allow Monroe County's older adults to remain in their homes despite facing difficult barriers.
 - An ongoing primary goal of the Commission on Aging is to maintain continuous operations of programs without waitlists.
 - For the first time 20 years, the Commission on Aging Board saw a change at its leadership level in 2020. Cheryl Rivard was selected by the Board to serve as the Chair and long-time Chair, Martin Kaufman, accepted the role of Vice-Chair, providing a strong level of stability.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Approval of the 05/19/2021 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$781,471.30.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, seconded by Commissioner Lemasters to accept the 05/19/2021 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$781,471.30.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 05/07/2021 in the amount of \$914,517.54
 - b. Check Register dated 05/14/2021 in the amount of \$418,941.26

Motion by Commissioner Jondro, seconded by Commissioner Asper to approve the Non-Claim payments as presented for the dates and amounts listed.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

2. The Operations Committee recommends to the Full Board the following from the 05/13/2021 committee meeting:
 - A. Letter dated April 30, 2021 from Mr. Jim Risinger, outlining a 2021 reorganization plan for Monroe County Youth Center. The Reorganization plan includes reclassifying two (2) Group Leader positions and two (2) Juvenile Detention Specialist positions into two (2) to Program Development Leader positions and two (2) Youth Development Specialist positions. No additional appropriation is needed. The cost of the reorganization is included in the Youth Center 2021 budget.
 - B. Letter dated May 10, 2021, from Ms. Aundrea Armstrong, Human Resources Director submitting one (1) updated County policy for consideration and approval.
 - i. Policy #601 replaces policy #417, Equal Employment Opportunity

Commissioner Richardville, Chairman of the Operations Committee, gave a brief overview of the recommended items.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, seconded by Commissioner Jondro to approve the 2021 reorganization plan for Monroe County Youth Center and the updated County policy for consideration and approval based on the recommendation of the Operations Committee.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

Board Action:

1. Letter dated May 7, 2021 from Mr. Michael Roehrig, Prosecuting Attorney requesting approval to apply for a Michigan Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program grant in the amount of \$29,958.46 with a county match of \$2,479. The grant is for a part-time, temporary employee to assist with a coronavirus-related backlog of cases. The match amount will be funded from the Prosecuting Attorney's 2021 budget. The grant application was due on May 14, 2021 and the request is to confirm the grant's submission.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record and Mr. Roehrig answered questions.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, seconded by Commissioners Lievens to accept the communication, place it on file and confirm approval of the grant application of Michigan Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program in the amount of \$29,958.46 with a county match of \$2,479 for fringe benefits not covered by the grant and will be funded from the Prosecuting Attorney's 2021 budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated May 11, 2021 from Chief Deputy David Buchko, Monroe County Sheriff's Office requesting approval to accept an award in the amount of \$14,000 for the FY2021 Marine Slow No Wake Zone Enforcement Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, with no County match.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Jondro, seconded by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to accept an award in the amount of \$14,000 for the FY2021 Marine Slow No Wake Zone Enforcement Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, with no County match.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated May 10, 2021 from Chief Deputy David Buchko, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, requesting approval to submit a grant application to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for funding of Justice Training Grant programs for FY2022 in the amount of \$18,613.19 with a minimum 25% match from the County in the amount of \$4,733.99. The match will be funded from within the Sheriff's Office budget.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, seconded by Commissioner Swartout, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to submit the grant application to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for funding for Justice Training Grant in the amount of \$18,613.19 with a minimum 25% match from the County in the amount of \$4,733.99 with the match funded from within the Sheriff's Office budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated April 12, 2021 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director submitting a Summary of three (3) 2021 Farmland/Open Space reviews/recommendations for application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) in Whiteford Township.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Jondro, seconded by Lievens to accept the communication along with the Summary of Farmland review/recommendation for applications to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for Whiteford Township, place on it file and approve the recommendation.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

5. Letter dated May 12, 2021 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer regarding the Government Finance Officers Association Award of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019.

Chairman Brant commended the Finance staff on the hard work they do each year to earn this award.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, seconded by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication and place the certificate and accompanying documents on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Sharon Lemasters		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout			
George Jondro	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Randy Richardville	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on County Response to COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

Public Health

Ms. Kim Comerzan, Public Health Director gave an overview of the Health Department's role and response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

- Number of positive cases are trending down
- Hospital only has 8 positive patients at this time
- 0-19 year old age group is the highest demographic
- Age 12 and up are approved for vaccinations

Discussion commenced regarding MIOSHA requirements.

Jail & Law Enforcement Operations

Captain Julie Massengill discussed the Sheriff's Office's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Emergency.

- Zero cases of Covid in the staff and jail
- Everything is going well

County Operations

Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer discussed County's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Nothing new to report

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME—

Commissioner Asper—Requested that the Commissioners consider supporting a Resolution to not require vaccination passports.

Commissioner Swartout—I'm receptive to what Commissioner Asper is saying but I really am not sure how we would proceed with a Resolution like that. It's a lot to consider.

Commissioner Jondro—Commented on the 3 presentations and the dedication and passion that each group shows for the County.

Commissioner Lievens—I, too, appreciate the hard work of the Finance Department who consistently receive the GFOA certificate and want to express my appreciation.

Commissioner Lemasters—Pass

Commissioner Moore—I concur with Commissioner Asper that we must protect our citizens' Constitutional rights.

Commissioner Richardville—Echo what Commissioner Jondro said. I'm very impressed with the work that goes on in this County and I'm proud to be a part of this group.

Mr. Bosanac—Thank you for your kind words regarding the Finance Team. The work is really done by Sue Maier and Crystal Comer who make us all look good. The Board is clear on what we need to get done and we appreciate the support. June 1 is the next meeting and we are going to have a Public Hearing on a Bond issue. We will be able to meet in person. We will proceed with having the meeting on June 1 at 6:00 p.m. (Chairman Brant concurred with this). We have the Committee room set up as an overflow if needed.

Commissioner Hoffman—Excused

Chairman Brant—Regarding the vaccine passport issue, I'm hoping that our state and federal legislators will not require the vaccine passport and that the idea will be squelched. Announced that he sets the agenda and he chose not to add said Resolution. However, if three (3) Commissioners want to add something to the agenda they can do so. Call him with those 3 members and it will go on.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.