

The **regular meeting** of the Alcona County Board of Commissioners was held in the County Building in the City of Harrisville, Michigan on **Wednesday, July 20, 2022** at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Dan Gauthier, Vice Chairman.

Invocation was given by Dan Gauthier, Vice Chairman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners present: Dan Gauthier, Vice Chairman, Carolyn Brummund, William Thompson and Terry Small. Absent: Adam Brege, Chairman. Also present: Stephany, County Clerk and Sheila Scott, Deputy County Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Small, to approve the July 6, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tony Atkinson, Veterans Affairs Director, submitted a bid from Jacobs Builders for the new V.A. building. Atkins further stated that there were 4 applicants for the 2 vacancies of Veterans Affairs Board members and those will be reviewed at the next V.A. meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

Julia Darnton, MSUE Director, gave a review of the 2021 Alcona County Annual Report and discussed different programs being offered to the county, including youth development, health and nutrition and Senior Project Fresh.

Frances Ommani, NEMSCA Communication and Development Director, gave a review of 2021 services provided to Alcona County, including early childhood, school partnership programs and community programs, senior services and community programs, homeless prevention and the weatherization program.

Douglas Welton, Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC, via Zoom, reviewed the 2021 Annual County Audit. Welton explained that the significant changes were due to the ARPA funds.

Melissa Cordes, Register of Deeds, submitted and reviewed the quarterly fund summary report for revenues for months April, May and June.

At this time Vice Chairman Gauthier moved the Building Department and Equalization Letters of Understanding on the agenda down to the Personnel Report and added to New Business EMS millage language.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Small, to approve pre-authorized claims and open claims presented for payment between 7/06/2022 and 7/19/2022 for check numbers 148016 to 148147 and E-check numbers 1891 to 1902 for a grand total of \$397,894.23.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Thompson, Gauthier and Small

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Alcona and Alcona Community Schools and authorize the Chair to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Thompson, to approve Resolution #2022-17 as follows:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALCONA

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—OPPOSE HOUSE BILLS 4729, 4730, 4731, 4732

WHEREAS, Zillow has spearheaded legislation to undermine the integrity of the Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices across the State of Michigan, which will greatly reduce revenues needed to fund the daily operation of both offices; and

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for profit corporation, is lobbying the State of Michigan legislature to pass legislation that will provide them copies of any official records maintained by both the Register of Deeds' and the Treasurers' offices at an insignificant fee or, in some cases, 100% free of charge; and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, Zillow will have the ability to demand the manner in which the Register of Deeds and Treasurer must provide copies of official records; and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, they would impose new restrictions and limits on what the Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices can charge for parcel cards; and

WHEREAS, the burden to fund the Register of Deeds and the Treasury Departments would fall more heavily on the taxpayers of Alcona County due to providing official records to out-of-state entities and corporate organizations; and

WHEREAS, Zillow will profit on selling publicly owned records, provided to them free of charge, while at the same time placing Alcona County and other Michigan residents at a higher risk for fraud and theft; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerks, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and bipartisan organizations, are united in opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, 4732.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alcona County Board of Commissioners stand in solidarity with the Alcona County Register of Deeds and the Alcona County Treasurer to oppose Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, 4732 and stand up to corporations that data-mine and benefit financially from public records at the expense of the taxpayers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution in opposition to the above bills be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, Senator Stamas, Representative Allor, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of County Treasurers, the Michigan Association of County Clerks, the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and the Michigan Municipal League.

Roll Call: Yes – Gauthier, Brummund, Thompson and Small

No - None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Small, to approve Resolution #2022-16 as follows:

RESOLUTION #2022-16

ALCONA COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PERSON TO PERSON ACCESS TO MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICES

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Alcona County strive for the betterment for the residents and guests of our great county; and

WHEREAS, in the quest to insure the best of services for the residents and guests of Alcona County;

WHEREAS, these services are inclusive of State of Michigan services including the services of the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, provided for in Michigan Compiled Law Chapter 257, Section 257.205(1) "At least one office shall be established in each county of the State"; and

WHEREAS, the reduced access of internet within the county causes reduction of the ability to make appointments as well as having direct contact with the Secretary of State local offices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Alcona County Board of Commissioners, based on state law, request a continuance of the Secretary of State office in Alcona County; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Alcona County Board of commissioners, urge a continuance of both appointment and walk in services to be provided at our county Secretary of State office; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we provide a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Whitmer, Secretary of State Benson, Senator Stamas, Representative Allor and the other 82 counties in the State of Michigan.

Roll Call: Yes – Thompson, Small, Brummund and Gauthier

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Small, seconded by Brummund, to approve the Alcona County Emergency Medical Services Millage for the consideration of Alcona County taxpayers at the November General Election.

Roll Call: Yes – Small, Brummund and Gauthier

No – Thompson

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE REPORT:

Sheila Scott, Deputy Treasurer, stated that the Treasurer’s office will be meeting with department heads in regard to their mid-year budgets and discussing their 2023 budgets.

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Building Department Services from a Level 201 to a Level 301 and allow the Chair to sign.

Roll Call: Yes – Gauthier, Thompson, Small and Brummund

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Thompson, to approve health care for Alcona County Road Commissioners.

Roll Call: Yes – Small, Thompson, Gauthier and Brummund

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Small, to increase the Alcona County Road Commissioners to the same salary as the Alcona County Board of Commissioners.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Gauthier, Small and Thompson

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURERS REPORT:

Deputy Treasurer Scott reported that Township Treasurers are collecting taxes and submitting to the county, so revenue is coming in.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk Eller informed the Board that after discussion with the Probate Judge, Laura A. Frawley and Jennifer Lueck, Trial Court Administrator, that Juror mileage rates be increased to \$.50 a mile.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NEMCOG Roundtable Invite, Michigan Department of Treasury Webinar, MEDC Workshop and Mecosta County Resolution

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner's gave brief reports on various meetings they recently attended. Commissioner Brummund extended an invite to all to the Michigan Forgotten Eagles on the courthouse lawn between 12:00 p.m. and 12:20 p.m. on August 4, 2022. Commissioner Gauthier spoke of the ARPA meeting and brought forth 2 recommendations voted on by the ARPA Committee and requested that \$4,000.00 be used to fix the recording and sound equipment in the lower-level courtroom.

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Trial Court request in the amount of \$4,000.00 from the ARPA Fund.

Roll Call: Yes – Thompson, Small, Brummund and Gauthier

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

The second ARPA Committee recommendation is to allocate \$50,000.00 for Building and Grounds to use for building repairs to be paid out of a County Building Maintenance Fund.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Thompson, to approve \$50,000.00 for building maintenance from the ARPA Fund.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Small, Thompson and Gauthier

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tony Atkinson, Veterans Counselor, explained the process of accepting or not accepting the location of the property for the new Veterans Affairs building to proceed to the next steps.

Gary Wnuk, Mitchell Township resident, thanked the Board for approving the Secretary of State Resolution and for increasing the Jury mileage rate.

Troy Somers, Equalization Director, informed the Board that the PRE's are no longer handled at the July and December Board of Reviews can be handled at any time by the Township Assessors.

At 3:08 p.m. the meeting adjourned to the next **Regular Meeting** to be held on **Wednesday, August 3, 2022** at 1:30 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman