

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on January 12, 2021. The meeting was held virtually over WebEx due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases.

Commissioner Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America by Commissioner Leininger.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
	1	Doug Ingles	
	2	Kathy Schmitt	
	3	Mark Wiley	
	4	Brad Benzing	
	5	Brent Leininger	

**AGENDA:**

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer & Pledge by Commissioner Leininger
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:
  - Review & Correction/Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021
  - 21-001: Payroll, Payables, Transfers – December 2020
  - 21-002: Commissioner Appointment – Board of Public Works – Ingles
  - 21-003: Commissioner Appointment – Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Schmitt
  - 21-004: Commissioner Appointment – Community Action Agency – Benzing
  - 21-005: Commissioner Appointment – Community Action Agency – Leininger
  - 21-006: Commissioner Appointment – FEMA Advisory Council - Leininger
  - 21-007: Commissioner Appointment – Hillsdale County Planning Commission - Ingles
  - 21-008: Commissioner Appointment – Jonesville Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA)
  - 21-009: Commissioner Appointment – Mid-State Health Network SUD Oversight Policy Board
  - 21-010: Commissioner Appointment – Mid-State Health Network Committee (CMH & SUD)
  - 21-011: Commissioner Appointment – Region II Area Agency on Aging
  - 21-012: Commissioner Appointment – Michigan Works! Southeast Consortium – Benzing
  - 21-013: Commissioner Appointment – Michigan Works! Southeast Consortium – Ingles
  - 21-014: Commissioner Appointment – Tri-County Health Department – Leininger
  - 21-015: Commissioner Re-Appointment – Tri-County Health Department - Wiley
  - 21-016: Revolving Fund Lake Level Transfer – Drains
  - 21-017: Probate Family Court (Probate and Juvenile) Legal Services Contract – Rod Dunham
  - 21-018: Probate Family Court (Probate and Juvenile, 3<sup>rd</sup> parent) Legal Services Contract – S. Smith
5. Correspondence: Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order: None
8. Committee Reports:
  - A. HUMAN SERVICES – Brent Leininger
  - B. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – Brad Benzing
  - C. FACILITIES/TECHNOLOGY/ECON DEVELOPMENT – Doug Ingles
    - Discussion: Courthouse Construction Project
  - D. BUDGET – Kathy Schmitt
  - E. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – Mark Wiley
    - Discussion: By-Laws Update (Kathy and Brent)
    - Screeners
    - Policy requiring LifeWays appointees to report to the board
- 21-019: Probate Court Legal Services Contract – Lovinger & Thompson
9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present via WebEx: Ruth Brown, Stephenie Kyser, JP Rudell, Randy Finley, C/Benzing, C/Schmitt, C/Ingles and C/Leininger.

Under Public Comment: Ruth Brown reported that there were technical difficulties with YouTube at the Organizational Meeting, Commissioners will need to amend the Regular Meeting Dates for 2021 as in April the dates were the first and third rather than the second and fourth and the election of the chair by secret ballot.

C/Wiley asked the Board if there were any changes to the Consent Agenda.

C/Leininger requested the removal of the Organizational Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021, the correction of 21-012 on the Agenda to reflect C/Leininger rather than C/Benzing as the Resolution states C/Leininger which is correct and move 21-004 and 21-005 under C/Wiley's committee.

C/Schmitt also requested that Resolution 21-017 be placed under the Chairman to address the wording on the Resolution if it should reflect the correct name of the attorney firm.

C/Leininger moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Second by C/Benzing. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve the Regular Agenda. Second by C/Leininger. Roll Call Vote: C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Leininger commented on items under his committee.

C/Benzing commented on items under his committee.

C/Ingles updated the Board on the status of the Courthouse construction plans. He gave a brief history of the original plans and estimated cost of the renovations. Since then there has been many changes. C/Wiley stated there was additional employees

added to District Court without the knowledge of the Board. With that said, there is no place to put them in the Courthouse. With all of the added changes, the cost has risen to an estimate of more than \$80,000. C/Wiley requested C/Ingles along with Randy Finley, Facilities Director and Judge Lisznyai to get an estimate. Randy along with C/Ingles commented on the current Probate Office being turned into a 3<sup>rd</sup> courtroom by removing a load bearing wall to accomplish it. The cost of this could be very expensive as an engineer will need to be hired and give the Board a cost. Randy also stated that an original fireplace will need to be torn out so the cost of this will vary depending on what will need to be done. C/Leininger stated that it will be a while until the Annex will be closed. C/Ingles stated that Randy doesn't have the staff to accomplish some of the renovations. Randy reminded the Board that his staff has been cut. C/Wiley stated that the Board is counting on the sale of the Annex to help with the Courthouse renovations.

C/Schmitt making rounds and meeting with the department heads and elected officials. She also reported on other items under her committee.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-004: Commissioner Appointment – Community Action Agency – Benzing. Second by C/Leininger.

C/Leininger moved to amend Resolution 21-004 to strike “be appointed” and replace it with “for appointment to the Community Action Agency”. Second by C/Ingles. Roll Call Vote on the amendment: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

Roll Call Vote on the Resolution as amended: C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-005: Commissioner Appointment – Community Action Agency – Leininger. Second by C/Leininger.

C/Leininger moved to amend Resolution 21-005 to strike “be appointed” and replace it with “for appointment to the Community Action Agency”. Second by C/Ingles. Roll Call Vote on the amendment: C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

Roll Call Vote on the Resolution as amended: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-017: Probate Family Court (Probate and Juvenile) Legal Services Contract – Rod Dunham. Second by C/Schmitt.

C/Schmitt moved to amend Resolution 21-017 to reflect the wording on the contract which reads as Roderick Dunham, Dunham & Grassi, P.C. at law. Second by C/Leininger. Roll Call Vote on the amendment: C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

Roll Call Vote on the Resolution as amended: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-019: Probate Court Legal Services Contract – Lovinger & Thompson. Second by C/Schmitt. Roll Call Vote: C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Leininger along with C/Schmitt gave an update on the Rules of Procedure and By-Laws. There was much discussion. C/Leininger and C/Schmitt will be submitting the proposed changes to Board on January 26<sup>th</sup> or February 9<sup>th</sup>.

C/Benzing will be reporting to the Board if the Commissioners can legally compel LifeWays appointees to report to the Board.

C/Wiley gave an overview and update of the cost of the screeners through the end of March 2021, locked buildings and public appointments with the different offices. There was much discussion.

C/Benzing moved to terminate the screeners at the end of January, 2021. Second by C/Ingles. There was some discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – No, C/Wiley – No, C/Benzing – Yes. Vote: 3 – Yes, 2 – No. CARRIED

C/Ingles moved to open up the County Buildings at 8:00 a.m. on January 19, 2021. Offices will open up at 8:30 a.m. with normal business hours and proper signage on all entrance doors. Second by C/Leininger. There was much discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – No, C/Wiley – No, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes. Vote: 3 – Yes, 2 – No. CARRIED

C/Leininger moved to allow elected and department heads to keep their office locked and to restrict the number of customers in their office at a time for the safety and security reasons of the county staff through March 31, 2021. The Board will review prior to that date at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Second by C/Schmitt. There was some discussion. Roll Call vote: C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

C/Wiley requested that when emails are sent out regarding an item to be discussed at the board meeting to also add Marney Kast and Jody Stott to the email. If it is referenced at the board meeting, they will need a copy in case the public would like to review it.

C/Wiley advised the Board that C/Schmitt, C/Leininger and Derek Ringman will be conducting a wage study for the elected and department heads along with their deputies to be presented to the Board at the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The wages will need to be approved by November 1<sup>st</sup> and would take effect in 2022.

C/Wiley stated that under the current orders, the board meetings can be in person with no more than 10. He suggested that the meetings remain virtual through WebEx until the restrictions are lifted. David Holcomb, IT Director can also give instructions on joining through WebEx. This will allow the public to meet in person and address any issues.

C/Leininger moved to correct the approved meeting dates of the Board of Commissioners. The corrected dates should be April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup> rather than April 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Second by C/Schmitt. Roll Call Vote: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. CARRIED

There was no Public Comment.

C/Leininger along with the Board of Commissioners and the employees of the county would like to express their condolences to the Word family on the loss of William “Bill” Word who was the Drain Commissioner for the County of Hillsdale for many years.

11:50 a.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.

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Mark E. Wiley, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Marney M. Kast, County Clerk  
County Clerk