

BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE SESSION
SPECIAL MEETING
June 11, 2020

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, in on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Vice-Chairman Norris called the meeting to order at 3:30pm via video conference call.

Present: Commissioners Tom Matthew, Randall Hazelbaker and Terri Norris via video conference call. Commissioner Gordon joined at 3:41pm

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

Additions: Emergency Management/Consumers Energy report, Information-water break, COVID 19 update

2/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to approve the agenda as amended.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Norris, Hazelbaker, Matthew, Kolcz – 4

No – 0

Absent – Gordon

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment: None

Tim Miner, Emergency Management Director, spoke about the recent weather events. Wind speeds were estimated up to 70 mph. There were two minor injuries reported with many trees and powerlines down. Mostly around the Bronson area.

Greg Moore from Consumers Energy provided an update on the power outages around the area. Branch and Calhoun counties were the hardest hit. Utility crews from Coldwater and Sturgis are helping with clean up in the Bronson area. Consumers is bringing in more crews from out of state. They have 173 crew statewide along with 94 contracted crews. 43% of Branch County is without power. They are hoping to get it restored by Sunday. This will depend on when the out of state crews arrive.

Dr. Troy Davis spoke about the county autopsies regarding the fees. At a previous work meeting there was question as to why someone was listed twice under the autopsy billings. It was explained that there are three fee schedules. Transport for testing; Michigan Pathology (blood tests, tissue samples, autopsies); Spectrum Health (toxicology-legal and illegal drugs). It is possible that someone would be sent for toxicology after the initial autopsy and testing, depending on results. This does not happen with every case. The County used to use Lucas Co. for autopsies but switched to Spectrum in 2019.

The Administrator reported that there was a water main break in front of the Sheriff's department on the east side of Marshall Rd. The road was closed until it could be repaired. Hoffman Brothers who was working on the jail project stepped in and repaired the break. The road commission finished filling in the opening after the repair. It took about 6 hours to fix.

The Community Health Agency will be conducting COVID-19 testing on Friday, from 9am-2pm in the parking lot at the office on Marshall Rd. Testing will also be held on Saturday and Sunday at the Fairgrounds.

3/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to go into closed session to discuss union negotiations.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into closed session at 4:12pm and returned to open session at 6:10pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

Chairman

Clerk