

The **Regular Meeting** of the Alcona County Board of Commissioners was held in the County Building in the City of Harrisville, Michigan on **Wednesday, December 21, 2022** at 1:30 p.m.

The hearing was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Adam Brege, Chairman.

Invocation given by Chairman Brege.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners present: Adam Brege, Chairman, Dan Gauthier, Vice Chairman, Carolyn Brummund, William Thompson and Terry Small. Also present: Stephany Eller, County Clerk and Cheryl Franks, County Treasurer.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Small, to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and the December 12, 2022 Special Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Brege added Lenny Avery, ACCOA Director, to Presentations and the EMPG Grant to the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS:

Sheriff Scott Stephenson presented an award to Officer Josh Geiersbach for his role involving the November 8th active shooter incident.

Lenny Avery, ACCOA Director, presented the 2022/2023 FY Budget. Avery gave a Power Point presentation of the proposed site plan for the new ACCOA Senior and Community Center with Senior and Family Housing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Small, to enforce the invoice request to the Veteran's Affairs for the Cost Allocation.

Commissioner Gauthier and Chairman Brege discussed what the cost allocation invoice is for.

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

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Brege and Commissioner Gauthier discussed the Alcona County Master Plan through NEMCOG.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Gauthier, to approve the amended ACCOA contract and allow the Chair to sign.

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

No - Brummund

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Brege, seconded by Gauthier, to approve pre-authorized claims and open claims presented for payment between 12/07/2022 and 12/20/2022 for check numbers 149362 to 149516 and E-check numbers 2004 to 2013 for a grand total of \$633,801.85.

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

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Small, to accept that Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC prepare the 2022 audit for the County and allow the Chair to sign the Engagement Letter and challenge the Board to look for new eyes for the 2023 audit.

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Small, to amend the motion to add an additional 3 months to the claim period after presentation of the audit.

Roll Call on amended motion: Yes – Thompson and Brummund and Gauthier

No – Brege, Small

MOTION FAILED

Roll Call on original motion: Yes – Gauthier, Brege and Small Thompson

No – Brummund and

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Thompson, to acknowledge receipt of the Library Board Trustee recommendations and have the Board meet with recommended appointees.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Thompson, to acknowledge receipt of the Fair Board member recommendations and have the Board meet with recommended appointees.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Small, seconded by Brege, to approve Resolution #2022-18 as follows:

SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF CONSUMERS ENERGY DAMS

WHEREAS, in a news release dated August 9, 2022, Consumers Energy announced it will gather opinions from the public about the 13 dams they own and operate on five Michigan rivers to help guide their decisions about the future of those electric generation facilities; and

WHEREAS, within the news release, Norman Kapala, Vice President of Generation Operations at Consumers Energy explains, "We need to perform due diligence now as the licenses to operate your dams begin to expire in 12 years. We do not want to assume we know how individuals and communities feel about our dams as we develop plans to either continue investing in or remove any of your rivers hydro facilities." and acknowledges, "We are keenly aware dams have great significance for local communities and impact recreation to Michigan residents and visitors statewide. Public input will be an important component in our long-term strategic planning regarding the future of our dams."; and

WHEREAS, in October 2022, Consumers Energy held a public meeting in Alcona County regarding the Alcona dam; and

WHEREAS, the one dam within Alcona County creates a robust recreational and economic impact within our county; and

WHEREAS, decommissioning of this dam would be devastating to the local economy in Alcona County as well as the economy state-wide as thirteen dams are being considered for decommissioning; and

WHEREAS, the true economic impact cannot be quantified at this time due to the lack of comprehensive, professional and independent report; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy benefited from using Michigan's natural resources for more than one hundred years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alcona County Board of Commissioners believes Consumers Energy has a responsibility to fund state-wide economic and environmental studies by an independent consultant with the expertise in these subjects to obtain an accurate picture of the true economic and environmental impacts to the State of Michigan and Alcona County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Alcona County Board of Commissioners further supports the exploration of other funding sources for these studies including but not limited to State and Federal grants.

Roll Call: Yes – Gauthier, Brummund, Brege, Small and Thompson **No – None**

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Brummund, to approve the Master Plans for Mikado Township and the City of Harrisville and waive the 30 day comment period.

Roll Call: Yes – Brege, Brummund, Gauthier, Thompson and Small **No – None**

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brege, seconded by Gauthier, to move forward with the creation of a Land Bank Blight Program Resolution.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Brummund, to approve the Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement Grant (EMPG) and authorize the Chair to sign.

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

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE REPORT:

Chairman Brege reported on a brief meeting held with Finance earlier in the morning and working on end of the year items.

PERSONNEL REPORT: No report.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Franks provided a report reflecting the last 5 years of revenues and expenditures and stated that there are some pending things that need to be finalized before the end of the year.

CLERK’S REPORT:

Clerk Eller informed the Board that on the County’s behalf she will be traveling to Bay City for the ongoing county lawsuit and that Deputy County Clerk, Trena Somers, will be present for the Organizational Meeting on January 4th.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Barry County Resolution and Caledonia Township Letters of Support Request

Commissioner Gauthier explained the request for letters of support from Caledonia Township and requested that new Commissioner, David Jagst, be informed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioners gave brief reports on various meetings they recently attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Hanson, Building and Grounds, gave an update on projects completed over the last year and projects planned for 2023.

Lenny Avery asked the Board if there was an emergency preparedness plan in place in light of the upcoming storm for warming stations.

Tony Atkinson spoke of his dismay in the Board.

Tim Gauthier, Caledonia Township resident, informed the Board of pending litigation regarding 2 of the letters of support requests from Caledonia Township.

Mike Brady, Caledonia Township resident, spoke of his concern with Holcomb Creek wetland construction violations and its effect on surrounding personal properties. Brady spoke further of

his concern with the Caledonia Township Supervisor changing her personal property to agricultural and its effect on surrounding wetlands and Holcomb Creek.

Chairman Brege thanked Vice Chairman, Dan Gauthier and Commissioner Bill Thompson for serving on the Board.

At 3:14 p.m. the meeting adjourned to the **Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting** to be held on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023** at 1:00 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman