

MUSKEGON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Ways & Means Committee

April 13, 2021
4:00 p.m. via Zoom

Kim Cyr, Chair
Doug Brown, Vice-Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cyr at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Doug Brown (Muskegon), Marcia Hovey-Wright (Muskegon), Susie Hughes (Muskegon), Zach Lahring (Muskegon), Charles Nash (Muskegon), Malinda Pego (Muskegon), Bob Scolnik (Norton Shores), Rillastine Wilkins (Muskegon), Kim Cyr (Muskegon)

Also Present: Mark Eisenbarth, County Administrator; Kathy Tharp, Administrative Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Nash, supported by Commissioner Hughes, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021, meeting as written.

Roll Call:

Yes: Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes, Zach Lahring, Charles Nash, Malinda Pego, Bob Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Doug Brown, Kim Cyr

No: None Motion carried.

PRESENTATION: 2020 Audit

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

WM21/04 - 41 It was moved by Commissioner Hughes, supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright, to approve payment of the accounts payable of \$2,970,284.71 covering the period of March 19, 2021 through April 1, 2021 for checks as presented by the County Clerk.

Roll Call:

Yes: Susie Hughes, Zach Lahring, Charles Nash, Malinda Pego, Bob Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Doug Brown, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Kim Cyr

No: None Motion carried.

WM21/04 - 42 It was moved by Commissioner Nash, supported by Commissioner Hughes, to approve the resolution adopting the 2021 equalized valuation for Muskegon County as determined and submitted by the Muskegon County Equalization Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Pego, supported by Commissioner Lahring, to postpone WM21/04 – 42 to full board on April 20, 2021.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bob Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Doug Brown, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes, Zach Lahring, Charles Nash, Malinda Pego, Kim Cyr

No: None Motion to postpone to full board carried.

WM21/04 - 43 It was moved by Commissioner Lahring, supported by Commissioner Wilkins, to waive the procurement policy and authorize DLZ to provide a facility condition assessment on County owned buildings and grounds for a not to exceed cost of \$50,000 and authorize the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Lahring, supported by Commissioner Pego, to call the question on WM21/04 – 43.

Roll Call – Call the Question (2/3 required):

Yes: Malinda Pego, Robert Scolnik, Doug Brown, Zach Lahring, Kim Cyr

No: Charles Nash, Rillastine Wilkins, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes Motion failed.

Roll Call – 21/04 – 43:

Yes: Rillastine Wilkins, Doug Brown, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes, Zach Lahring, Charles Nash, Robert Scolnik, Kim Cyr

No: Malinda Pego Motion carried.

WM21/04 - 44 It was moved by Commissioner Nash, supported by Commissioner Hughes, to allow the IT Department to renew TrendMicro AntiVirus software agreement for three years and authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement.

Roll Call:

Yes: Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Doug Brown, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes, Zach Lahring, Charles Nash, Malinda Pego, Kim Cyr

No: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hughes requested Administrator Eisenbarth look into some unexpected things with the airport. A former employees said that there are a lot of things that we are paying for that we didn't

think we were going to have to pay for like phones, email, VDI, BS&A, desktops, vehicles, and other stuff. She would like a report at the next meeting on what all the county is providing for them because she thought that they were going to come in and take over everything.

WM21/04 – 45 It was moved by Commissioner Pego, supported by, Commissioner Lahring, for Muskegon County to Adopt a Resolution Banning Social Passports (ex: Vaccine Passports) within the Boundaries of Muskegon County.

Roll Call:

Yes: Zach Lahring, Malinda Pego, Doug Brown, Kim Cyr

No: Charles Nash, Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Susie Hughes

Motion failed.

Commissioner Lahring asked the County Administrator to report on the status of the sheriff's bond with the State. Commissioner Pego requested that the executors and administrators of the bond be included in the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10 citizens voiced their agreement in favor of the passport resolution.

Two citizens thanked the Board for extending the COVID-19 Emergency Order.

FINAL BOARD COMMENT

Commissioner Hughes requested corporate counsel to look into it and see if it is legal or against the rules to text during the meetings because she has had a couple people say they are being texted during meetings. She thinks that is against the rules.

Chairman Scolnik commented that we have no control over the national rules regarding passports; he thought he heard the president say he was against passports. He understands people are concerned. We have been assured that there won't be. He has received a lot of comments, phone calls and in person, text messages, Facebook messages asking him to stop this constant bringing stuff up at meetings -- they're calling it a circus -- and get back to what we're here for is county business and not running the federal government; and here we did it again. He spoke about the division of people who believe in the vaccine and the people who do not believe in the vaccine. Today was a protest against vaccines. He believes the people who don't believe in the vaccine are in a pretty large minority. Those calling in are very well orchestrated; many of them are reading scripts. This is what we call the beginning of tyranny of the minority. There are a lot of the public that have had enough of this and we're going to get a lot of phone calls.

Commissioner Lahring takes offense to Chairman Scolnik's comments. This is not a protest. This is called public debate. This is where this forum is contested in the public arena. This is how rights are attributed to people through debate, left or right, republican or democrat; it doesn't matter. This is where it has to happen. This is where the public engages their elected officials. It leads to a protest if

we try to squelch this public comment. He actually encourages more of this. He stated a lot of this board's problem is that they are missing their 6 o'clock tee off times or something. We need to be able to have these debates publicly, agree or disagree, and then we vote. He is completely in favor of as many callers who want to call in and state their opinions and make their voices heard. He spoke about the minority and the tyranny. He didn't know where Chairman Scolnik got the doctrine from. He would like to see his sources. That may be under the communist manifesto, but it is certainly not in the republican documents.

Commissioner Nash stated that Commissioner Scolnik is completely right. He thinks that our community is beginning to look at this as a serious clown show and they do not like the way that the board is conducting itself with these types of tactics. Any resolution that comes before this board should be something that we share with each other. We have to understand that words do matter, and even in a resolution those words are very important. And to not even have time to look them over; not to be able to determine if there is some misguided information or whatever it may be; I would just implore any commissioner if you're going to bring it forward try not to just spring it on us. Let's try to work this out. I'm not a huge fan of the passport issue, but I'm not going to support a resolution that I don't completely understand or may speak something against something that may not be realistic, true, or have real research behind it. Everyone is talking about their rights and abilities, but I would say look at this in a different way. You care about your health concerns and your right to choose and things of that sort. Remember that when you start thinking about a woman's right to choose when she decides what she wants to do with her body because of whatever conditions may be. We take these principles and we use them when we want to use them, but we don't use them when we don't want to use them. And I think that's hypocritical to use them when you like something that you favor, but you use them against someone else. So we really have to look at that, but I hope we can work more peaceful and working together. Sometimes we have to agree to disagree. Some of this kind of gets a little theatric and silly and our community is getting sick and tired of it.

Commissioner Hovey-Wright agreed that our meetings have become somewhat of a circus. I think we all need to learn the Board Rules and Robert's Rules. We need to follow those. Springing motions on us is not a way to run the county. This could have been done ahead of time. It's not respecting our need to look at it and think about it. I don't know how I feel about passports. I think that some of the concerns that people raised about medical problems, etc., are valid. As far as I know, it's only been businesses, sports teams, cruise lines, and what not that are requiring passports. I don't know of any governments that have done it. The first we heard about it was from those of you supporting this resolution. I'm not going to vote on anything that is sprung on us like this. Where I don't have a copy of it ahead of time and a chance to think about it, ask questions of the maker, etc., check the facts. She spoke about working together and how it may take a little more work. Some of these: the succession issue and the passports are sprung on us and not much thought is put into; facts aren't checked. It's really a distraction from what we need to be doing in the county. There are plenty of real problems that we need to address and we're not doing it because of these distractions.

Commissioner Lahring remarked that it seems to be a clown show when we pass a resolution, but when you pass welcoming resolutions that are hidden from everybody or you pass resolutions condemning a Trump rally on January 6th those aren't clown shows? But when we try to pass a resolution, those are clown shows. So, he just takes offense at your projections. Secondly,

Commissioner Nash's comment about a woman's right. He is totally in favor of a woman's rights, particularly the most vulnerable woman in our society that just happen to have their physical address in their mother's womb. Those are the rights he's most interested in. We are fundamentally or constitutionally denying a human beings constitutional right and their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by ending their life in the very early developmental stages.

Commissioner Nash stated most of the places that were mentioned today regarding this passport are in other countries. There is no one in this country that is trying to make this happen. There was talk about that with private businesses, and they have even backed off of this issue. He just wanted to make that known.

Commissioner Cyr encouraged all of the board members to read the resolution and the attached documentation. He just read a USA Today news article from March 26 regarding passports. New York is the first with a vaccination proof system. St. Vincent is in another country, but they did not let people off the island that weren't vaccinated. Another article said that about 40% of a group of marines interviewed said they would not take a vaccine passport. He doesn't think this is a dead issue. He thinks it's a human rights issue. It's an issue that goes against our constitution and thinks we just need to get a little bit more informed and keep our eyes open.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Ways & Means Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.