

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on January 26, 2021 at the Board of Commissioners Room, 33 McCollum Street, Suite 210, Hillsdale, Michigan.

Join meeting by video go to www.WebEx.com Meeting ID 179 949 1487, Passcode 4952860 or by phone at 414-397-1516 and use the meeting ID above.

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 Benzing.

<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 Benzing
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda:

Review & Correction/Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021
Review & Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2021

5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:

9:10 a.m. Matt Shane, MSUE District 12 Coordinator – Annual Report & Agreement for Extension Services

8. Committee Reports:

- A. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**
- B. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**
21-020: Transfer of Funds to Continue Courthouse Renovation Updates
- C. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**
21-021: Amending 2021 Drain Commission Deputy Budget
- D. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**
21-022: Agreement for Extension Services – MSUE
Continued Discussion By-Laws
- E. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**

9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present: Bob Eichler, Chris Myers, Mary Wallen, Justin Wallen, Lori Boyd, Karen Winchell and Matt Shane.
Under Public Comment, Bob Eichler passed out two FOIA Requests and commented on the appointment of the Sheriff prior to the General Election.

Lori Boyd spoke regarding the Public Health Crisis and how do we start over.

Karen Winchell, Drain Commission employee, spoke in favor of keeping screeners at the County Office Building to protect her as an employee.

9:09 a.m. Renea Shircliff entered.

Rena Shircliff, Veteran's Affairs Director, spoke in favor of keeping the screeners at the County Office Building to protect her as an employee.

9:10 a.m. Ms. Winchell and Ms. Shircliff exited.

C/Leininger moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Ingles asked to move Resolution 21-020 from his report to the Budget Committee Report.

C/Ingles moved to approve the Agenda with the one change. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

9:13 a.m. Matt Shane, MSUE District 12 Coordinator, reviewed his Annual Report with the Board.

Bob Eichler exited and re-entered several times throughout the meeting.

9:30 a.m. Kari Blouin entered.

9:31 a.m. Mr. Shane finished with his presentation.

C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 20-022: Authorizing the Chair to sign the MSU extension Agreement for Extension Services for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:32 a.m. Stephenie Kyser entered.

C/Benzing gave an update on items under his committee.

9:53 a.m. A gentleman from the public entered.

C/Ingles gave an update on items under his committee. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the number of employees in the Facilities Department.

10:04 a.m. Gary Leininger entered.

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-020: Transferring \$10,000.00 from the Improvement Fund to the Courthouse Construction Fund. Second by C/Ingles. C/Leininger would like to see more information before he would agree to more money. There was a very lengthy discussion regarding this Resolution. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – No. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

10:18 a.m. Ms. Wallen exited.

10:21 a.m. Ms. Wallen re-entered and Mr. Wallen exited.

10:23 a.m. Mr. Wallen re-entered.

10:25 a.m. Mr. Leininger exited.

10:28 a.m. Mr. Leininger re-entered.

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-021: Transfer of funds from a General Fund Holding Account to the 2021 Approved General Fund Budget for the Deputy Drain Commissioner position. Second by C/Benzing. There was much discussion regarding why this money was put into a holding account. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

There was a lengthy discussion as to why Elected and Appointed have to receive permission to replace budgeted employees if they should leave employment. C/Leininger stated that there are two previous Resolutions that need to be updated. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

10:45 a.m. Ms. Boyd exited.

10:47 a.m. Mr. Shane exited.

C/Leininger gave an update on items under his committee. There was also more discussion regarding the By-Laws.

C/Wiley gave an update on several items of interest. There was more discussion regarding the screeners and what to do if the doors remain locked.

C/Ingles moved to continue with the screeners at the courthouse only until the county reaches a 10% positivity rate. Second by C/Schmitt. There was a very lengthy discussion on this issue. C/Ingles withdrew his motion.

Under Public Comment, Stephenie Kyser, Hillsdale County Treasurer, gave an update on the tax foreclosure notices.

Gary Leininger, Hillsdale County Road Commissioner, presented the Board with the 2020 and 2021 Parks Budget for their review.

Mary Wallen read a letter entitled "We the People" written by Justin Wallen.

Kari Blouin stated that she is not and has not been in a pandemic. She felt bullied when she came to attend this meeting.

Bob Eichler commented on the 4th Amendment, what a great job Randy Finley is doing, the jail and FOIA requests.

12:08 p.m. Ms. Wallen, Mr. Wallen, Mr. Myers, Ms. Blouin and Mr. Eichler exited.

Under Additional Business, C/Benzing commented about grant funding for speed monitoring equipment and other safety items.

C/Schmitt expressed strong concern as to whether or not we should be meeting in person and that our attorney states that we are in violation for meeting in person. She is asking for clear direction regarding this issue.

12:22 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.

Mark E. Wiley, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Marney M. Kast,
County Clerk