

March 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners was held at 225 West Main Street, Room 100 Gaylord, Michigan 49735. Due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was held remotely for the public as permitted by the Open Meetings Act. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Ken Glasser. Invocation by Commissioner Julie Powers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by County Clerk Suzy DeFeyter.

Roll Call:

Present: Julie Powers, Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser, Doug Johnson, Jason Caverson, Bruce Brown.

Commissioner Henry Mason requested the regular minutes of February 23, 2021 be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business as item B).

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the appointment of Rudi Edel to the Veterans' Trust Fund term to expire 12-31-2023.

Motion to approve the appointment of Nancy Ragan to the Otsego County Commission on Aging term to expire 12-31-2023.

Motion to approve the re-appointment of Ron Iseler to the North County Community Mental Health term to expire 3-31-2024.

Consent agenda approved unanimously.

Chairman Ken Glasser opened the meeting for public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Henry Mason to open the County Commissioner's meeting to the public. No second on the motion, motion failed.

Special Presentations:

Representatives from the Otsego County Food pantry thanked the Board for the Federal Cares Act dollars awarded to them.

Department Head Report:

Matt Barresi reported on the Gaylord Regional Airport; 60x80 hangar generates revenue to the County; 2019 yearly flight check identified trees on the runway approach had grown too high, that has been corrected now in compliance with the FAA; fuel sales are higher in 2020 than 2019; the airport assisted 19 Emergency medical flights in 2020 and have already assisted 7 in 2021, our airport was used as a transport hub for deliveries for some of the COVID-19 vaccine to our Community; in 2020 MDOT asked the airport to conduct an inspection by phone; the

Otsego County Gaylord Regional Airport started its newsletter in March 2013, it is e-mailed to more than 450 recipients including other airports, the airport newsletter has now been adopted by several airports in the last year to help keep residents and people informed especially during the pandemic.

Committee Reports: None.

Administrator's Report:

Rachel Frisch welcomed Candace Marcotte as the new assistant to the County administrator; working towards re-opening the Board of Commissioner's meeting to the public, looking at finding a bigger room; press release the County Bus system is offering free rides to COVID testing/vaccine appointments to citizens, thanked Tim Cherwinski; COVID vaccine spreadsheet is located on the County website and Facebook and will be updated each Wednesday; meets with the Health department weekly; Otsego County is receiving the first dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine; met with Gaylord DDA Alpenfest committee, still deciding if we will hold Alpenfest in 2021; will hold downtown Farmer's market; Easter Egg Hunt event 3-27-21.

City Liaison, Township & Village Representative: Michelle Noiro reported on the Bagley Township meeting; budget approved, approved money for the roads and the fire department; board of review conducting now by zoom and in person; Representative Ken Borton will host a coffee hour Monday March 15, 2021 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Big Buck.

Commissioner Henry Mason reported on the City Council meeting; cutting license costs to the Farmer's Market participants.

Commissioner Julie Powers reported on the City Council meeting; rough draft of the Marijuana ordinance.

Correspondence: Chairman Ken Glasser received an email regarding reaching out to the older citizens for COVID vaccines.

New Business:

Motion by Commissioner Julie Powers, seconded by Commissioner Henry Mason, to approve the March 2, 2021 Warrant in the amount of \$108,457.37. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, seconded by Commissioner Julie Powers, to approve the March 9, 2021 Warrant in the amount of \$175,864.47. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Commissioner Henry Mason stated he voted "No" on the 2-23-21 Warrant.

Motion by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, seconded by Commissioner Doug Johnson to amend the February 23, 2021 minutes to read Commissioner Henry Mason voted "No" on the 2-23-21 Warrant. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. Minutes approved as amended.

Chairman Ken Glasser opened up the meeting for public comment.

Board Remarks:

Commissioner Paul Liss thanked the Board for the money through the CARES act for the food pantry; Thanked Matt Barresi and his crew for doing a great job.

Commissioner Julie Powers thanked Matt Barresi.

Commissioner Bruce Brown had no report.

Commissioner Henry Mason commented on the money to the Health Department the County provides.

Commissioner Rob Pallarito had no report.

Commissioner Jason Caverson had no report.

Commissioner Doug Johnson reported on the Parks and Recreation meeting; Jacob Brown is the new coordinator; work on campsites with flooding issues, 32 sites to work on; apply for DNR grant to help with sites; Community Center pickle ball, 16 volleyball teams, 9 basketball teams, 84 families attend the playgroup; Groen Nature Preserve, 70 people there on Saturday and 55 people on Sunday March 6&7th; working on barn roofs; working on the bid for the gate; putting bids together for the pavilion, museum and parking lot.

Commissioner Brett McVannel thanked Matt Barresi for his professionalism he has presented for the County for many years; Thanked Shari and staff at the airport; thanked the volunteers that work at the food pantries.

Chairman Ken Glasser thanked the Food pantry and the volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Kenneth R. Glasser, Chairman

Susan I. DeFeyter, Otsego County Clerk