

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on March 23, 2021 at the Board of Commissioners Room, 33 McCollum Street, Suite 210, Hillsdale, Michigan.

Join meeting by video go to [www.WebEx.com](http://www.WebEx.com) Meeting ID 129 554 4653, Passcode 5596842 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 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2021
5. Correspondence – Listed
6. Regular Agenda
7. Standing Order:
  - 9:10 a.m. Dr. Bader Cassin, Medical Examiner, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties – Informational and Medical Examiner Report
  - 9:30 a.m. Doug Sanford, Director 911/Emergency Management – Approval to Hire Replacement Dispatcher – Surcharge Recommendation from ETSB
8. Committee Reports:
  - A. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**
    - 21-036: Approval of Operational Telephone Surcharge E-911
  - B. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**
    - Road Commission, Parks Commission, Michigan Works SE, City of Hillsdale, Courthouse
  - C. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**
  - D. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**
    - 21-035: Resolution Regarding COVID-19
  - E. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**
    - 21-037: Commissioner Re-appointment to Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility
    - 21-038: Commissioner Re-appointment to LifeWays
9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment
  - Present: Jim Graves, Chris Myers, Judge Lisznyai, Dr. Cassin, Doug Sanford, Laura Rahe, Roy Bodinus, Bob Eichler, Lori Boyd, Megan Stiverson, Sheriff Hodshire and Tim Dixon.
  - Present via WebEx: JP Rudell, John Lovinger and Karlye Horton.
  - Under Public Comment, Bob Eichler handed out a copy of his Motion to Dismiss his case in District Court and a thumb drive with his phone recording of the incident. C/Wiley cautioned him that if this was pending litigation he may not want to produce this information. Mr. Eichler showed all who were present his Order of Dismissal. He then handed out a FOIA request.
  - 9:09 a.m. Judge Bianchi entered.
  - Lori Boyd commented on the Resolution that will be presented today regarding Covid and stated that she did not feel that DHHS should be involved.
  - 9:13 a.m. Ms. Boyd exited.
  - C/Leininger moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
  - C/Leininger moved to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of a staffing update from Matt Shane via phone after Doug Sanford's report. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
  - 9:12 a.m. Dr. Bader Cassin, Lenawee and Hillsdale County Medical Examiner, reviewed his 2020 Annual Report with the Board.
  - 9:21 a.m. Mary Wallen entered.
  - Bob Eichler exited and re-entered several times during the meeting.
  - 9:58 a.m. Dr. Cassin finished with his report and exited.
  - 9:58 a.m. Doug Sanford, E-911/Emergency Management Director, updated the Board on the pole building for Emergency Management and requested that he be able to replace a dispatcher for E-911 due to a resignation.
  - Mr. Sanford then addressed the Board regarding the E-911 Surcharge. The Emergency Telephone Service Board is requesting the surcharge remain the same as last year at \$2.60 per device.
  - C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 21-036: Setting the Operational Telephone Surcharge for Enhanced 911 services in Hillsdale County at \$2.60 per month on all devices capable of utilizing 9-1-1 services effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED
  - 10:14 a.m. Mr. Sanford finished.
  - 10:16 a.m. Matt Shane, Michigan State University Extension District 12 Coordinator, addressed the Board via phone regarding the need to replace Kim Jackson who is going to be working full time for the Equalization office.

C/Leininger moved to allow Mr. Shane to fill the open position. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

Mr. Shane then gave an update on the 4H program and the Ag program for Hillsdale County.

10:27 a.m. Mr. Shane finished and hung up.

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

10:39 a.m. Doug Sanford exited.

C/Ingles invited the Judges that were present to address the Board regarding the Courthouse Renovations.

Judge Sara Lisznyai, Circuit Court Judge and Chief Judge, reviewed the history of what had been discussed in regards to where and how the Courtrooms were going to be situated, specifically the Probate Court Room.

Along with Judge Lisznyai the following people spoke regarding the need to make the current Probate Court Office into a Courtroom per the 2018 diagram: Judge Michelle Bianchi, Judge Megan Stiverson, Juvenile Referee Tim Dixon, District Court Administrator Laura Rahe, Attorney John Lovinger, Attorney Karlye Horton, Friend of the Court JP Rudell and Sheriff Hodshire. There was much discussion.

11:20 a.m. Derek Ringman entered.

C/Ingles moved to acquire three quotes from architectural firms to the feasibility and costs of removing the load bearing wall and structural changes to the current Probate Court Office. Second by C/Wiley. Roll Call Vote: C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

11:49 a.m. Sheriff Hodshire exited.

11:52 a.m. Mr. Dixon, Judge Lisznyai, Judge Bianchi, Judge Stiverson and Laura Rahe exited.

C/Schmitt asked Mr. Ringman to review the February 2021 Expenditures.

Mr. Ringman reviewed the February 2021 Expenditures with the Board. He stated that next month he will have the Special Revenues as well.

C/Schmitt gave an update on items under her committee. There was discussion regarding the continuation of virtual meetings. Currently virtual meetings will be ending on March 31, 2021. C/Wiley stated that this Board could call a State of Emergency which would allow all entities to continue with virtual or hybrid meetings. There was a lengthy discussion.

C/Schmitt moved to declare a Local State of Emergency for thirty days beginning April 1, 2021 in order to allow local entities to continue having virtual or hybrid meetings. Second by C/Wiley. Roll Call Vote: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – No, C/Leininger – No, C/Ingles – No, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 2-Yes, 3-No. FAILED

C/Ingles moved to approve Resolution 21-035: Supporting the Hillsdale County Sheriff and the Hillsdale County Prosecuting Attorney in not enforcing or prosecuting unconstitutional mandates pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, not supporting any expenditure of county funds for the purpose of arresting or prosecuting any person accused of violating MDHHS emergency orders regarding COVID-19, requesting that the Director of MDHHS to implement a new regional approach to mitigation and sets clear benchmarks for easing of restrictions on businesses for the public to follow and to send copies of the Resolution to Governor Whitmer, all members of Congress of the State of Michigan, all Michigan Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Township Association and Elizabeth Hertel, Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

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

12:41 p.m. Lance Lashaway entered.

12:42 p.m. Chris Myers and Mary Wallen exited.

12:44 p.m. Penny Swan entered.

C/Wiley moved to approved Resolution 21-037: Re-appointment of Mark Wiley to the Department of Health and Human Services/Medical Care Facility Board. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-038: The re-appointment of Mark Wiley to the LifeWays Board. Second by C/Schmitt. There was much discussion on whether this appointment should be someone from the Human Services Committee. Roll Call Vote: C/Benzing – No, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – No, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No. CARRIED

C/Wiley updated the Board on items of interest.

Under Public Comment Roy Bodinus commented on the Courthouse renovations.

Lance Lashaway thanked the Board for not doing a Local State of Emergency.

Penny Swan thanked the Board for doing the COVID-19 Resolution.

Jim Graves commented regarding the Courthouse Renovations.

Bob Eichler commented on several things and urged the commissioners to watch the video that he handed out earlier.

Under Additional Business C/Benzing noted that it was just a few minutes after 1:00 p.m.

C/Benzing moved to have the Board receive pay for half day instead of a whole day. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

1:03 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.