

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JUNE SESSION (FIRST DAY)**  
**June 8, 2021**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, via video conference call, on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

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

Present: Commissioners Randall Hazelbaker, Jon Houtz, Tim Stoll, Tom Matthew and Leonard Kolcz, 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 Stoll, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the agenda.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

3/ Motion by Commissioner Stoll, seconded by Commissioner Houtz, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

4/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve for District Court to fill the Attorney/Magistrate position, management level M8, with a starting wage of \$81,189 per year, with full benefits, effective 11/01/2021.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

5/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to approve for Administration to fill the Senior Account Clerk position, UAW-Supervisory level 8, with a starting wage of \$15.79 per hour, with new hire benefits, effective 07/01/2021.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

6/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to approve for the Prosecutor to hire a contractual attorney/intern and a contractual investigator, with the funds being reimbursed through the CESF program, effective 06/01/2021 – 12/31/2021.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

7/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to approve the hire of a Chief Assistant Prosecutor at a starting wage of \$79,814 per year with new hire benefits; if a current employee fills the position, their salary will move to the next level within the proper pay scale for the position.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

8/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to approve the hire of two Corrections Officers at the POAM starting wage of \$14.818, with new hire benefits.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

9/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to allow for the Administrator, Sheriff and Deputy McManamey to travel to Fort Wayne, IN on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> if necessary.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

10/ Motion by Commissioner Stoll, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the sale of three Crown Victoria police units, a Ford Explorer and a Ford F-150 pick-up, with the money being deposited in the General Fund

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$228,879.03, Payroll in the amount of \$676,581.72 and total taxes of \$176,943.02.

to approve the 2021 L4029 report as presented.

11/ Motion by Commissioner Matthew, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, that authorization is given to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: Bills & Accounts, the 2021 L4029 millage request report.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

12/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Houtz to approve the resolution opposing the “Appointment Only” plan approved by the Secretary of State.

**2021-08**  
**RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**“BY APPOINTMENT ONLY”**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, recently stated Michigan residents will always need an appointment to conduct business at a Secretary of State branch office and suggested making this permanent change, is an improvement in service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of State called walk in service at the branches an “antiquated, inefficient, take-a-number system that nobody liked”; the reality is that most people do want the option to walk in to a branch office for service at *their* convenience; and

**WHEREAS**, not only Branch County residents but all residents of the State of Michigan should have the ability to renew and make changes to all necessary documentation timely and locally through services provided by the Michigan Secretary of State; that these changes defy common sense in serving the public and is a significant reduction in convenient service; and

**WHEREAS**, some industry changes were positive during the coronavirus and made sense; this change does not as constituents need to be able to transfer vehicles, renew and update driver’s licenses expediently, so that they can prove and provide legal ownership and residency; and

**WHEREAS**, these changes have been established without input from constituents, who are directly affected by this sweeping change and web-based services do not completely replace the need for walk in service at the branch offices. Many older residents and those without computers or internet will simply be turned away at the Secretary of State door; and

**WHEREAS**, these changes will only continue to frustrate citizens who just would like their license renewed or to be able to sell a vehicle, without having to wait weeks or even months or drive to a different service area to accomplish these simple tasks;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Branch County Board of Commissioners hereby STRONGLY opposes “By Appointment Only” services for the residents not only in Branch County but for the entire State of Michigan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders of Branch County, and Michigan Association of Counties.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes –Stoll, Matthew, Houtz, Hazelbaker – 4

No – Kolcz - 1

MOTION CARRIED

13/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to accept the 2020 Equalization Annual Report and place it on file.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Committee/ Liaison Reports:

Matthew – the Ovid Twp. board will begin meeting in person with masks being required for those who are not vaccinated. Their next meeting is June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Road Commission completed the Southern Rd project, they are beginning the Angola Rd bridge project, they will begin seal coating in July and they will be paying summer help \$12.50 per hour, up from \$10.

14/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll to adjourn at 4:25pm.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Chairman

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Clerk