

August 11, 2020

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 in compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive order 2020-154 and 2020-160. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Ken Borton. Invocation by Commissioner Ken Glasser, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheriff Matt Nowicki.

Roll Call:

Present: Julie Powers, Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Duane Switalski, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser, Ken Borton, Bruce Brown.

Excused: Doug Johnson.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Henry Mason requested the Regular minutes of July 28, 2020 with attachments to be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business as item C.

Special Presentations:

Joe Borgstrom presented the site assessment of the former Royal Crest Motel property.

Motion by Commissioner Ken Glasser, seconded by Commissioner Henry Mason, to direct the County Administrator to work with the community to further explore the options presented by Place + Main by engaging with the community and work with potential developers, in keeping with the results of the site assessment study. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: None.

Administrator's Report:

Rachel Frisch reported the RFP has been put together and ready to go out for the upgrade of the County's website; Apartment complex East of town; thanked Suzy DeFeyter and Dana Stubli for their hard work on election night.

Department Head Report:

Suzy DeFeyter reported on the County Clerk and Register of Deeds offices; court hearings have been held by Zoom; haven't had jury trials since the end of February, possible jury trials beginning again in October; staffing in both offices; August election went good, some township's saw a big increase with absentee voter applications, some saw just a slight increase. It was a small turnout, we have 22,213 registered voters and only 7,167 voted (32.26%) the election results are posted on the County website. Preparing for the November election, working on ballots.

City Liaison, Township & Village Representative: Commissioner Julie Powers reported on the City Council meeting, MERS representative was at the meeting; establish marry fees so the Mayor can perform marriages.

Correspondence: None.

New Business:

Motion by Commissioner Julie Powers, seconded by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, to approve the August 4, 2020 Warrant in the amount of \$179,407.81. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bruce Brown, seconded by Commissioner Paul Liss, to approve the August 11, 2020 Warrant in the amount of \$732,966.22. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Julie Powers, seconded by Commissioner Duane Switalski, to approve the Regular Minutes of July 28, 2020 with attachments. Commissioner Duane Switalski requests the minutes be amended to reflect under board remarks for Commissioner Duane Switalski, Commissioner Switalski thanked Commissioner Henry Mason for his informative remarks. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. Minutes approved as amended.

Chairman Ken Borton opened up the meeting for public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Henry Mason, to enter into a closed meeting session in accordance in 15.268 Section 8(j) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Julie Powers, Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Duane Switalski, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser, Ken Borton, Bruce Brown.

Nays: None.

Excused: Doug Johnson.

Motion carried.

Entered into closed session at 10:25 a.m.

Returned to open session at 10:45 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Rob Pallarito, to authorize payment for legal fees as discussed in closed session. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Remarks:

Commissioner Rob Pallarito attended the Otsego Lake Township meeting, internet connection possibly coming into Guthrie Lakes; election results, congratulated Ken Borton.

Commissioner Ken Glasser attended the Bagley Township meeting; August election results.

Commissioner Bruce Brown reported on the Sportsplex; rebuilt the compressor's, purchase new compressor's next year.

Commissioner Paul Liss congratulated Ken Borton; attended the Village meeting.

Commissioner Duane Switalski had no report.

Commissioner Julie Powers had no report.

Commissioner Henry Mason had no report.

Commissioner Ken Borton reported on the election results.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Kenneth C. Borton, Chairman

Susan I. DeFeyter, Otsego County Clerk