

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY SESSION (FIRST DAY)
July 10, 2018**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, in the Commissioners meeting room at the Courthouse, on Tuesday, July 10, 2018.

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

Present: Commissioners Ted Gordon, Leonard Kolcz, Don Vrablic, Randall Hazelbaker, and Terri Norris, Chief Deputy Clerk Lisa Metz, Administrator Bud Norman.

Commissioner Vrablic led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Vrablic, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

3/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2018 Board meeting. MOTION CARRIED

4/ Sheriff Pollack introduced two new officers to the Board; Dia Massey and Antesar Azookari.

5/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Norris, that approval is given to obtain the Jail RFQ's in sequential order. MOTION CARRIED

6/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$135,070.487. MOTION CARRIED

7/ Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Norris, that approval is given to adopt a Resolution Declaring that the Unlawful Distribution of Prescription Controlled Substances has Created a Public Nuisance and a Serious Public Health and Safety Crisis for the Citizens of Branch County.

**2018-10
BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF
PRESCRIPTION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES HAS CREATED A PUBLIC NUISANCE
AND A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CRISIS FOR THE CITIZENS OF
BRANCH COUNTY.**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is the policy-determining body of the County;
and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has the authority to take action to protect the
public, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Branch County; and

WHEREAS, there exists a serious public health and safety crisis involving opiate/opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity, and mortality in Branch County; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of legally produced controlled substances into the illicit market causes or contributes to the serious public health and safety crisis involving opiate/opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity, and mortality in Branch County; and

WHEREAS, the violation of any laws of Michigan or of the United States of America controlling the distribution of a controlled substance is inimical, harmful, and adverse to the public welfare of the citizens of Branch County and constitutes a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has the authority to abate, or cause to be abated, any public nuisance including those acts that significantly interfere with the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Branch County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has expended, is expending, and will continue to expend in the future County public funds to respond to the serious public health and safety crisis involving opiate/opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity, and mortality in Branch County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners may sue to obtain any money due the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has received information that indicates that the manufacturers and wholesale distributors of controlled substances dispensed or otherwise diverted opioids into Branch County which may have violated Federal and State laws and regulations that were enacted to prevent the diversion of legally produced controlled substances into the illicit market; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Branch County will benefit from the retention of special outside counsel to investigate and pursue, if appropriate, the County claims against the manufacturers and wholesale distributors of controlled substances that dispensed in or otherwise directed opioids in Branch County, on a contingent fee basis, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Branch County, Michigan with at least two-thirds of its members thereto concurring as follows: That the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares that opiate/opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity and mortality has created a serious public health and safety crisis in Branch County, Michigan, and is a public nuisance.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

8/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to nominate and appoint Cayden Sparks to fill a vacant position on the Workforce Development Board, with the term expiring on 09/30/19. **MOTION CARRIED**

9/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to accept the 2017 Road Commission annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

10/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to accept the 2017 Parks Department annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

11/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to accept the 2017 MDHHS annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

12/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to accept the 2017 Maple Lawn annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

13/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to accept the 2017 Community Health annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

14/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to accept the 2017 3-A District Court annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

15/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to accept the 2013-2017 Prosecuting Attorney's office annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

16/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to accept the 2017 Veterans Affairs annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

17/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to accept the 2017 Pines Mental Health annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

18/ Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to accept the 2017 Community Health Center's final annual report and place it on file. MOTION CARRIED

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Vrablic – reminder of the tire collection scheduled for August 18, 2018.

19/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to adjourn at 4: 23 pm. MOTION CARRIED

Chairman

Clerk