

**MECOSTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MAY 18, 2023**

**CP 3-1**

**UNAPPROVED**

Chair Jerrilynn Strong called the afternoon session of the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners to order at 3:00 P.M. with access to the public via Zoom. All those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Commissioners present on roll call: Jerrilynn Strong, Randy Vetter, Linda Howard, Ray Steinke, Tom O'Neil, Chris Jane and William Routley.

Others present: Paul Bullock, County Administrator, Mindy Taylor, Finance Officer and Marcee Purcell, Mecosta County Clerk.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS:**

R. Steinke moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of New Business 6.4 – Amendment to Agreement between Mecosta County and the Animal Rescue Coalition (“ARC”). R. Vetter seconded; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

L. Howard moved to approve the May 4, 2023 Board Minutes as presented. R. Vetter seconded; motion carried.

**PUBLIC MATTERS & COMMENTS:**

Dawn Baker – Colfax Township resident and board member – appeared before the Board to share information re: Gotion Plant project surveys; a handout was provided to Board Members.

Ormand Hook – Big Rapids Township resident – appeared before the Board and advised individuals that were in support of the Gotion project and are now facing recall petitions; asking to support the citizens of our county against the bureaucrats; requesting to support the voters.

Kimberly Harring – Barton Township resident – appeared before the Board re: statements made by Chuck Thelen/Gotion; referenced an article from the Wall Street Journal.

Deb Magnussen – Green Township resident – requesting the Board consider further questions from her re: Gotion project; requesting they please think the questions through carefully; a handout was provided to the Board Members.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**5.1 FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ASSOCIATION SERVICES AGREEMENT**

R. Steinke moved to approve and authorized the Chair to sign the Mecosta County Firefighters Training Association Services Agreement. C. Jane seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **6.1 PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #23-005**

W. Routley moved to adopt proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment #23-005, amending the Zoning Ordinance Map from R-3 (One and Two Family Residential) to AG (Agricultural) per petition #PPC23-013. L. Howard seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

### **6.2 DRAIN COMMISSION REQUEST FOR FULL FAITH & CREDIT – PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2023-10**

R. Vetter moved to adopt and place on file Mecosta County Resolution #2023-10 – Resolution pledging Limited Tax Full Faith and Credit for the Tonkin Drain Drainage District, Drainage District Note, Series 2023 (General Obligation Limited Tax). R. Steinke seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

## **SCHEDULED APPEARANCE:**

Paul Griffith – Vice Chair for Friends of the White Pine Trail – appeared before the Board and spoke regarding the White Pine Trail Heritage Trail Project, which is in its final stages to complete the longest paved trail in the state. A celebration will be planned in North End Park next summer to commemorate the trail's completion. Paul offered business cards to Board members for questions.

Kendrick Heinlein – CEO of AAAWM – appeared before the Board and presented highlights from the 2022 Annual Report. Kendrick noted that Bill serves as Board Chair for AAAWM and Jerri serves on the Advisory Board – Mecosta County is well represented at the Agency.

### **6.3 MECOSTA COUNTY RESOLUTION #2023-11 HONORING THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

L. Howard moved to adopt and place on file Mecosta County Resolution #2023-11 – Honoring the Michigan Association of Counties 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. C. Jane seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

### **6.4 ANIMAL RESCUE COALITION – AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT**

R. Steinke moved to approve an Amendment to the Agreement between Mecosta County and the Animal Rescue Coalition (“ARC”) effective May 18, 2023. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **Co-Employment Proposal/Dist. Court – Judge Jaklevic**

R. Steinke moved that the Board respectfully decline the co-employment proposal from Judge Jaklevic, re: the Community Corrections Director, as the current system is working efficiently. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**Contract Request/Prosecutor – Prosecutor Peterson**

R. Steinke moved to approve the request from Prosecutor Peterson for a casual part-time Special Prosecutor, 15 hours per week at \$140/hr, to assist the office while they are down 2 attorneys. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**2024 Budget Timeline – Finance Officer**

R. Steinke moved to approve the proposed 2024 Budget Timeline. C. Jane seconded; motion carried.

**FY 24 Veterans Service Grant Application – Finance Officer**

R. Steinke moved to approve the FY 24 Veterans Service Fund Grant Application for submission. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

**Housing Rehab Voucher – Linda Miller/BRHC**

R. Steinke moved to approve a Housing Rehab voucher in the amount of \$1,144 for the recently approved well replacement in conjunction with the USDA RD program. C. Jane seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**Audited Fund Balance Adjustments – Finance Officer**

R. Steinke moved to approve the Finance Officer's request to amend the 2023 budgeted 2022 year-end fund balances to the audited amounts. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

**Maintenance Request – Bob Cassidy**

R. Steinke moved to approve Mr. Cassidy's request to convert 2 – half-time regular part-time custodial positions for the County Building to one full-time and fill it. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

**Listed Bills:**

R. Steinke moved to pay the pre-approved vouchers in the amount of \$2,539,249.73 and approve and pay non-approved vouchers in the amount of \$122,344.84. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**Other:**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

L. Howard reported attending Morton Township Board Meeting, Tri Lakes Board Meeting, Executive Committee/Central Michigan Community Mental Health, Sheriff Dept. Employee Lunch and today's Commission Meeting.

C. Jane reported attending today's Commission Meeting.

R. Vetter reported attending Building & Zoning Committee, Sheriff Dept. Employee Lunch and today's Commission Meeting.

T. O'Neil reported attending District 10 Health Meeting, Finance Committee, Building & Zoning Committee, EMS Committee and today's Commission Meeting.



**Building & Zoning:**

T. O'Neil moved to approve Ms. Cole's request to proceed with the abatement paperwork with the Court in re: to property located at 4074 170<sup>th</sup> Ave., Morley. R. Vetter seconded; roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

T. O'Neil moved to approve Ms. Cole's request to issue a Release of Lien to the property owner at 11 Millbrook. R. Vetter seconded; motion carried.

W. Routley reported attending Planning & Zoning Committee, Finance Committee, COA Meeting, City/County/Ferris Meeting and today's Commission Meeting.

R. Steinke reported attending Hinton Township Meeting, Central Dispatch Meeting, Aetna Township Meeting, Deerfield Township Meeting, Brady Lake Committee, Finance Committee, MOTA Meeting, EMS Committee, Building & Zoning Committee and today's Commission Meeting.

**EMS:**

R. Steinke moved to approve the April 2023 write-offs of \$114,897.66, non-contractual write-offs of \$1,259.62 and collections write-offs of \$19,323.83. C. Jane seconded; motion carried.

J. Strong reported attending Sheridan Township Meeting, Supervisor/Commissioner Meeting, Fork Township Meeting, Road Commission Meeting, Finance Committee, Parks Meeting, Martiny Township Meeting, EMS Committee, COA Meeting and today's Commission Meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

P. Bullock reported on the following:

- Requesting concurrence with the Jail Administrator to fill a pending Corrections Officer vacancy. R. Steinke so moved. R. Vetter seconded; motion carried.
- The Drain Commissioner is conducting a Drain Tour 9:30 Monday morning, leaving from Services Building.

**PUBLIC MATTERS & COMMENTS:**

Debra Dygert – Mecosta Township resident - appeared before the Board with comments re: Gotion being big industry that does not belong here; people come here for Pure Michigan. Questions why public comment is not completely as stated in minutes.

P. Bullock responded that if the public would like their full comments to be placed in the Commission packet, they can supply them to the County Clerk.

W. Routley left the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

**MISCELLANEOUS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS, MINUTES & REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS:**

C. Jane moved to accept and place on file Minutes & Reports #1-2 and Resolutions #1-2.

R. Steinke seconded; motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

J. Strong adjourned to the next regular scheduled meeting or call of the Chair at 4:15 P.M.



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Marcee M. Purcell, Mecosta County Clerk and  
Clerk for the Board of Commissioners

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Jerrilynn Strong, Chair  
Mecosta County Board of Commissioners