

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER SESSION (SECOND DAY)
December 22, 2020**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, on Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

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

Present: Tom Matthew, Terri Norris and Randall Hazelbaker via video conference call.

Commissioners Leonard Kolcz, 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 Houtz seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the agenda.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

3/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz seconded by Commissioner Matthew to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board meeting.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:

Certificates were awarded to departing employees: Sandy Tuckey (7 yrs.), Karen Martin (20 yrs.), Ann Vrablic (23yrs, 8mos.) and Dan Nichols (30yrs., 9mos.)

At 4:06 pm Chairman Norris began the public hearing regarding the 911 Service Plan. Resolutions from several local entities were received in advance of the hearing, opposing the passage of the plan at this time. Those submitting resolutions were: Village of Quincy, Village of Union City, City of Bronson, City of Coldwater, Ovid Twp., Bethel Twp., Quincy Twp. and the Quincy Fire Association. Letters from other groups and individuals were also received. Those submitting letters were Sheriff Pollack and the Law Enforcement Administrators, the Branch County Fire Chief's Council, MSP Ft/Lt James Coleman, Attorney Dorothy Cherry and from resident Paul Meredith.

Commenting during the public hearing were Coldwater City Manager, Keith Baker, Sheriff Pollack, Kevin Barnes, Matteson Twp. Supervisor, Rod Bailey, Quincy Fire Dept., Larry LaMontagne, Supervisors Assoc., Scott Wilber, Branch County Fire Chiefs Council, Attorney Dorothy Cherry, Dave Schmaltz, Coldwater Fire Chief, Janet Herriman, Lake Assoc. All those commenting asked that the passage of the service plan be delayed. There were no additional comments so the public hearing was closed at 4:30pm. Resolutions and letters received were placed on file in the Clerk's office.

4/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the 2021 General Fund staffing plan.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

5/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz that approval is given for Circuit Court to hire a Court Clerk/Video Operator at the non-union level 4 starting wage of \$14.37 per hour, with new hire benefits, effective immediately.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

6/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to hold the 2021 Branch County Board of Commissioners Organizational meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 10am.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

7/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Matthew to approve for the Prosecutor to fill the Chief Assistant Prosecutor position, non-union Level 16 wage scale, effective 01/01/2021.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

8/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Matthew to table the decision on the 911 Service Plan for eight days, December 30, 2020.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

9/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the 911 Communications contract with J & K Communications for the 800mhz radio system.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

10/ Motion by Commissioner Matthew, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz that an RFP be issued giving private companies the opportunity to bid on the countywide internet project.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

11/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$465,346.14.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

12/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to approve the 2021 Special Fund Budget.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

13/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Matthew to approve the resolution Adopting the 2021 General Fund Appropriations Act, as presented.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

14/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to nominate and appoint Ginger Kesler to fill an expiring position on the Commission on Aging Board with the new term expiring on 12/31/2023.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

15/ Clerk Kubasiak gave the Oath of Office to the incoming Board of Commissioners. Their new term begins 01/01/2021.

Public Comment:

Tim Stoll new District 1 Commissioner stated he is looking forward to serving on the Board and thanked Terri Norris for her service to the district.

Commissioner Liaison/ Committee Reports:

Houtz – Attended the BATA meeting. The buses are running but rides are down.

16/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, 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, Houtz – 5

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into closed session at 5:22pm and returned to open session at 5:48pm

There will be a special meeting held on December 30, 2020 at 2pm to address the Designated Assessor, Reclassification Requests and the 911 Service Plan.

17/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to adjourn at 5:50pm. Chairman Norris adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk