

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH SESSION (FIRST DAY)**  
**March 10, 2020**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, in the Commissioners meeting room at the Courthouse, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

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

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

Commissioner Norris arrived at 4:01pm

Commissioner Gordon led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

3/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 Board meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:

Karen Barkman and Floyd Tucker both commented on the Resolution the Board is considering regarding the support of the Second Amendment.

Tyler Augst introduced himself as the new MSUE Government & Community Vitality Educator.

4/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, that approval is given to hire a part-time IT employee at the non-union level 3 rate of \$12.98 per hour up to 24 hours per week, with sick, vacation, personal and holiday pay, effective immediately. MOTION CARRIED

5/ Sheriff Pollack informed the Board that the inmate count is up to 133. Eight females had to be moved to Calhoun County due to overcrowding.

6/ Motion by Commissioner Matthew, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, that approval is given to the DAR to hold a Flag Raising Ceremony on Saturday, March 28th at 9:00 am, at the Courthouse. MOTION CARRIED

7/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Matthew, to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$414,692.66. MOTION CARRIED

8/ Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Matthew, that approval is given to adopt a Resolution for Branch County supporting the Second Amendment Rights, as presented.

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SUPPORT SECOND AMENDMENT AND CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 6**

**WHEREAS**, the Branch County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Michigan statute, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the county government of Branch County, Michigan, and is organized as a body corporate with powers and immunities provided by law, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Branch County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1791 as part of the Bill of Rights, protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms; and

**WHEREAS**, each Branch County Commissioner took an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States and the Michigan Constitution, and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of this Board to declare its support of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and to the provisions of the Michigan Constitution which protect Branch County citizens' individual rights to keep and bear arms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Branch County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its commitment and promise to support the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States, including the Second Amendment as well as the Constitution of the State of Michigan including Article I, Section 6, and all related laws, which protect individual rights.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs its staff to forward a copy of this resolution to the County elected officials, the Michigan State Legislature (House of Representatives and State Senators), and the Governor of Michigan.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

9/ Commissioner Kolcz nominated Gina Wright and John Wellet to fill expiring positions on the Mental Health Board.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Hazelbaker – The Community Awards dinner was held on March 5th and it went really well.

Norris – The Arab-American Society held a meet and greet. It went very well.

10/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to adjourn at 4:20 pm. **MOTION CARRIED**

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Chairman

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Clerk