

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on December 28, 2021 at the Board of Commissioners Room, 33 McCollum Street, Suite 210, Hillsdale, Michigan.

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 Schmitt.

<b><u>ROLL CALL:</u></b>	<b><u>DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT:</u></b>
	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 Schmitt

3. Public Comment

4. Consent Agenda:

Review & Correction/Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2021

21-132: Re-Appt. – Building & Electrical Inspector's Board of Appeals – Bldg./Plumbing/Mechanical/Design -  
Burke

21-133: Appt. to Fill Vacancy – Building & Electrical Inspector's Board of Appeals – Bldg./Mechanical -  
Hodge

21-134: Re-Appt. – Building & Electrical Inspector's Board of Appeals – Building – Clendening

21-135: Appt. – Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – Commissioner Ingles

21-136: Appt. – Community Action Agency – Commissioner Benzing

21-137: Appt. – Emergency Telephone Services Board – Citizen-At-Large – Schaerer

21-138: Appt. – Hillsdale County Planning Commission – Township Representative – McLain

21-139: Appt. – Mid-State Health Network SUD Oversight Policy Board – Caswell

21-140: Appt. – Michigan Works! Southeast Consortium – Commissioner Ingles

21-141: Appt. – Michigan Works! Consortium – Commissioner Leininger

21-142: Appt. – Veterans Affairs Board – Rathbun

21-143: Authorize Chair to Sign Probate & Juvenile Legal Services Contract – Smith

21-144: Authorize Chair to Sign Juvenile Legal Services Contract – Doxtader

21-145: Amend 21-127 – Payment to Griffiths Mechanical – Correct Acct. Number

21-147: Amend 21-123 – Authorize Payroll Deduction Sheriff's Office – New Company

5. Correspondence – Listed

6. Regular Agenda

7. Standing Order:

9:10 a.m. Matt Shane, District 12 Director, MSU Extension – Annual Report and Agreement for  
Extension Services

9:30 a.m. Nicole Acker, District Court Safety

8. Committee Reports:

**A. BUDGET – KATHY SCHMITT**

21-150: Transfer of Tax Revolving Funds to General Fund

21-151: Deposit and Investment of County Funds for 2022

21-152: Amending Revenue and Expenditure GF 2021

21-153: Amendment of 2021 Special Revenue Fund Budgets

21-154: Appropriation of Money from General, Special Revenue, Debt Retirement, Capital  
Improvement and Enterprise Funds 2022

21-155: Appointment of Hillsdale County Chief Administrative Officer

21-156: Internal Administration of Health Insurance Plan for County of Hillsdale Employees

**B. HUMAN SERVICES – BRENT LEININGER**

21-148: Approval – Agreement for MSU Extension Services

21-131: Authorize Chair to Sign LifeWays Document Opposing SB 597 and 598 (Tabled Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>)

21-157: BHSJ Health Department Appropriation

**C. PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIARY – BRAD BENZING**

21-149: Appoint Director of Hillsdale County Central Dispatch

**D. FACILITIES/TECH/ECON DEVELOPMENT – DOUG INGLES**

**E. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/MANAGEMENT & PERSONNEL – MARK WILEY**

21-158: Elimination Longevity Pay and Adjusting Pay Schedule

9. Public Comment

10. Additional Business

11. Adjournment

Present: Matt Shane, Maribeth Leonard, Tracy Peter, Doug Sanford, Nicole Acker, Dale Acker, Thomas Whitaker, Tommy Smith, Stephenie Kyser and Laura Rahe.

Under Public Comment, Stephenie Kyser informed the Board that there are two employees that have Unreimbursed Medical (URM) thru AFLAC. She stated that this services cost \$50.00 per month and she would like the Board to look into this. She feels that it costs more than it is worth. She also informed the Board that she will be remaining closed on Tuesday's and Thursday's thru the month of January.

C/Leininger moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Resolutions 21-136, 21-143, 21-144 and 21-145 and place them under the Chairperson's report and the addition of Resolution 21-159. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve the Regular Agenda. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:08 a.m. Matt Shane, MSUE, reviewed his Annual Report with the Board.

9:25 a.m. Mr. Shane finished.

C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 21-148: Authorizing the Chair to sign the MSU Extension Agreement for Extension Services for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

9:26 a.m. Nichole Acker, District Court, Court Reporter addressed the Board regarding safety issues in the District Court. She referenced an incident that had a person being sentenced and was present in the Courtroom. This person was extremely upset over their sentencing and began throwing chairs and swinging their arms. A deputy was injured and another defendant was taken to the hospital due to having a panic attack. Ms. Acker requested that the Board seriously look into security measures for the District Court.

Laura Rahe, District Court Administrator, echoed Ms. Ackers concerns.

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-150: Transfer of \$465,000.00 of accumulated funds in various Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds to the General Fund. Second by C/Leininger. Roll Call Vote: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-151: Resolution providing for the deposit and investment of county funds for 2022 and authorizing the County Treasurer or designated deputies, with the advice of the Budget Committee, to invest public monies for the good of Hillsdale County. Second by C/Leininger. Roll Call Vote: C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

9:34 a.m. Derek Ringman entered.

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-152: Amending the Revenue and Expenditure sides of the 2021 General Fund Budget. Second by C/Leininger. Roll Call Vote: C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – Yes. Vote: 5-Yes, 0-No. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-153: Amending the 2021 Special Revenue Fund Budgets. Second by C/Leininger. 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 Resolution 21-154: Appropriation of such amounts needed from the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Retirement Funds, Capitol Improvement Funds and Enterprises Funds to pay claims against Hillsdale County for fiscal year 2022. 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/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-155: Appointment of Derek Ringman, Finance Manager as the Hillsdale County Chief Fiscal Officer effective January 1, 2022. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to approve Resolution 21-156: Appointing Derek Ringman, Finance Manager as the internal administrator for the County of Hillsdale's Health Plans with a stipend of \$2,000.00. This will continue until changed by the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners. Second by C/Leininger. There was much discussion. Roll Call Vote: C/Wiley – Yes, C/Benzing – No, C/Leininger – Yes, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No. CARRIED

C/Schmitt gave an update on items under her committee.

C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 21-157: Payment to the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Health Department in the amount of \$235,592.90 paid in equal quarterly payments commencing January 2022. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Leininger moved to remove Resolution 21-131 from the Table. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Leininger moved to approve Resolution 21-131: Authorizing the Chair to sign the LifeWays attachment opposing Senate Bills 597 and 598 regarding privatization of mental health services. Second by C/Wiley. There was much discussion. C/Leininger moved to refer this Resolution to the Human Services Committee to be brought back to the January 11, 2022 meeting. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

10:06 a.m. Ms. Leonard exited.

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

C/Benzing asked Doug Sanford, 911 Director to introduce Mr. Whitaker who will be replacing Mr. Sanford who is retiring.

Mr. Thomas Whitaker gave background information on himself.

C/Benzing moved to approve Resolution 21-149: Appointment of Thomas Whitaker as Director of Hillsdale County Central Dispatch. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

10:18 a.m. Mr. Shane exited.

Mr. Whitaker introduced his Tommy Smith who will be his Deputy Director.

There was some discussion regarding the appointment of an Emergency Management Director.

C/Benzing moved to appoint Mr. Whitaker as the interim Emergency Management Director for one year at a salary approved in the 2022 General Fund Budget. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

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

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

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-158: Eliminating longevity county wide and that the current Professional/Managerial pay schedule and the Non-Union/Para-professional pay scale be increased by \$0.32 per

hour at each step and applying the same to the five individuals that are not on one of these schedules. Second by C/Schmitt. There was a very long discussion and comments were allowed by Ms. Zimmerman, SEIU Union Stewart. Roll Call Vote: C/Benzing – Yes, C/Leininger – No, C/Ingles – Yes, C/Schmitt – Yes, C/Wiley – Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 1-No.

CARRIED

10:41 a.m. Tommy Smith exited.

10:47 a.m. Leaann Zimmerman entered during the discussion of Resolution 21-158.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-136: Appointment of Brad Benzing to the Community Action Agency. Second by C/Leininger. There was some discussion and it was discovered that the Board of Commissioners no longer appoints to this Board. The Resolution was withdrawn by the presenter and the second.

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-143: Authorizing the Chair to sign a one year Probate and Juvenile Court Legal Services Contract between the County of Hillsdale and Scott Smith. Second by C/Leininger. C/Leininger questioned why the Probate Judge can terminate the contract and why only this contract required the Probate Judge's signature. There was some discussion. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-144: Authorizing the Chair to sign a one year Juvenile Court Legal Services Contract between the County of Hillsdale and Rachel Doxtader. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley moved to approve Resolution 21-145: Authorizing the Chair to sign a one year Probate and Juvenile Court Legal Services Contract between the County of Hillsdale and Alice Nickerson. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Schmitt moved to hire Nikki Colby as a full time employee at the 2022 budgeted amount. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous. CARRIED

C/Wiley gave an update from the Medical Care Facility.

Under Public Comment, Doug Sanford, E-911 Director, informed the Board that Mr. Whitaker will be starting on January 1, 2022.

11:30 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