

**June 9, 2021**

The Roscommon County Board of Commissioner's met on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 for a Regular Meeting. The meeting was held at the Roscommon County Municipal Building, 500 Lake Street, Roscommon, MI 48653 and was accessible online via ZOOM. Chairman Robert E. Schneider called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

**Present:** Schneider, Milburn, Muckenthaler, Russo

**Absent:** Melvin

Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo, to approve the Board Agenda with the addition of motion #3. On Roll Call: Ayes: Russo, Schneider, Milburn, Muckenthaler. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Muckenthaler, Second by Milburn, to approve Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2021 and May 26, 2021. On Roll Call: Ayes: Milburn, Schneider, Muckenthaler, Russo. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Russo, Second by Muckenthaler, to approve Class A bills in the amount \$552,701.52. On Roll Call: Ayes: Milburn, Muckenthaler, Schneider, Russo. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Muckenthaler, Second by Russo, to approve Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$955,646.15. On Roll Call: Ayes: Milburn, Muckenthaler, Schneider, Russo. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment:** Eric Ostergren, Gerrish Township resident, spoke regarding the lake level control structure resolution from 2019.

**Administrator/Controller's Report:** Administrator/Controller Valentino reviewed the status of the lawsuits involving the County. The plaintiffs' have until June 1 to reply to the filed appeal regarding CHLL v Roscommon County. The Treasurer was served May 13<sup>th</sup> and counsel was assigned regarding Choice Plus v Treasurer. Mauck v Roscommon County et al has no status change to report. An arbitrator was selected for the Sheriff's POAM arbitration and is scheduled for early November. There is a class action suit that involves Blue Cross Blue Shield claims & premiums. The Sheriff's Department continues to investigate tampering of the lake level control structure for Higgins Lake as well as the \$8,000 forged check. Some legislative updates of interest include the Senate passing a bill for 4-year terms for County Commissioners and a proposal to disallow local zoning to block short term rentals. Valentino reached out to MAC and is waiting legal opinion regarding the Commission on Aging agreement. The 2021 Gypsy Moth spray is finished and the part-time custodial positions have been advertised. The Audit review is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> Valentino will meet with GEI Consultants of Michigan, Commissioner Russo, and Maintenance Director Nick Johnson to discuss the Houghton Lake – Lake Level Control Structure repairs. Valentino attended 911 meetings in both Roscommon and Crawford County in preparation of the intergovernmental agreement. She continues to work in anticipation of bids for IT services as Phil Bendily will be retiring this fall. Valentino requested to be placed on the work session for the next meeting to discuss the MERS Annual Actuarial Report.

**Correspondence:**

- A. EGLE – Denton Twp. Public Notice
- B. Montcalm County – Resolution 2021-09
- C. EGLE – Denton Twp. Public Notice
- D. MAC – 05/28/2021 Legislative Update
- E. EGLE – Richfield Township Public Notice
- F. NMRE – Liquor Tax

**Monthly Department Reports:** Central Dispatch, Sheriff Dept., MSUE

**Visitors:** None

**Unfinished Business/New Business:**

- A. The American Rescue Plan – Administrator/Controller Jodi Valentino suggested that the county should consider contracting with someone to facilitate the programs & funds. A committee may be formed to help determine appropriate uses of the funds.

B. 911 Authority Board Appointments – Clerk Stevenson discussed the appointments of 911 Authority Board member.

**Motions and Resolutions:**

1. Motion by Russo, Second by Muckenthaler, to authorize the following general fund budget adjustments from the general fund contingency:

\$1500.00	Planning Commission Meetings
\$4500.00	Information Services Equipment Under \$3000

On Roll Call: Ayes: Schneider, Russo, Muckenthaler, Milburn. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

2. Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo, to adopt Resolution #2021-06-01:

**OPPOSING MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE  
"BY APPOINTMENT ONLY"**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, recently stated Michigan residents will always need an appointment to conduct business at a Secretary of State branch office and suggested making this permanent change as an improvement in service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of State called walk in service at the branches an "antiquated, inefficient, take-a-number system that nobody liked"; the reality is that most people do want the option to walk into a branch office for service at their convenience; and

**WHEREAS**, not only Roscommon County residents but all residents of the State of Michigan should have the ability to renew and make changes to all necessary documentation timely and locally through services provided by the Michigan Secretary of State; that this change will significantly reduce the convenience of public services; and

**WHEREAS**, while some industry changes were positive during the Covid-19 pandemic and made sense, this will negatively impact rural counties, such as Roscommon, where residents are over fifty miles from kiosk services and a large majority of the population are over sixty years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, these changes have been established without input from constituents, who are directly affected by this sweeping change and web-based services, which completely replaces the need for walk in service at the branch offices, many older residents and those without computers or internet will simply be turned away at the Secretary of State door; and

**WHEREAS**, these changes will only continue to frustrate citizens who would just like their license renewed or to be able to sell a vehicle, without having to wait weeks or months for an appointment or even drive to a different service area to accomplish these simple tasks;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners hereby **STRONGLY** opposes 'By Appointment Only', but supports the value of **BOTH** online and walk in service and believes the best practice for flexibility and choice for the public is a hybrid model for Roscommon County residents and the entire State of Michigan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders, and Michigan Association of Counties.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Schneider, Russo, Muckenthaler, Milburn. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

3. Motion by Russo, Second by Milburn, to approve the Addendum to Intergovernmental Agency Agreement between Crawford County and Roscommon County for cooperative dispatching services.

On Roll Call: Ayes: Schneider, Russo, Muckenthaler, Milburn. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Russo: Planning Committee, Claims & Accounts, 911 Authority Board  
Milburn: District Health, COA, EDC  
Muckenthaler: Claims & Accounts  
Melvin: Absent

Schneider: District Health, EDC, Agenda

Public Comment: Clerk Stevenson spoke regarding the Miss Houghton Lake Golf Outing on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo, to adjourn meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Robert E. Schneider, Chairman  
Deeds

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Michelle M. Stevenson, County Clerk/Reg. Of