

The **regular meeting** of the Alcona County Board of Commissioners was held in the County Building in the City of Harrisville, Michigan on Wednesday, **August 19, 2020** at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Craig Johnston, Chairman.

Invocation given by Commissioner Gary Wnuk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Commissioners present: Craig Johnston, Chairman, Adam Brege, Vice Chairman, Carolyn Brummund, Gary Wnuk and Dan Gauthier. Also present: Stephany Eller, County Clerk and Sheila Scott, Deputy County Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Wnuk, to approve the August 5, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes with the amendment to Commissioners Additional Comments and Concerns change from Johnston to Brummund.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carrie Mullins and David Adams, Mikado Township residents and Kristina Anderson, Haynes Township resident, spoke in support of Commissioner Wnuk's resolutions request.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Dave Guthrie, Grant Surveyor Remonumentation, presented the 2020 Revised Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan contract for Alcona County.

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Wnuk, to approve the 2020 Revised Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan contract for Alcona County and allow the Chair to sign.

Roll Call: Yes – Brege, Wnuk, Johnston, Gauthier and Brummund

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brege, to allow the Chair to sign the Michigan DNR FY 2019 Sub-recipient Audit Requirements Code of Federal Regulations form.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to approve pre-authorized claims and open claims presented for payment between 8/05/20 and 8/18/20 for check numbers 141561 to 141713 and E-check numbers 1356 to 1368 for a grand total of \$929,037.71.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Gauthier, Brege, Wnuk and Johnston

No – None

At this time the Michigan Unemployment Workshare Program was discussed with regard to Alcona County employees.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to continue participation in the Michigan Unemployment Workshare Program, pending agreements with the unions, through the remainder of 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Wnuk, seconded by Gauthier, to recess.

MOTION CARRIED

The Board recessed at 10:35 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:41 a.m. with all Commissioners present.

Motion by Wnuk, seconded by Gauthier, to approve #2020-13 Resolution in Opposition to Continuing COVID Emergency Executive Orders from Lansing amended as follows:

ALCONA COUNTY RESOLUTION #2020-13

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO CONTINUING COVID EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDERS FROM LANSING

Whereas, United States Constitution Article. VII. – Ratification - The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same. Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. In Witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names; and

Whereas, the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; and

Whereas, the Declaration of Independence does not guarantee the protection to stay safe or healthy, that is an individual responsibility.; *and*

Whereas, the opening regional map drawn make absolutely no sense. The county north of us has higher urban areas, more cases and is on the least restrictive path to opening where we are lumped in with counties with mass populations (nothing in common geographically); and

Whereas, from Iosco county to Manistee north to the tip there are as of July 31,2020 1114 cases and the Upper Peninsula 454 cases for a total combined 1568. Wayne 12,829, Washtenaw 2,071, Saginaw 1727, Oakland 11,357 Macomb 9,107, Kent 6,426 Genesee 2,775 and Detroit 12,695 have far greater totals; and

Whereas, as a county, prior to your 147 order mask were not always worn and social distancing was not always observed and the current total amount of cases is at 23. When making the statement “Mask’s Save Lives” there was no control group to make the case. I believe we serve as said control group and disprove that statement; and

Whereas, the original concept was to lessen the impact on the hospital system and has been change to keep people from getting the disease. That is an unrealistic and unachievable goal. The orders have gone beyond the original intent; and

Whereas, there has been other unequal treatments of other counties and provision for all the restrictive actions. Secretary of State kiosks for registration and license tab do not exist in this area from a line north of Iosco to Manistee to the Upper Peninsula except for Traverse City and Gaylord, however many locations south of Bay City; and

Whereas, the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America: (continued)--That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security; and

Whereas, we are not advocating to over-throw or abolishment, but if these practices continue, civil disobedience and ignoring the over-reaching and oppressive Executive Orders that have been afflicted on our citizens, akin to the “Boston Tea Party”, which was respectful to the cargo vessels but not to the cargo itself. Thoreau declared that if the government required people to participate in injustice by obeying “unjust laws,” then people should “break the laws” even if they ended up in prison. “Under a government which imprisons any unjustly,” he asserted, “the true place for a just man is also a prison.”; and

Whereas, basically using a one size fits all solution when a majority of the hot zones fall below the line from Iosco to Manistee counties has been devastating the north regions economically and damaging “our happiness” (per the original meaning of the phrase); and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that we, the Alcona County Commissioners are respectfully requesting you cease issuing any more executive orders concerning matter. That you allow us as a governing to board use our judgement and health resource officer, rather than your lack of knowledge of our local area; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that we, the Alcona County Commissioners will respectfully also request you work with the elected legislative body on this matter, since they were elected to represent us in all matters and not be dictated by one branch which is supposed to be checked by the legislator.; and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Jim Stamas, House Representative Susan M. Allor, and the other 82 Counties in the State of Michigan.

Roll Call: Yes –Brummund, Brege, Johnston, Gauthier and Wnuk

No - None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Wnuk, seconded by Gauthier, to approve #2020-14 Resolution Opposing Executive Directive #2020-9, Protester Violence, the False Narrative of American Being Systemic Racist and False History and Support for Local Law Enforcement Unjustly Portrayed as follows:

Alcona County Resolution #2020-14

RESOLUTION OPPOSING EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE 2020-9, PROTESTER VIOLENCE, THE FALSE NARRATIVE OF AMERICAN BEING SYSTEMIC RACIST AND FALSE HISTORY AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNJUSTLY PORTRAYED

Whereas, United States Constitution Article 4 Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.; and

Whereas, United States Constitution Amendment I Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.; and

Whereas, The right of the people peaceably to assemble does not include the destruction of private property, theft of private property and the assaulting of people who are defending their private property.; and

Whereas, "But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone." "I Have a Dream", speech by The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King August 28, 1963.; and

Whereas, Anarchy is anarchy is anarchy. Neither race nor color nor frustration is an excuse for either lawlessness or anarchy." — Thurgood Marshall Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court from October 1967 until October 1991.; and

Whereas, There has been historical facts left out of public education as to promote a false narrative about our country being a racist nation founded by Deists and were rich white slave owners and that Black American Issues only started being addressed in the 1960's.; and

Whereas, When queried, on our Deist founding fathers most citizens can only point to Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson and when further queried about slave owners most citizens can only identify Thomas Jefferson from a copy of the painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, they are not familiar with the remaining 54 as to include or exclude them from the answer.; and

Whereas, Declaring Independence: Drafting the Documents Jefferson's "original Rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence 'he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of **infidel** powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, & murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them; thus paying off former crimes committed against the **liberties** of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the **lives** of another.". This is Professor Julian Boyd's reconstruction of Thomas Jefferson's "original Rough draught" of

the Declaration of Independence before it was revised by the other members of the Committee of Five and by Congress. From: *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Vol. 1, 1760-1776. Ed. Julian P. Boyd. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950, pp 243-247); and

Whereas, Thomas Jefferson's Declaration was modified since it was a Unanimous Declaration the states of Georgia and South Carolina would not sign it with that charge in its list of complaints since they were not in support of the abolishment of slavery.; and

Whereas, REVEREND HENRY HIGHLAND GARNET, [SERMON] "LET THE MONSTER PERISH" February 12, 1865 within days of Congress's adoption of the 13th Amendment banning slavery [Delivered in the U.S. Capitol]. What is slavery? Too well do I know what it is. I will present to you a bird's eye view of it; and it shall be no fancy picture, but one that is sketched by painful experience. I was born among the cherished institutions of slavery. My earliest recollections of parents, friends, and the home of my childhood are clouded with its wrongs. The first sight that met my eyes was a Christian mother enslaved by professed Christians, but, thank God, now a saint in heaven. ... Thomas Jefferson said at a period of his life, when his judgment was matured, and his experience was ripe, "There is preparing, I hope, under the auspices of heaven, a way for a total emancipation." ... The other day, when the light of Liberty streamed through this marble pile, and the hearts of the noble band of patriotic statesmen leaped for joy, and this our national capital shook from foundation to dome with the shouts of a ransomed people, then methinks the spirits of Washington, Jefferson, the Jays, the Adamses, and Franklin, and Lafayette, and Giddings, and Lovejoy, and those of all the mighty, and glorious dead, remembered by history, because they were faithful to truth, justice, and liberty, were hovering over the august assembly. Though unseen by mortal eyes, doubtless they joined the angelic choir, and said, Amen. ... Patrick Henry said, "We should transmit to posterity our abhorrence of slavery." So also thought the Thirty-eighth Congress. Lafayette proclaimed these words: "Slavery is a dark spot on the face of the nation." God be praised, that stain will soon be wiped out. Jonathan Edwards declared "that to hold a man in slavery is to be every day guilty of robbery, or of man stealing."

Whereas, When queried Most people are ignorant of "The First Colored Senator and Representatives, Currier & Ives lithography, 1872 Left to right: Senator Hiram Revels (MS), Representatives Benjamin Turner (AL), Robert DeLarge (SC), Josiah Walls (FL), Jefferson Long (GA), Joseph Rainey (SC), and Robert Elliott (SC)(which can easily be found in a google search).; and

Whereas, When queried Most people when asked if the U.S. Congress had a speaker of the house who was black have no knowledge of Joseph Hayne Rainey congressman South Carolina.; and

Whereas, When queried, most citizens do not even know of The Civil Rights Act of 1875 sometimes called the Enforcement Act or the Force Act, [which] was a United States federal law enacted during the Reconstruction era in response to civil rights violations against African Americans. The bill [which] was passed by the 43rd United States Congress and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1875 written by Charles Sumner Senator and predecessor of Daniel Webster of Massachusetts.; and

Whereas, A repeated false narrative is that "the Constitution was a pro-slavery document", Reverend Fredrick Douglass initially endorsed the views of the radical abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, who believed that the Constitution was a pro-slavery document, a "covenant with Hell." In 1851, Douglass announced a "change of opinion." Persuaded by such abolitionist writers as Lysander Spooner and William Goodell, he concluded that human bondage was inconsistent with the Constitution, properly interpreted. Slavery was "a system of lawless violence; that it never was lawful, and never can be made so." Frederick Douglass: Selected Speeches and Writings, ed., Philip S. Foner (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1999), Page 174.; and

Whereas, Michigan Constitution states: Article 8 – Education - Section 1 – Encouragement of Education - Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. ;and

Whereas, In the U.S Supreme Court case *Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States*, 143 U.S. 457 (1892) MR. JUSTICE BREWER delivered the opinion of the Court. Page 143 U. S. 471 If we pass beyond these matters to a view of American life, as expressed by its laws, its business, its customs, and its society, we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. Among other matters, note the following: the form of oath universally prevailing, concluding with an appeal to the Almighty; the custom of opening sessions of all deliberative bodies and most conventions with prayer; the prefatory words of all wills, "In the name of God, amen;" the laws respecting the observance of the Sabbath, with the general cessation of all secular business, and the closing of courts, legislatures, and other similar public assemblies on that day; the churches and church organizations which abound in every city, town, and hamlet; the multitude of charitable organizations existing everywhere under Christian auspices; the gigantic missionary associations, with general support, and aiming to establish Christian missions in every quarter of the globe. These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation. In the face of all these, shall it be believed that a Congress of the United States intended to make it a misdemeanor for a church of this country to contract for the services of a Christian minister residing in another nation?; and

Whereas, Since we no longer deem religion and morality as being necessary we lose sight of man's heart Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? We forgot these truths: That we came from one common ancestry Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitations; That God does not discriminate and neither should we Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God. And finally forgiveness and moving forward (which does not mean letting wrong behavior go unpunished) Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.; and

Whereas, THE LIFE, EXPERIENCE, AND GOSPEL LABOURS OF THE Rt. Rev. RICHARD ALLEN (Allen, Richard, 1760-1831) To you who are favoured with freedom--let your conduct manifest your gratitude toward the compassionate masters who have set you free; and let no rancour or ill-will lodge in your breast for any bad treatment you may have received from any. If you do, you transgress against God, who will not hold you guiltless. He would not suffer it even in his beloved people Israel; and you think he will allow it unto us? Many of the white people have been instruments in the hands of God for our good; even such as have held us in captivity, are now pleading our cause with earnestness and zeal; and I am sorry to say, that too many think more of the evil than of the good they have received, and instead of taking the advice of their friends, turn from it with indifference. Much depends upon us for the help of our colour--more than many are aware. If we are lazy and idle, the enemies of freedom plead it as a cause why we ought not to be free, and say we are better in a state of servitude, and that giving us our liberty would be an injury to us, and by such conduct we strengthen the bands of oppression, and keep many in bondage who are more worthy than ourselves. I entreat you to consider the obligations we lie under to help forward the cause of freedom. We who know how bitter the cup is of which the slave hath to drink, O how ought we to feel for those who yet remain in bondage! will even our friends excuse--will God pardon us--for the part we act in making strong the hands of the enemies of our colour?; and

Whereas, From President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his

orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations". ; and

Whereas, Booker T. Washington- "There is another class of coloured people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Having learned that they are able to make a living out of their troubles, they have grown into the settled habit of advertising their wrongs — partly because they want sympathy and partly because it pays. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs. There is a certain class of race-problem solvers who don't want the patient to get well."; *and*

Whereas, Painting all police officers as having the same attitude and lack of character as Derek Chauvin, the individual charged with a recent crime, is just as racist as saying "all the black protesters are there only to riot and loot". Both are stereotypes and equally wrong.; *and*

Whereas, That the real problem we face, are those who do not get involved in their local government, elect good Sheriff's, County Boards, and in general good local government and then complain when situations like this arise and have gone too far. This is not a federal issue where Washington D.C. needs to make more grievous legislation to fix a state and local issue.; *and*

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That we, the Alcona County Commissioners respectfully request that Governor Whitmer rescind her Executive Directive 2020-9 Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis.; *and*

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That we, the Alcona County Commissioners support our sheriff and his department for the courteous and respectful service they provide, and none of these allegations have been lodged against them.; *and*

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That we, the Alcona County Commissioners stand opposed to any misrepresentation of history and "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about." - President Woodrow Wilson.; *and*

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, The Alcona Board of Commissioners reject the notion that from its inception, this country has been systemically racist. For its' short time of existence, we as a nation have worked diligently to better ourselves and are not the racist nation that certain individuals have claimed we are.; *and*

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That we, the Alcona County Board of Commissioners encourage citizens to do their diligence in electing their public servants.; *and*

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Jim Stamas, House Representative Susan M. Allor, and the other 82 Counties in the State of Michigan.

Roll Call: Yes – Gauthier, Brummund, Johnston, Brege and Wnuk

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE REPORT:

Commissioner Gauthier presented operational line item transfer requests.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to approve operational line item transfers as follows:

\$400.00 from 101-890-999.000 *Contingency* to 101-101-821.001 *Bank Fees*.
\$4,000.00 from 101-215-716.007 *HSA Payment* to 101-101-964.000 *Refunds*.
\$1,750.00 from 101-101-216.007 *HSA Payment* to 101-101-964.000 *Refunds*.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Brege, Wnuk, Johnston and Gauthier

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Sheila Scott presented a current Cash Summary report for the Boards review.

CLERK’S REPORT: No report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Oscoda Township Community Master Plan letter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Board gave brief reports on the various committee meetings they recently attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carrie Mullins, Republican Party Chair, extended an invite to any elected official running as a candidate to attend the Republican Party meetings held the 4th Monday of each month.

Frank Dimercurio, Chosen Ranch, stated that any party is welcome to rent the Chosen Ranch for meetings.

Christy Holmes, Chamber of Commerce member, discussed the County’s Chamber dues and the Chamber of Commerce rent at Harbortown.

Lenny Avery, ACCOA Director, informed the Board of 2 (two) pop-ups to be held on August 21st and August 28th, 2020 and stated the partnership with the USDA is complete.

Scott Rice, EMS Director, updated the Board on the correction of the EMS write-offs in the amount of \$156,384.94 for the first 6 (six) months of 2020.

COMMISSIONER’S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Commissioner Wnuk thanked the Board for the corrections to Resolution #2020-14.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. until the next **regular scheduled meeting** to be held on **September 2, 2020** at 10:00 a.m.

County Clerk

Chairman