

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY SESSION (FIRST DAY)**  
**May 12, 2020**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm via video conference call.

Present: Commissioners Ted Gordon, Tom Matthew, Leonard Kolcz, Randall Hazelbaker, and Terri Norris via video conference call.

County Clerk Teresa Kubasiak and Administrator Bud Norman were present in the Boardroom at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Matthew led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

3/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 Board meeting.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment: None

4/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, that approval is given for the Sheriff to hire a full-time corrections officer at the POAM starting rate of \$13.839 per hour with full benefits, with funds to be taken out of the 2020 Sheriff Department budget.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

5/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to table the requests for Hazard Pay until the next work meeting.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

6/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the resolution requesting adequate hazard pay funding be provided to local governments units by the State.

**2020-04**  
**RESOLUTION BY BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REQUESTING COMPARABLE HAZARD PAY – RISK OF COVID-19**  
**IN PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES**

**WHEREAS**, in response to the dangers of Coronavirus disease COVID-19, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-4 on March 24, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency and subsequent executive orders which ordered Michigan residents, to the fullest extent possible, to stay home and stay safe through April 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as one of the exceptions to the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order, Branch County employees are serving in law enforcement, health, judicial, infrastructure, and support capacities without the ability to practice social distancing, thus creating a higher risk for contracting COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been reported that about 14,000 of Michigan’s 49,000 state employees are eligible for \$750 extra in their bimonthly paychecks, and that this extra compensation will come out of federal funds until Michigan’s stay-at-home order is lifted; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also reported that the State’s largest police union, the Police Officers Association of Michigan, is lobbying state lawmakers to ensure that all law enforcement in Michigan gets equal “hazard pay” increases; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Branch County Board of Commissioners encourages the Police Officers Labor Council to join with the Police Officers Association of Michigan in asking the Governor and Legislature to provide equal hazard pay for all county, city, village, and township law enforcement officers in the State.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Branch County Board of Commissioners urges Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the State Legislature to provide adequate funding to Michigan local governmental units so that they may provide comparable hazard pay for all local government employees who are at a state of increased risk of contracting COVID-19 in the performance of their duties.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:  
Yes – Norris, Matthew, Kolcz, Hazelbaker, Gordon – 5  
No – 0  
**MOTION CARRIED**

7/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Matthew, to approve the building re-opening plan, as presented.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:  
Yes – Norris, Matthew, Kolcz, Hazelbaker, Gordon – 5  
No – 0  
**MOTION CARRIED**

8/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of 172,786.41.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

9/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Mathew, to approve a hiring freeze and a capital expenditure freeze for the remainder of 2020, except for essential positions and the Teen Share project.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment: None

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Kolcz – most of his townships have not been able to meet, although two met to take care of essential business.

10/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to adjourn at 4:33pm.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

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Chairman

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Clerk