

BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST SESSION (FIRST DAY)
August 10, 2021

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, via video conference call, on Tuesday, August 10, 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.

It was noted that Greg Moore from Consumers Energy would be joining the meeting to provide public comment on the recent storm damage. Lt. Coleman from the MSP would be providing an update during the Sheriff & Public Safety portion of the meeting.

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 Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Board meeting.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:

A certificate was presented to County Complex employee Howard Strick, who is retiring after 12 years, 10 months of service to the County.

Emergency Manager Tim Miner and Greg Moore of Consumers Energy spoke about the damage from the storms that came through the county recently.

4/ Motion by Commissioner Houtz, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve to move the part time Building Inspection employee to temporary full time at a non-union level 6 entry level \$13.77 per hour with new hire benefits, as presented.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

5/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to go into negotiations with the resident to settle the Airport Ordinance issue regarding the trees.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0
MOTION CARRIED

Lt. Coleman of the MSP gave a brief update on coverage in Branch County. He stated that coverage has not changed, they still have the same number of troops allocated to the County. They are scheduled to get additional troopers assigned to the Marshall Post after the completion of the current recruit schools.

6/ Motion by Commissioner Stoll, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the quote from Response Technologies to upgrade the current security system and to purchase additional equipment, as presented.

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

Consent Agenda:

approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$277,349.81, payroll in the amount of \$698,166.22 and total taxes of \$183,691.81.

approve the proposed 2021 amended fund budget for special fund #792-253 Clock Tower from \$1003.00 to \$1603.00, as presented.

7/ Motion by Commissioner Matthew, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, that authorization is given to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: Bills & Accounts, Budget Amendment-Special Fund #792-253, Clock Tower.

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

Rebecca Burns, Health Officer at the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, spoke about the 2020 Annual Report.

8/ Motion by Commissioner Matthew, seconded by Commissioner Stoll, to accept the 2020 Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency 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:

Stoll – Commission on Aging in-person activities are going well. They are masking and social distancing.

Matthew – Ovid Twp. and Kinderhook Twp. have vacant trustee positions.

9/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Stoll to adjourn at 4:50pm.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:
Yes –Stoll, Kolcz, Matthew, Houtz, Hazelbaker, – 5
No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman

Clerk