

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on August 24, 2021 at the Board of Commissioners Room, 33 McCollum Street, Suite 210, Hillsdale, Michigan.

Commissioner Benzing 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 August 10, 2021  
21-087: Amend FY21 Public Defender Legal Services Contract Appointment

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

9:10 a.m. Julie Wetherby, Executive Director – Region 2 Area Agency on Aging  
9:30 a.m. Shannan Clevenger, Chief Operations Officer, LifeWays – Quarterly Report  
9:45 a.m. Ryan Griffiths, Griffiths Mechanical – Discuss Outstanding Change Orders

8. Committee Reports:

- A. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**  
Discussion: Litchfield DDA
- B. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**
- C. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**
- D. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**
- E. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**

9. Public Comment
10. Additional Business
11. Adjournment

Present: JP Rudell, Liese Szarafinski, Jill Barrett, Pam Heckel, Laura Rahe and Shannan Clevenger.  
Present via ZOOM: Julie Wetherby, Nichole Baker and Michael Crafts.

Under Public Comment, Michael Crafts introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Crafts is the new MSUE Educator. He gave a brief background on himself.

C/Leininger moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by C/Ingles. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. **CARRIED**

C/Leininger moved to approve the Regular Agenda as amended to move C/Ingles's report to the first item under Committee Reports. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent. **CARRIED**

9:06 a.m. Julie Wetherby, Executive Director of Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, reviewed her Annual Report with the Board.

9:20 a.m. Ms. Wetherby finished.

Shannon Clevenger, Chief Operations Officer of LifeWays, presented the Board with the LifeWays Quarterly Report.

9:24 a.m. Randy Finley entered.

9:25 a.m. Ryan Griffiths entered.

9:30 a.m. Ms. Clevenger finished and exited.

9:33 a.m. C/Wiley entered.

Ryan Griffiths from Griffiths Mechanical addressed the Board regarding unpaid Change Orders in regards to the new Courthouse HVAC System. There was a very lengthy discussion.

9:42 a.m. Ms. Barrett exited.

9:44 a.m. Ms. Barrett re-entered.

9:50 a.m. Mr. Rudell exited.

9:53 a.m. Doug Terry entered.

C/Benzing moved to authorize a payment of \$24,067.00 which is over the contracted amount of \$662,000 to Griffiths Mechanical. Second by C/Leininger. Vote 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

10:23 a.m. Mr. Griffiths finished and exited along with Mr. Finley and C/Benzing.

C/Ingles gave an update on items under his committee which included an update on the Farmer's Market by Liesa Szarafinski and Pam Heckel.

10:26 a.m. C/Benzing re-entered.

10:28 a.m. Ms. Szarafinski and Ms. Heckel finished and exited. Derek Ringman entered.

C/Schmitt gave an update on what she found out about Litchfield asking the county to support them in the re-write of their DDA to include a TIFA. There was much discussion and comments were made by Mr. Terry and Ms. Barrett.

10:30 a.m. C/Ingles and C/Leininger exited.

10:31 a.m. C/Leininger re-entered.

10:32 a.m. C/Ingles re-entered.

C/Ingles moved to "opt in". Second by C/Schmitt. Roll Call Vote: C/Leininger – No, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – No. Vote: 3-Yes, 2-No. CARRIED

10:44 a.m. Mr. Terry and Ms. Barrett exited.

Derek Ringman reviewed the July expenditures with the Board. There was also discussion regarding employees that get COVID and those who are exposed to COVID. It was determined that if you test positive for COVID you will not lose any wages or need to use sick or vacation time. The Personnel Committee will be creating a policy which will address this issue along with what will be done if an employee has direct exposure and must quarantine.

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

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

11:32 a.m. Bruce Caswell entered.

C/Wiley informed the Board that the Governor has declared a State of Emergency for Branch, Hillside and St. Joseph Counties due to the recent wind storm.

C/Wiley updated the Board on several items of interest.

Under Public Comment, Bruce Caswell thanked C/Leininger for helping a Pittsford business owner get insurance for their business. He also stated that there has not been any response back from the State regarding the Recreation Plan and he encouraged the Board to not keep the Annex building and to use ARPA money to ensure that High Speed Internet be available to the entire county.

11:49 a.m. Mr. Caswell exited.

11:49 a.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.

---

Mark E. Wiley, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

---

Marney M. Kast,  
County Clerk