

**BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER SESSION (FIRST DAY)
ANNUAL MEETING
October 10, 2017**

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Branch met, pursuant to adjournment, in the Commissioners meeting room at the Courthouse, on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

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

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

Undersheriff Eichler led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

3/ Motion by Commissioner Kolcz, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 Board meeting. MOTION CARRIED

4/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the resolution for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Policy.

**2017-10
BRANCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DELINQUENT TAX REVOLVING FUND POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Branch County Board of Commissioners (BOC) believes it is important to the fiscal stability of the County to adopt a written policy concerning the appropriate use of Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF) earnings and surpluses; and

WHEREAS, the BOC desires to maintain a sufficient balance in the DTRF for the County to continue to be self-funded in order that the full amount of the delinquent portion of each local tax levy will be paid to the local units of government and schools from the DTRF without borrowing; and

WHEREAS, adequate reserves must be maintained in the DTRF, General and Retirement Funds to preserve the County Bond Rating of at least "AA-" or higher, with "AA" being a reasonable goal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Branch County Board of Commissioners adopts the following Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Policy for the purposes of defining priorities for its use:

- 1) The Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund shall be maintained so that the total cash and investment balance shall not, on April 1 of each year, be less than 1.20 times the "rolling" annual average of the total real property taxes returned delinquent to the County Treasurer for the immediately preceding three years.
- 2) To the extent the balance in the DTRF may exceed the minimum funding level as set forth above, and at the discretion of the County Treasurer, whose authority as agent for the DTRF is established through MCL 211.87b (2), any excess may be declared "surplus."
- 3) Surpluses shall be expended only to prepay principal on debt owed by the County, to reduce unfunded pension or OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) liability, and/or for one-time, non-reoccurring expenditures on capital projects in accordance with the County's annually adopted capital improvements program, and only upon approval of the County Board of Commissioners.

- 4) Surpluses shall not be utilized for annually reoccurring operational expenses, including but not limited to such things as utilities, insurance, wages and fringe benefits, or interest on debt, with the exception of offsetting administrative costs to the general fund and/or contingencies.

The County Treasurer is authorized to rely on the continuing effect of this resolution until and unless it is specifically amended or rescinded by a future resolution of the Board of Commissioners.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

- 5/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to approve the hiring of a Full-time Secretary/Clerk/Receptionist for the Prosecutor’s office, at the GELC Level 6, Tier 2 starting rate of \$11.94 per hour with new hire benefit package, effective immediately.

Commissioner Gordon requested a roll call vote.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Vrablic, Hazelbaker – 2

No – Kolcz, Norris, Gordon - 3

MOTION FAILED

- 6/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Vrablic, to accept the quote from Mystic Tint, in the amount of \$3,238.95, to apply tint to the control room windows at the Jail.

During discussion of the motion, the Sheriff stated that the amount was incorrect.

Commissioner Hazelbaker withdrew his motion and the following motion was made:

Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to accept the quote from Mystic Tint, in the amount of \$1,474.95, to apply tint to the control room windows at the Jail. **MOTION CARRIED**

Consent Agenda:

to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$254,846.77.

to allow for the Vital Records increase in the County Clerk’s Office from \$18.00 to \$20.00, effective 01/01/2018.

that approval is given to pay the Medical Expert in the amount of \$4,500, to be taken out of Capital Outlay/Contingencies.

- 7/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Norris, that authorization is given to approve the following items by Consent Agenda; Bills & Accounts, Vital Records Fees Increase Request-County Clerk and Court Appointed Counsel-Circuit (Funding Request). **MOTION CARRIED**

- 8/ Motion by Commissioner Vrablic, seconded by Commissioner Norris, to approve the repair of the Courthouse elevator, not to exceed \$13,000. **MOTION CARRIED**

9/ Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Kolcz, to approve the Letter of Support of the Coldwater-Quincy-Jonesville-Concord Trail Project. MOTION CARRIED

10/ Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to approve the Resolution opposing funding cuts to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

2017-11

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 million in wages; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) provides essential funding to restore and protect the Great Lakes. This funding has supported long overdue efforts to clean up toxic pollution, reduce runoff from cities and farms, combat invasive species and restore fish and wildlife habitat. Since 2010, the federal government has partnered with public and private entities and invested more than \$2 billion over 2,900 projects throughout the region. Over its first six years, the GLRI has provided more than \$425 million for more than 500 projects in Michigan alone. The Brookings Institution has estimated that every dollar invested in the Great Lakes produces two dollars in long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, GLRI projects are making a significant difference. They have restored more than 150,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat; opened up fish access to more than 3,400 miles of rivers; helped implement conservation programs on more than 1 million acres of farmland; and accelerated the cleanup of toxic hotspots. In Michigan, GLRI funding has been instrumental in removing contaminated sediments from Muskegon Lake, the River Raisin, and the St. Mary's River; in restoring habitat along the St. Clair River, Cass River, Boardman River, and the Keweenaw Peninsula; and in the delisting of White Lake in Muskegon County and Deer Lake in the Upper Peninsula as areas of concern; and

WHEREAS, while a significant investment, past GLRI funding represents only a small portion of the amount needed to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Toxic algal blooms, beach closings, fish consumption advisories, and the presence of contaminated sediments continue to limit the recreational and commercial use of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, any cuts to GLRI Funding would jeopardize the momentum from over a decade of unprecedented regional cooperation. Draft federal budgets have proposed a 97 percent reduction in GLRI funding. These cuts would be short-sighted, short-term cost saving measure with long-term implications. Restoration efforts will only become more expensive and more difficult if they are not addressed in the coming years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Branch County, Michigan, opposes slashing federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

11/ Commissioner Vrablic nominated Elizabeth Donbrock to be re-appointed to the Department of Human Services Board. The new term will begin 11/01/2017.

12/ The Board voted by paper ballot to appoint two members to the Board of Canvassers. Dennis Armstrong, Philip Anderson and Pat Sampsel were nominated by the Republican Party. Sue Fillmore, Barbara Burkhardt and Vicky Hargrove were nominated by the Democratic Party. The votes were tallied and it was determined that Pat Sampsel and Vicky Hargrove were appointed to the Board of Canvassers.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Hazelbaker – noted that October 13th will be a busy day around Coldwater with a haunted house, pub crawl and home football game all scheduled for that day.

Chairman's Remarks:

Gordon stated that the Commission on Aging will be closed for the day on October 20th.

13/ Motion by Commissioner Hazelbaker, seconded by Commissioner Vrablic to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client privileged letter dated 07/19/17.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into closed session at 4:22 pm

The Board returned to open session at 4:36 pm and took a short recess resuming at 4:39 pm.

14/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client privileged letter dated 0/8/25/16.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

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

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into closed session at 4:40 pm

The Board returned to open session at 4:52 pm

15/ Motion by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Hazelbaker, to adjourn at 4:53 pm. **MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman

Clerk