

June 14, 2023

The Roscommon County Board of Commissioner's met on Wednesday, June 14, 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 Wolfson, Marc J. Milburn, Darlene Sensor

Absent: None

Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo to enter into Public Hearing for 2021 Roscommon County CARES Grant MCS-220037-CVI.

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

Enter into Public Hearing 10:01 a.m.

Administrator/Controller Valentino reviewed the grant and what it covered. County was not able to utilize all funds. The funds were extended to local townships and non-profits with a deadline of 1/31/2021. The county usage was \$9,029.03. This public meeting is required to close out.

Motion by Russo, Second by Wolfson to exit Public Hearing.

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

Exit Public Hearing at 10:06 a.m.

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

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

Motion by Russo, Second by Wolfson to approve the minutes for May 24, 2023 Regular Meeting.

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

Motion by Russo, Second by Wolfson to approve Class A bills in the amount of \$713,376.78.

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

Motion by Milburn, Second by Wolfson to approve Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$232,149.68.

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

Public Comment: Greg Semack spoke regarding Higgins Lake SAD. Gale Wadell spoke regarding SAD. Ron Kuelsch spoke regarding Higgins Lake Level.

Administrator/Controller's Report: Lawsuit updates: Kurich v Roscommon County Treasurer – No change. CHLL v Roscommon County – No change. Ostergren v Roscommon County et al – Plaintiff has filed an Application for Leave to Appeal to Supreme Court. Ostergren et al v Melvin – No change. Opioid Suit – No change. Special Assessment Projects updates: Houghton Lake – Currently working with the State to obtain Legal easement for access. Higgins Lake – Petition to establish boundaries was filed with 34th Circuit Court this morning. Once the court schedules a hearing date, it will be communicated via mailing to all included in the district boundary. Spicer's conducted an inspection of the LLCs regarding erosion concerns and we are awaiting results. The cost of the inspection was \$1200. Lake St. Helen – Boundaries have been established, there was a presentation to Higgins Township, and the presentation for Richfield Township is scheduled for June 20, 2023 at 6 pm. Lake Levels: Lake St. Helen – 1.56 inches below with flop gate closed and all boards in. Higgins Lake – 2.28 inches below and all gates closed. Houghton Lake – .12 inches above with all boards in and steel plate in place. There will be a brief opening to allow canoe passage during an upcoming canoe marathon. Legislative Update: Several State Level bills to put together a commission to study Criminal Justice reform, and the counties are not currently involved. Administrator/Controller Valentino reminded the Board that the County General Fund is responsible for several portions of the criminal justice system, and recommends the Board push for county representation be included. She updated that onsite audit work is complete, they continue to work toward closing, and it is estimated that there has been a \$250,000 drop in fund balance. In regard to the upcoming benefit renewal, there was a virtual meeting with the third-party benefit administrator, Jennifer, to discuss Priority Health, and we are currently at 106% usage. Administrator/Controller informed that 911 is seeking an assistant Director, and the Wage and Salary Committee meeting is scheduled. She also updated the current expenditures to date for the different SADs: Houghton Lake is at \$269,310.77 with about \$100,000 of that being for dam restoration, Higgins Lake is at \$89,477.92, and St. Helen is at \$32,658.25.

Correspondence:

- A. Lenawee County – Resolution #2023-08
- B. Ingham County – Resolution #23-229
- C. Eaton County – Resolution #23-5-61
- D. Livingston County – Resolution #2023-05-080
- E. Michigan Association of Counties – 06/02/2023 Legislative Update
- F. Michigan DNR – AuSable River Interested Parties Notification File A2023006U
- G. MSU Extension – June 2023 Report to Our Partners
- H. EGLE – Email and Public Notice HPA-NY3V-X7ZZX

Monthly Department Reports:

- A. Economic Development Corp. – March and April 2023 Directors Report
- B. Roscommon County Animal Control and Animal Shelter – May 2023 Stats

Visitors: None

Unfinished Business/New Business

- A. Update from Lake Level Management Committee – Commissioner Wolfsen noted that Tentative plans have been provided to the Board for review. Commissioner Ostergren asked that the plans be posted on the county website for public review.

Motions/Resolutions:

1. Motion by Milburn, Second by Wolfsen to adopt the following Business Communication Guidelines for the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners in order to protect the existing workplace culture and accommodate both employees’ and elected officials needs to maintain work-life balance by decreasing pressures to respond and act immediately on non-emergent topics and issues:

Core Business Communications shall occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm and as permitted by the individual elected official. All communication will comply with the Open Meetings Act and will be subject to FOIA if applicable. Business Communication should utilize the following guidelines:

Communication Type	During Core Business Communication Hours	Outside of Core Business Communication Hours
Email	Routine requests and Information sharing	Hold or use “Scheduled Send”
Online Communication Tools	Communication as it relates to a specific project	Establish “Do Not Disturb” notice
Phone Calls/Video Calls	Sensitive or complex topics/Relationship Building	Time Sensitive or urgent only
Text Messages	Time sensitive or Urgent	Time sensitive or urgent only

On Roll Call: Ayes: Wolfsen, Milburn. Nays: Sensor, Russo, Ostergren. Motion Failed.

2. Motion by Ostergren, Second by _____, to support and affirm the Legal Levels of Houghton Lake, Lake St. Helen and Higgins Lake as originally established by Court Order in 1926 and affirmed by Court Order in 1982. Recent actions by the Roscommon Board of Commissioners have brought the legal levels into question as to possibly being changed and it is the desire of the current Board of Commissioners to acknowledge to the public that they support those Legal Levels and the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners hereby acknowledge that those legal levels currently established by Court Order will be continued.

Motion not considered for lack of a second.

Committee Reports:

Russo: Claims and Accounts, Agenda

Ostergren: No Report

Wolfsen: Household Hazardous Waste

Milburn: EDC, Animal Control, District Health

Sensor: Animal Control, District Health

Public Comment: Charlene Cornell spoke regarding SAD. Greg Semack spoke regarding Lake Levels and SAD. Dave Baran spoke regarding Higgins Lake SAD and LLC. Clerk/ROD Michelle Stevenson updated the Board on changes coming for elections. Gale Wadell spoke regarding fees for SAD.

Motion by Milburn, Second by Russo to adjourn meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

David Russo, Chair

Michelle M. Stevenson, County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Approved 6/28/2023