

The regular board meeting of the Huron County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 commencing at 9:05 a.m. in the 73B District Courtroom, Huron County Building, Bad Axe, Michigan.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Khoury with The Lord's Prayer and Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners present: Chairman Khoury, Todd Talaski, John Bodis, Mike Meissner, Mary Babcock, Steve Vaughan, and Ron Wruble.

AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. A late motion by Commissioner Babcock will be added to the agenda. Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Bodis to approve the agenda as amended. Roll call vote: Ayes – Vaughan, Bodis, Babcock, Meissner, Talaski, Wruble, and Khoury. Nays – None. Motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion** by Talaski, seconded by Meissner to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 10, 2020 and the Regular Board minutes of November 10, 2020. Roll call vote: Ayes – Talaski, Meissner, Bodis, Babcock, Vaughan, Wruble, and Khoury. Nays – None. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A letter from Phyllis Davis, Jehovah's Witness, who is participating in a campaign to deliver an issue of The Watchtower and to answer any questions the Board might have.
- Letters from James M. Childs, Erik Voelker and J. Dean Smith requesting to be elected to the Huron County Road Commission.
- A letter from Richard Langley requesting to be reappointed to the Huron County Veteran's Council.
- A letter from Gary J. Rumptz, We the County Regional Director, in regards to a press release dated November 21, 2020 from Ann Hepfer.
- A letter from Melvin Hessling expressing his concerns with the way the Huron County parks are being managed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit of 3 minutes per person): Dr. Mark Hamed, Huron County Health Department, wished everyone Happy Holidays and hopes everyone stays safe. Dr. Hamed supports our local business but also to stay safe.

9:10 a.m.

Time scheduled for Road Commissioner Candidate Interviews. Candidates interviewed were:

- Kevin L. Roestel
- James M. Childs
- Erik Voelker
- J. Dean Smith
- Michael A. LePage

10:03 a.m.

Recess

10:10 a.m.

Deb Knarian, We the County, is requesting the Board to research the COVID-19 shut downs. The orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has restaurants, bars and other small business in the County closed. Dan Gusa discussed the MCL 333.2461 law on the \$1,000.00 penalty. Steve Allen, Corporation Counsel, explained the procedures the Board of Commissioners can approve or disapprove. The local Health Department has set a schedule of fees. Mr. Allen read through the letter from DHHS and our local Health Department cannot make the decisions. LJ Wade questioned MCL 333.2221 and questioned why can't the County Health Department do restrictions for just our county? The death rate is down compared to the death rate of the common cold. Mr. Allen explained the appeal process. Deb Knarian asked why the Board can't make the laws. Mr. Allen stated it has to come from a legislative committee. Evette Clark said we are allowing the COVID-19 to destroy our economy. How long are we going to allow the tierney of destroying our local's?

11:10 a.m.

Time scheduled for opening bids for Patrol Vehicles (2021 Ford Explorer Utility Interceptor):

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ordus Ford | \$32,800 |
| Signature Auto Group, Owosso | \$33,029 (\$99,087.00 for 3 vehicles) |
| Moore Motors | \$33,768 (\$101,304.00 for 3 vehicles) |

Motion by Vaughan, seconded Bodis to turn bids over to the Properties Committee. Roll call vote: Ayes – Vaughan, Bodis, Wruble, Babcock, Talaski, Meissner, and Khoury. Motion carried.

11:14 a.m.

Board discussion on a new garage for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Vaughan said they are going to incorporate Dispatch, they've included it in the design. Commissioner Vaughan said they are trying to accommodate different departments. Commissioner Talaski said this is a long term for the cost of the building.

CONSENT ACTIONS: Motion by Bodis, seconded by Babcock to approve the resolutions on the Consent Actions. Roll call vote: Ayes – Bodis, Babcock, Vaughan, Meissner, Talaski, Wruble, and Khoury. Motion carried. Resolutions adopted:

CA RESOLUTION BY FINANCE COMMITTEE: #20-105C

WE, the FINANCE COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, there is a need to purchase a new commercial range for the Jail kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Stafford-Smith, Inc. has submitted a quote in the amount of \$5,062 for a 60" 10-burner range (see attached); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sheriff be authorized to purchase a new commercial range for the Jail kitchen in the amount of \$5,062 from Stafford-Smith, Inc., to be taken from line 101-351-980.04.

CA RESOLUTION BY FINANCE COMMITTEE: #20-106C

WE, the FINANCE COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the County Treasurer has repeatedly expressed concerns regarding security and employee safety to this Board; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to remodel the County Treasurer's office to address these concerns; and

WHEREAS, Booms Construction, Inc. has submitted a proposal in the amount of \$35,600 for said remodel (see attached proposal for details); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board authorizes Booms Construction, Inc. to remodel the County Treasurer's office in the amount of \$35,600, to be taken the General Public Improvement Fund 445, line 445-902-932.

CA RESOLUTION BY FINANCE COMMITTEE: #20-107C

WE, the FINANCE COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the Register of Deeds has expressed concerns regarding security and employee safety to this Board; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to remodel the Register of Deeds office to address these concerns; and

WHEREAS, Booms Construction, Inc. has submitted a proposal in the amount of \$40,600 for said remodel (see attached proposal for details); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board authorizes Booms Construction, Inc. to remodel the Register of Deeds office in the amount of \$40,600, to be taken the General Public Improvement Fund 445, line 445-902-932.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-108C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a full time employee to fill the position of District Court Deputy Clerk - Traffic to fill a vacancy due to a promotion; and

WHEREAS, Erica Volmering, a current full time employee in the Circuit Court Juvenile Division, has applied for said position; and

WHEREAS, Judge David B. Herrington has recommended to the Personnel Committee that Erica Volmering be hired to fill said position at Grade 130, Step 5 with a salary of \$35,180. Ms. Volmering will proceed through the salary progression schedule as follows:

- to Grade 130, Step 6 on November 13, 2021*
- to Grade 130, Step 7 on November 13, 2022*
- to Grade 130, Step 8 on November 13, 2023*
- to Grade 130, Step 9 on November 13, 2024; now*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Erica Volmering shall be employed (transferred) effective December 1, 2020 to fill the above referenced position, in accordance with the pay, terms, and conditions of the AFSCME General County Unit II collective bargaining agreement, as negotiated periodically with the Huron County Board of Commissioners and subject to the Huron County Courts Employee Manual.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-109C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a full time employee to fill the position of Corrections Officer in the Huron County Sheriff's Office to fill a vacancy due to a promotion; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Wright, a current part time transport/work crew deputy, has applied for said position in the Huron County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson has recommended to the Personnel Committee that Shawn Wright be hired to fill said position at Grade 150, Step 1 with a salary of \$39,546; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Shawn Wright shall be employed effective November 30, 2020, as a full time employee to fill the above referenced position, in accordance with the pay, terms, and conditions of the POAM Sheriff's Office General Bargaining Unit collective bargaining agreement, as negotiated periodically by the Huron County Board of Commissioners and subject to the Huron County Office of the Sheriff Policy and Procedures book.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-110C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to MIOSHA Emergency Rules, in an effort to combat COVID-19, Huron County shall conduct a daily entry screening for all employees and visitors entering the Huron County Building, including, a questionnaire covering symptoms and suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19, together with a temperature screening; and

WHEREASE there is a need to hire a casual employee to fill the position of screener for the Huron County Building; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Holdwick has applied for said position at the Huron County Building; and

WHEREAS, Jodi M. Essenmacher, Executive Assistant, has recommended to the Personnel Committee that Jenna Holdwick be hired to fill said position at the rate of \$13.88 per hour; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Jenna Holdwick shall be employed effective November 23, 2020 as a casual employee to fill the above referenced position, in accordance with the pay, terms, and conditions of the Huron County Employee Handbook.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-111C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to MIOSHA Emergency Rules, in an effort to combat COVID-19, Huron County shall conduct a daily entry screening for all employees and visitors entering the Huron County Building, including, a questionnaire covering symptoms and suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19, together with a temperature screening; and

WHEREASE there is a need to hire a casual employee to fill the position of screener for the Huron County Building; and

WHEREAS, Brooke Arntz has applied for said position at the Huron County Building; and

WHEREAS, Jodi M. Essenmacher, Executive Assistant, has recommended to the Personnel Committee that Brooke Arntz be hired to fill said position at the rate of \$13.88 per hour; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Brooke Arntz shall be employed effective December 7, 2020 as a casual employee to fill the above referenced position, in accordance with the pay, terms, and conditions of the Huron County Employee Handbook.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-112C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to MIOSHA Emergency Rules, in an effort to combat COVID-19, Huron County shall conduct a daily entry screening for all employees and visitors entering the Huron County Building, including, a questionnaire covering symptoms and suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19, together with a temperature screening; and

WHEREASE there is a need to hire a casual employee to fill the position of screener for the Huron County Building; and

WHEREAS, Kelsey Hill has applied for said position at the Huron County Building; and

WHEREAS, Jodi M. Essenmacher, Executive Assistant, has recommended to the Personnel Committee that Kelsey Hill be hired to fill said position at the rate of \$13.88 per hour; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kelsey Hill shall be employed effective December 28, 2020 as a casual employee to fill the above referenced position, in accordance with the pay, terms, and conditions of the Huron County Employee Handbook.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-113C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2000, this Board adopted Resolution No. 00-173 (attached) establishing the rate of pay for regular part time Dispatcher to be equal to full time wages with corresponding increases without benefits; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2013, wages for full time dispatchers converted to the RSA Wage Study; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2013, this Board adopted Resolution No. 13-15C reaffirming the intent of Resolution No. 00-173; and

WHEREAS, to continue with the intent of Resolutions No. 00-173 and No. 13-15C, the Personnel Committee deems it appropriate to reaffirm Resolutions No. 00-173 and No. 13-15C by placing the regular part time dispatchers at Grade 150 of the Salary Progression Schedule (attached); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners hereby reaffirms the intent of Resolutions No. 00-173 and No. 13-15C by placing regular part time dispatchers at Grade 150 of the attached Salary Progression Schedule, effective August 1, 2019.

CA RESOLUTION BY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: #20-114C

WE, the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a full time employee to fill the position of Electrical Inspector in the Building & Zoning office to fill a vacancy due to a resignation; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Mazure has applied for said position in the Building & Zoning office; and

WHEREAS, Building & Zoning Director Jeff Smith has recommended to the Personnel Committee that Nathan Mazure be hired to fill said position at Grade 150m, Step 1, with a salary of \$44,030; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Nathan Mazure shall be employed effective November 30, 2020, as a full time employee to fill the above referenced position, in accordance with the pay, terms, and conditions of the AFSCME General County Unit I collective bargaining agreement, as negotiated periodically with the Huron County Board of Commissioners.

CA RESOLUTION BY SAFETY COMMITTEE: #20-115C

WE, the SAFETY COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, State Law dictates that the County Board of Commissioners may appoint a deputy county medical examiner; and

WHEREAS, Russell L. Bush, M.D., M.P.H, Chief Medical Examiner, has recommended to the Board of Commissioners that Randy Tashjian, M.D. be appointed as Chief Deputy Medical Examiner in conjunction to the appointment of the Chief Medical Examiner as designated by this Board in Resolution No. 19-154C; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Huron County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Randy Tashjian, M.D. as Huron County Chief Deputy Medical Examiner for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

CA RESOLUTION BY SAFETY COMMITTEE: #20-116C

WE, the SAFETY COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, MCL 46.252, as amended, provides that “. . . in case any ambulance shall transport any such person to any hospital or other place where medical care and treatment can be provided, and the person so injured and transported is financially unable to pay for such transportation, and there are no relatives or other persons liable for the care of such person who can pay for such transportation, the cost of such transportation, when approved by the board of [commissioners], . . . shall be paid from the general fund of the county, in the same manner as other claims which are a liability of the county are paid from the general fund of the county”; and

WHEREAS, the County of Huron has compensated the seven (7) existing ambulance service areas Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month for services rendered for “highway” ambulance during the past year; and

WHEREAS, the Huron County Board of Commissioners wishes to continue ambulance services for the next twelve (12) months; and

WHEREAS, Huron County Board of Commissioners deems it necessary that a record of all highway accident calls be maintained; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Huron enter into a lease agreement with ambulance services from:

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| Central Huron Ambulance service area | Bad Axe |
| Central Huron North service area (formerly Thumb Area) | Port Austin |
| Central Huron South service area (formerly Bingham Township) | Udly |
| Eastern Huron Ambulance service area | Harbor Beach |
| Elkton Ambulance service area | Elkton |
| Scheurer Hospital Ambulance service area | Pigeon |
| Sebewaing Township Ambulance service area | Sebewaing |

This for the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month, providing they supply twenty-four (24) hour service each day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will not assume the payment of any unpaid ambulance service bills, unless the service call involves a pauper, as provided under the statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a record of all highway accident calls be submitted on a quarterly basis on forms provided by the County. This agreement shall be effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. We request the operators to come in and sign the contract and show Proof of Insurance, this at the County Clerk's office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the County Clerk be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the County of Huron.

CA RESOLUTION BY SAFETY COMMITTEE: #20-117C

WE, the SAFETY COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration Emergency Rules, there is a need to establish a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for Huron County; and

WHEREAS, the attached "Huron County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan" follows the model plan provided by Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Huron County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached "Huron County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached policy be effective December 9, 2020 through April 14, 2021 or until the MIOSHA Emergency Rules for Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been lifted, whichever occurs first; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached policy supersedes the previous COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan adopted by the Huron County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Resolution No. 20-42C on May 27, 2020.

CA RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: #20-118C

WE, the Huron County Board of Commissioners, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, Road Commissioner Michael A. Power will be retiring from his post effective December 31, 2020, after 18 years of service; and

WHEREAS, during his career, Mr. Power has worked diligently with officials at the State and County levels; and

*WHEREAS, it is with sincere regret that we accept the retirement of Road Commissioner Michael A. Power;
now*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Huron County Board of Commissioners takes this opportunity to
thank Michael A. Power for his dedication and service to Huron County. The Board of Commissioners wishes you a
long and happy retirement.*

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, MIKE!

NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

ELECTIONS: Chairman Khoury calls for the election of 1 member for a 6-year term to the Huron County Road Commission. . The 5 candidates received votes as indicated:

- Todd Talaski voted for Michael A. LePage
- Michael Meissner voted for Michael A. LePage
- Ron Wruble voted for Michael A. LePage
- John L. Bodis voted for Michael A. LePage
- Sami Khoury voted for Michael A. LePage
- Mary Babcock voted for Michael A. LePage
- Steve Vaughan voted for Kevin L. Roestel

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Khoury appoints the following individual to the Department of Public Works:

- Jerald J. Ignash

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Babcock to approve the Chairman's appointment of Jerald J. Ignash to the Department of Public Works. Roll call vote: Ayes – Vaughan, Babcock, Talaski, Meissner, Bodis, Wruble, and Khoury. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chairman Khoury appoints the following individuals to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Board:

- Michael Anderson (Persian Gulf)
- Richard Langley (Peace Time)

Motion by Bodis, seconded by Talaski to approve the Chairman's appointment of Michael Anderson and Richard Langley to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Board. Roll call vote: Ayes – Bodis, Talaski, Meissner, Babcock, Wruble, Vaughan, and Khoury. Nays – None. Motion carried.

MOTIONS:

Motion by Talaski, seconded by Vaughan to approve the Family Medical Leave request as submitted by Ann Schultz. Roll call vote: Ayes – Talaski, Vaughan, Meissner, Bodis, Babcock, Wruble, and Khoury. Motion carried.

Motion by Talaski, seconded by Bodis to approve the Family Medical Leave request as submitted by Shannon Brown. Roll call vote: Ayes – Talaski, Bodis, Wruble, Vaughan, Meissner, Babcock, and Khoury. Motion carried.

Motion by Talaski, seconded by Bodis to approve the Family Medical Leave request as submitted by Jenifer Peyer. Roll call vote: Ayes – Talaski, Bodis, Babcock, Wruble, Vaughan, Meissner, and Khoury. Motion carried.

Motion by Vaughan, seconded by Meissner to authorize the Chairman to sign the Lease Agreement between Huron County– Friend of the Court and Ubyly Mini Storage. Roll call vote: Ayes – Vaughan, Meissner, Wruble, Bodis, Talaski, Babcock, and Khoury. Motion carried.

Motion by Babcock, seconded by Talaski to authorize the Chairman to send a letter on behalf of the Huron County Board of Commissioners hereby pleading with the Governor of the State of Michigan to lift the restaurant closure orders for the Thumb of Michigan as statistics show that restaurants contribute only 4% of the new cases of COVID-19 outbreaks in our area. Since Huron County is not under a state of emergency, the Huron County Board of Commissioners believes the Public Health Code fines and penalties are detrimental to our economy. Roll call vote: Ayes – Babcock, Talaski, Meissner, Vaughan, Bodis, Wruble, and Khoury. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Meissner attended: Nov. 10 – regular board meeting; Safety Committee meeting; Sherman Township Board meeting. Nov. 11 – Road Commission Board meeting; Bingham Township Board meeting. Nov. 12 – Sherman Township Planning Commission meeting. Nov. 13 – Senior Center meeting. Nov. 16 – Sheridan Township Board meeting. Nov. 18 – Safety Committee meeting. Nov. 30 – Paris Township Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion by Wruble seconded by Bodis to approve monthly bills of December 8, 2020 as submitted. Roll call vote: Ayes – Wruble, Bodis, Meissner, Vaughan, Babcock, Talaski and Khoury. Motion carried.

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|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Health Department | \$75,294.25 |
| Board Bills Approved | 252,001.73 |
| Paid Without Presentation | <u>221,269.78</u> |
| Total | \$548,565.76 |

Motion by Wruble seconded by Bodis to approve monthly bills of December 22, 2020 as submitted. Roll call vote: Ayes – Wruble, Bodis, Meissner, Vaughan, Babcock, Talaski and Khoury. Motion carried.

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|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Health Department | \$129,552.73 |
| Board Bills Approved | 36,622.60 |
| Paid Without Presentation | <u>111,359.06</u> |
| Total | \$277,534.39 |

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit of 3 minutes per person)

- Dr. Mark Hamed, Huron County Health Department, thinks that those who want to open the restaurants need to think twice about it.
- Deb Knarian said we cannot blame anyone for the deaths because the virus causes the deaths.
- Dr. Mark Hamed responded to Ms. Knarian that the Board does a lot of work for everyone.
- Gail Schember thanked Steve Allen, Corporation Counsel, for explaining the laws. Ms. Schember said the Health Department is doing a good job and requested a copy of today's recording of the Board meeting.

FINAL BOARD COMMENT:

- Commissioner Vaughan asked Dr. Hamed is there a list who will receive the vaccine. The information that has been circulating is wrong and that residents will not be taken out of facilities and taken to Walgreens or other such places.

- Commissioner Talaski requested since there are not districts for Road Commissioners what would happen if someone from another part of the County was the only interviewee. Commissioner Talaski would like to see districts formed.
- The Board of Commissioners wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

11:40 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Sami Khoury, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Lori Neal-Wonsowicz
Huron County Clerk