

**May 24, 2023**

The Roscommon County Board of Commissioner's met on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 for a Regular Meeting. The hybrid meeting was held at the Roscommon County Municipal Building, 500 Lake Street, Roscommon, MI 48653 and was accessible online via Zoom. Chair David Russo called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

**Present:** David Russo, Eric Ostergren, Rex Wolfsen, Marc J. Milburn, Darlene Sensor

**Absent:** None

Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo, to approve the Board Agenda.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Sensor, Milburn, Wolfsen, Ostergren, Russo. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wolfsen, Second by Milburn, to approve the minutes for Regular Meeting 5/10/2023.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Wolfsen, Ostergren, Russo, Milburn, Sensor. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment:** Greg Semack, Gerrish resident, spoke regarding the Special Assessment District.

**Administrator/Controller's Report:** Administrator/Controller Jodi Valentino provided the following updates: Lawsuit Updates – No Changes. Special Assessment Projects: Houghton Lake – Options for financing are being explored. Lake St. Helen – Boundaries are established and in final review. The presentations are scheduled at Higgins Township on June 5, 2023 and Richfield Township on June 20, 2023. Higgins Lake – Boundaries are established and in final review. The Lyon township presentation was last week, with only 20 residents present, and awaiting final scheduling at Gerrish Township. A/C Valentino requested an estimate from Spicer's for an inspection regarding erosion concerns at the Higgins Lake Lake Level Control Structure. Lake Levels: St. Helen – 0.24 inches above with gage height at 6.26 of 6.24, flop gate closed, and boards all in. Houghton Lake – 4.8 inches above with gage height at 8.50 of 8.1, and everything open. Higgins Lake – at 5.37 of 5.37 gage height, and all gates closed. Legislative update: A statewide septic code has been introduced to both the House and Senate that would require homeowners with onsite wastewater treatment to have them inspected every 5 years. Administrator/Controller informed that the county audit continues, the 2023 Spongy Moth Spray was completed yesterday, May 23, 2023, and the CDBG grant has a hearing scheduled at the Board of Commissioner's meeting June 14, 2023. She attended a training to review the new Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act that is effective June 27, 2023. Administrator/Controller Valentino stated there is still ongoing investigation into three personnel issues, and she confirmed early July renewal with Priority Health.

**Correspondence:**

- A. Osceola County – Resolution 2023-0009
- B. Michigan Association of Counties – 05/12/2023 Legislative Update

**Monthly Department Reports:** None

**Visitors:** Ray Wlosinski, Richfield Township Supervisor, asked the county to come at 5:30 PM, if possible, for the presentation on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Unfinished Business/New Business:**

- A. Lake Level Management Planning Committee – Chair Russo is appointing Commissioner Sensor and Commissioner Wolfsen to form the committee to prepare strategy for Lake Level Management.
- B. Correspondence and Meeting Packets – Commissioner Sensor addressed the documents included in what is presented on paper and what is uploaded. She also addressed the correspondence. Commissioner Wolfsen also spoke regarding how correspondences are addressed, received, and included in the packet.

**Motions and Resolutions:**

1. Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo to adopt Resolution #2023-05-01 Recognizing National Safe Boating Week as May 20, 2023 -May 26, 2023.

Resolution #2023-05-01  
Recognizing National Safe Boating Week  
May 20, 2023 -May 26, 2023

**WHEREAS**, over 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and its federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly, and

**WHEREAS**, safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 83 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures – carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating – we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season, and

**WHEREAS**, National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important lifesaving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water throughout the year, and

**WHEREAS**, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning, and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors, and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The Roscommon County Board of Commissioners do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 20-26, 2023 as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating and urge all those who boat to practice safe boating habits and wear a life jacket at all times while boating.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Ostergren, Sensor, Milburn, Russo, Wolfsen. Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

2. Motion by Wolfsen, Second by Russo to authorize the levy of the following ad valorem tax rate for the County of Roscommon for the year 2023 on the summer tax roll:

General Fund 3.5194 Mills.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Sensor, Wolfsen, Milburn, Ostergren, Russo. Nays: None. Motion Carried

3. Motion by Wolfsen, Second by Ostergren to authorize David Russo, Chair, and Michelle M. Stevenson, County Clerk, to sign the Summer L-4029 with the following tax rates for the County of Roscommon for the year 2023:

General Fund 3.5194 Mills

On Roll Call: Ayes: Milburn, Sensor, Ostergren, Russo, Wolfsen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

4. Motion by Russo, Second by Wolfsen to reappoint Pamela Kincaid to the Roscommon County Economic Development Committee for a 3year term beginning 05/24/2023 and ending 05/23/2026.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Ostergren, Milburn, Russo, Sensor, Wolfsen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

5. Motion by Wolfsen, Second by Sensor to reappoint Al Cambridge to the Roscommon County Economic Development Committee for a 3year term beginning 05/24/2023 and ending 05/23/2026.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Milburn, Sensor, Russo, Ostergren, Wolfsen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

6. Motion by Russo, Second by Wolfsen to appoint Tammy Frisbie to the Roscommon County Economic Development Committee for a 3year term beginning 05/27/2023 and ending 05/26/2026.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Sensor, Milburn, Russo, Ostergren, Wolfsen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

7. Motion by Russo, Second by Wolfsen to allow the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to broaden the scope of their original American Rescue Plan award from community outreach and professional services to also include expenses to attend conferences and trainings.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Milburn, Ostergren, Russo, Sensor, Wolfsen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

8. Motion by Milburn, Second by Ostergren to adopt Resolution #2023-05-02 Declaring Veteran Suicide Prevention Day in the County of Roscommon as June 14, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2023-05-02  
DECLARING VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY IN THE COUNTY OF  
ROSCOMMON AS JUNE 14, 2023

**WHEREAS**, nearly 568,000 Veterans reside in and call the State of Michigan home, with 2,668 Veterans residing in Roscommon County, and

**WHEREAS**, we honor our Veterans that made the courageous sacrifice to leave family and friends to serve their country and protect it from those that would destroy it, and

**WHEREAS**, many Veterans separate from service with wounds that are not only physical, but also emotional, mental and spiritual, and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control from 2001 to 2019, the rate of suicide among Veterans increased nearly 36% relative to an increase of 30% in the general population, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the shared responsibility of all Michiganders to honor our State's Veterans, and protect them as they have protected us.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners, in cooperation with the Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Office, declares Veteran Suicide Prevention Day in the County of Roscommon as June 14, 2023.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Wolfsen, Sensor, Russo, Ostergren, Milburn. Nays: None. Resolution Adopted.

**Committee Reports:**

Russo: Agenda

Ostergren: NLCMH

Wolfsen: MSUE

Milburn: COA, NMCA, NMCAA

Sensor: HLIB

**Public Comment:** Ray Wlosinski spoke regarding Lake Level Management Planning Committee. He also spoke regarding improvements in Richfield Township, and will be creating a committee to study the invasive weeds in Lake St. Helen. Greg Semack spoke regarding SAD Legal Counsel and the Higgins Lake SAD. Sam, Disability Network, spoke regarding mental health awareness and Veteran's suicide awareness. Dave Baran spoke regarding the SAD.

Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo, to adjourn meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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David Russo, Chair

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Michelle M. Stevenson, County Clerk/Reg. Of Deeds