

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER SESSION (SECOND DAY)  
November 26, 2019**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, in the Commissioners meeting room at the Courthouse, on Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Present: Commissioners Ted Gordon, Leonard Kolcz, Tom Matthew, Randall Hazelbaker, and Terri Norris, County Clerk Teresa Kubasiak, Administrator Bud Norman.

Commissioner Gordon led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2/ Motion by Commissioner Norris seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

3/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Public Hearing. MOTION CARRIED

4/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Matthew, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Board meeting. MOTION CARRIED

5/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2019 Special meeting. MOTION CARRIED

6/ Motion by Commissioner Matthew, seconded by Commissioner Norris to approve the schedule adjustment to Spring of 2020 for the foundation establishment of the new jail. MOTION CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$347,434.93

approve the purchase of rifle carriers and plates for the road deputies in the amount of \$3,990 to be paid for out of the Sheriffs budget.

7/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris that authorization is given to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: Bills & Accounts; the purchase of rifle plates-Sheriff's Department. MOTION CARRIED

8/ Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to approve the resolution in support of adopting 4-year terms for Commissioners, HB4937.

**2019-18**  
**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR**  
**TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**WHEREAS** the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS** the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

**WHEREAS** Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

**WHEREAS** the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century – road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

**WHEREAS** Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two-year terms for county commissioners; and

**WHEREAS** all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

**WHEREAS** the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

**WHEREAS** legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of House Bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Association of Counties supports the legislation as introduced;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **BRANCH COUNTY** supports House Bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505 to enact four-year terms for county commissioners.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Norris, Kolcz, Matthew, Hazelbaker, Gordon – 5

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

9/ Commissioner Kolcz nominated Michael Kelly to fill an expiring position on the Airport Board.

10/ Commissioner Kolcz nominated Thomas Miller to fill an expiring position on the Airport Board of Appeals.

11/ Commissioner Matthew nominated Paul Meredith to fill an expiring position on the Board of Public Works.

12/ Commissioner Hazelbaker nominated Kimberly Langworthy to fill an expiring position on the Branch District Library Board.

13/ Commissioner Gordon nominated Ralph Strong and Debora Lounds-Bowers to fill expiring positions on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

14/ Commissioner Gordon nominated Paul Meredith to fill an expiring position on the Commission on Aging Board.

15/ Commissioner Hazelbaker nominated Cody Johnson, Kara Derrickson, and Dean Walrack to fill expiring positions on the Planning Commission.

16/ Commissioner Kolcz nominated Dennis Hopkins and Victoria Scott to fill expiring positions on the Veterans Affairs Board.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Kolcz – the last VA meeting was cancelled.

Matthew – attended the Public Health meeting and toured the facility.

Chairman’s Remarks:

A meeting with local officials was held today to discuss the 911 issues.

17/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to go in to closed session to discuss Union negotiations.

Upon roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yes – Norris, Kolcz, Matthew, Hazelbaker, Gordon – 5

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board went into closed session at 4:15 pm. They returned to open session at 5:07 pm

18/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to adjourn at 5:07 pm. **MOTION CARRIED**

---

Chairman

---

Clerk