The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, in the Commissioners meeting room at the Courthouse, on Friday, March 23, 2018.

Vice-Chairman Norris called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Present: Commissioners Leonard Kolcz, Don Vrablic, Randall Hazelbaker, and Terri Norris, County Clerk Teresa Kubasiak, Administrator Bud Norman.

Absent: Commissioner Ted Gordon

Administrator Norman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Vrablic, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 Board meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:
Commissioner Norris presented a certificate to Sgt. Jim Holt who is retiring from the Sheriff’s Department after over 31 years of service to the County.

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the hire rate for the Probate Referee position to be the 1 year level, M8 non-union position of $71,812, with the New Hire Benefit Package. MOTION CARRIED

COA director Amy Duff provided an update on the renovation issues at the Burnside Center. A copy of the letter submitted to the contractor and his responses was distributed for review. After discussion of the responses provided, it was suggested that legal counsel be contacted to help resolve the problems. Another update will be given at the next work meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of $97,624.64. MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz for the approval to not renew the Autopsy Contract with Lucas County. MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to approve the juror per diem reimbursement at the statutory minimum rates pursuant to MCL 600.1344, effective April 1, 2018. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz that approval is given for the submission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Resolution for the construction of a restroom facility at Memorial Park.
Whereas, Branch County supports the submission of an application titled, Branch County Memorial Park Restroom, to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for development of a new restroom building at Memorial Park; and

Whereas, the proposed application is supported by the County’s 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan; and,

Whereas, Branch County is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of $135,000 matching funds, in cash and/or force account: and

Whereas, the Branch County Parks Department has made a financial commitment to the project in the amount of $135,000 matching funds; and

Whereas the Branch County Parks Trustees have recommended that Branch County approve the submittal of the land and Water Conservation Fund Grant;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Branch County hereby authorizes submission of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Application for $135,000, and further resolves to make available its financial obligation of $135,000 (50%) of a total $270,000 project cost, during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:
Yes – Kolcz, Hazelbaker, Vrablic, Norris – 4
No – 0
Absent – Gordon -1
MOTION CARRIED

10/ Motion by Commissioner Norris seconded by Commissioner Kolcz to approve the 911 agreement for Radio System Consulting Services in the amount of $59,965. MOTION CARRIED

11/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to re-appoint Ericka Kruszka, Joe Scheid, Thomas Schmelzer and Carrie Stout to the Mental Health Board, with the new term beginning 04/01/2018. MOTION CARRIED

12/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to adjourn at 9:25 AM. MOTION CARRIED