

**MINUTES**  
**Isabella County Board of Commissioners**  
**REGULAR BOARD**  
**HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON/ELECTRONIC)**  
**Isabella County Commission on Aging Building**  
**2200 S. Lincoln Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**  
**March 5th, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chairperson Tobin D. Hope in conference room A/B of the Commission on Aging, 2200 S. Lincoln Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Hybrid Meeting (In-Person/Electronic).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** to the United States of America was led by Chairperson Hope.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Tobin D. Hope, Chris Embrey, Steve Swaney, Frank Engler, Jerry Jaloszynski, and James Moreno.

**Commissioner Absent:** Commissioner Terry Hutchinson

**Also Present:** Isabella County Administrator/Controller Nicole F. Frost, Isabella County Clerk Mindé B. Lux

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

It was moved by Commissioner Embrey and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve and place on file the February 20th, 2024 Work Session Meeting Minutes, February 20th, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes, the February 27th, 2024 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting minutes, the February 27th, 2024 Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Finance and Administration Committee:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Embrey to ratify and place on file the February 16, 2024 Invoice List in the amount of \$220,739.66, the February 23th, 2024 Invoice List in the amount of \$3,264,030.44, and the Adjustment List dated February 29, 2024. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski and Hope. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the Master Administrative Agreement between Advanced Benefit Solutions, INC (dba: 44 North) and Isabella County and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Jaloszynski, Embrey, Swaney, Engler and Hope. Nays: None.
3. It was moved by Commissioner Embrey and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the Prime Contract Change Order No. 15 with Clark Construction, in the net additional amount of \$87,543.00, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Jaloszynski, Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler and Hope. Nays: None.
4. It was moved by Commissioner Embrey and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the list of financial institutions as required by MCL 129.12 for the 2024 year. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Jaloszynski, Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler and Hope. Nays: None.
5. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the grant agreement between the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory affairs and Isabella County in the amount of \$6,626.00 for Michigan Medical Marihuana Act education and outreach, and authorize the County Administrator/Controller to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Jaloszynski, Embrey, Swaney, Engler and Hope. Nays: None.
6. It was moved by Commissioner Embrey and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the language changes to Section E (f) of the Personnel Manual for Non-Represented Employees regarding hiring rates effective immediately. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Jaloszynski, Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler and Hope. Nays: None.

### **Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and seconded by Commissioner Engler to approve the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) Integration Agreement and Authorize Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski and Hope. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and seconded by Commissioner Engler to approve the payment of Motorola Milestone 3 in the amount of \$439,746.80, for the Radio Tower Project. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski and Hope. Nays: None.
3. It was moved by Commissioner Engler and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the 2024 State Remonumentation Grant for \$47,558.00 as executed by Register of Deeds Karen R. Jackson. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski and Hope. Nays: None.

**Human Resources and Public Works Committee:** None

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Embrey and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to consider approving an external hiring freeze for all General Fund funded positions unless the requirements of the position will not allow for it, effective immediately. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Embrey, Swaney, Engler, Hope and Jaloszynski. Nays: None.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There was a caller with their hand up but they could not understand how to operate the zoom call. The commissioners were able to retrieve the phone number and will make contact with the caller at a later time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Commissioner Jaloszynski commented on an email that was received via email and sent to all the commissioners from a Todd Schorle.

Commissioner Embrey thanked Charlie Lux for donating his space at the funeral home for the County Clerk's office and for stepping up during this time of need. He also thanked the County Clerk for a successful election. He asked the clerk to let everyone know how things went. The County Clerk, Minde B. Lux stated that the 9-Day Election was very long and she hopes that August/November is busier. She also stated that the Election was finalized by the County Canvassing Board.

Commissioner Engler stated that there was a lot of misinformation out in the public. He also stated that all the Board of Commissioners have their phone numbers listed on the website if people have questions.

Commissioner Moreno stated that he was surprised in regards to how much money was used to defeat the millage.

Commissioner Hope stated one of the stats that was used to paint a picture of how the county operates is that 73% of the budget goes to wages and benefits. That was not used to say that the employees were over paid and no one thinks that the employees are overpaid. There will be a wage study coming soon.

Commissioner Engler stated that the most important attribute in a business is the employees.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Commissioner Embrey and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. Motion carried.