

## Commissioner Minutes of August 24, 2021

*The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by Chairperson Moore and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.*

The Board reviewed the agenda with the addition of going into closed sessions for the purpose of Pratt Lake Level and Union negotiations to be made. *Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to proceed with the consent agenda as prepared with the additions of the two closed sessions. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** were then read by Commissioner Taylor. *General Fund - \$244,590.02 before the payment of bills.*

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Pratt Lake Levels legal decision. Roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Szuch – yes; Commissioner Kyle Grove – yes; Commissioner Rick Grove – yes; Chairperson Moore – yes; Commissioner Taylor – yes. 5 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, motion to enter Executive Session passed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 11:26 – 11:50 a.m.**

Motion by Chairperson Moore, supported by Commissioner Taylor, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Taylor to follow the recommendation of the Pratt Lake Level Delegated Authority, supported by Commission Szuch. Ayes carried, motion passed.

### **Finance Matters – Commissioner Taylor:**

1. District Court has requested to continue employment for Linda Hawkins through September 14, 2021. Motion by Commissioner Taylor to extend her employment through this date. Discussion. \$12,893 has already been expended out of the General Fund and another extension just does not seem cost effective at this time. Commissioner Taylor withdrew his motion.
2. Kristie Simrau has requested attendance at the 2021 Michigan Probate and Juvenile Registers Association annual conference at a cost of \$264.18 out of 101-148-860 travel. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Szuch, to approve as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. Hannah McGuire has requested attendance at the 2021 Michigan Probate and Juvenile Registers Association annual conference at a cost of \$264.18 out of 101-148-860 travel. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Szuch, to approve as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
4. Laura Brandon-Maveal needs to be removed on the County credit card and add the new Administrator, Mark Justin. Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Taylor, to add the new Administrator, along with Melanie Thume. Ayes carried, motion passed.
5. The Treasurer has requested the purchase of a new laptop for her office from I.T. Right at a cost of \$1,086 to come from the Tax Reversion Fund. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to approve

the purchase from I.T. Right using Tax Reversion funds and not General funds. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**New Business:**

1. The Board needs to sign an authorization to reappoint Susan Svetcos to the CMHCH Board for the term April 1, 2021 through March 1, 2024. Motion by Commissioner Szuch, supported by Commissioner Taylor, to reappoint Susan. Ayes carried, motion passed.
2. The CESF Grant needs to be updated with the new Chairperson to allow for the Grant to continue through the end of the year. Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Szuch, to allow the current Board Chair to sign the Grant. Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. The Constitution Week Proclamation needs to be adopted by the County as in the past. Motion by Chairperson Moore, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to recognize Constitution Week. Ayes carried, motion passed.
4. The passport processing function needs to be moved from the Clerks' Office to the Register of Deeds Office to keep in compliance with changes in the vital records processing. Motion by Commissioner Rick Grove, supported by Commissioner Szuch, to move this process as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed. Motion by Chairperson Moore, supported by Commissioner Taylor, to also make the part time person in Register of Deeds full time to support the passport acceptance change with the Registrar and Administrator to meet for proper funding of this. Ayes carried, motion passed.
5. Doctors Tashjian and Mahabir need to be appointed as Deputy Medical Examiners in the absence of Dr. Bush as to always have coverage. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to appoint them as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
6. The annual MIFSM report and update for the Medical Examiner needs to be approved by the Board. Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Taylor, to sign the report as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.
7. The Medical Examiner asked to formally set a cremation permit fee at \$63 so there was a record. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to set this fee. Ayes carried, motion passed.
8. Veterans Director Ken Roberts needs Board approval of the 2020 Annual Report. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to approve the report as submitted. Ayes carried, motion passed.
9. Ken Roberts requested the Board accept and approve the changes to the Veterans Affairs Bylaws. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to adopt the changes to the Bylaws. Ayes carried, motion passed.
10. Ken Roberts has requested a letter from the Board in support of the CVSO Act which would provide an additional \$50,000 grant to help veterans if passed. Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to draft a letter from the Board supporting the passing of this Act. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**Chair Comments:**

Chairperson Moore thanked the citizens for their participation in the COW meeting and appreciates their comments and concerns regarding the drain situation. She expressed her concern, commenting the Board had very limited authority over elected officials and the Drain Commissioner.

## **Commissioner Reports by District –**

### **Commissioner Kyle Grove reported:**

- On the Sports Complex meeting and the addition of cement in areas of the Complex, commenting they are looking into Grants for handicap accessibility also.
- On the Arts funding.

### **Commissioner Taylor reported:**

- On attending negotiations for the Deputies.
- He attended the Sage Township meeting.
- He attended the Airport meeting and things were going really good and there was an upgrade to the lights.
- On the Pratt Lake Authority.
- He attended a Veterans meeting and what a great group it was to worth with.
- He attended the meeting on the weed control for the lakes.
- He would again be attending more negotiations with the Deputies.

### **Commissioner Szuch reported:**

- He attended all his Township meetings, but there really wasn't anything to report.
- He also commented on the major issues with the drains, noting budget issues for the individuals affected. He has seen stacks of letters from citizens relating to the lakes and would like to put that much focus on people affected by the drain issues.

### **Chairperson Moore reported:**

- She attended the Wiggins Lake Dam tour that was open to residents with free ice cream. It was very interesting and really liked seeing and talking to all the people.
- She attended the Michigan Association of Counties meeting in Roscommon and learned a lot about the American Recovery Funds.
- There is a Four Lakes Task Force update on their website.
- The Gladwin Fair made \$10,000 this year which is more than the last 3 years combined.
- Farm Bureau is hosting the "Keeping It Real" meeting at the Stone House on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
- The Commissioners are hosting the Council of Local Government on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **Commissioner Rick Grove reported:**

- On attending the City of Beaverton meeting where they are making great progress on the road repairs and improvements, commenting also on St. Gobain's expansion and the jobs it has brought to the County. He also commented on the City of Beaverton going to a four day work week from 7:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday they are closed.
- He attended the Grout Township meeting where there is not a lot going on except for a lot of questions surrounding Amerihemp and their burning of waste product.

### **Administrator Report:**

Chairperson Moore introduced Mark Justin who then addressed the Board, giving a little information on his history in Gladwin and moving back. Mark stated it was wonderful meeting everyone. He has met with most of the Department Heads to get a

better understanding on the needs of the County. He is currently working hard on the RFP deadline and getting that met in a timely manner.

**Public Comments:**

Byron Dell spoke once again, asking the Board to please take into consideration helping the residents affected by the extremely high drain assessments. Attorney Hoerhauf will check into the Bond on the former Drain Commissioner regarding negligence.

Tim Mester of Billings Township addressed the Board on some of the concerns regarding residents living on canals of Wixom Lake and how they may be perceived to be "second class" to residents on the main water.

Linda Warner thanked the Board for listening to her concerns on the drain issues.

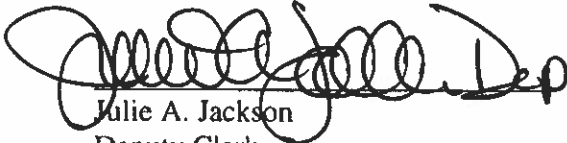
Sheriff Shea commented he was going to have a can drive with the proceeds going to buying watches for the Board so they can avoid 4 hour meetings in the future.


Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Taylor, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Union negotiations. Roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Szuch – yes; Commissioner Kyle Grove – yes; Commissioner Rick Grove – yes; Chairperson Moore – yes; Commissioner Taylor – yes. 5 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, motion to enter Executive Session passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 12:51 – 1:38 p.m.**

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Chairperson Moore, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

*Motion by Commissioner Rick Grove, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m., until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, unless otherwise ordered.*

  
Julie A. Jackson  
Deputy Clerk

  
Karen Moore  
Chairman