

**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**  
**January 16, 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, Frank Engler, Jerry Jaloszynski, Terry Hutchinson and James Moreno.

**Commissioner Absent:** None

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and seconded by Commissioner Engler to approve the agenda as amended with the removal of item # 2 under Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee and remove #3 under Human Resource and Public Works Committee. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024-2028 ISABELLA COUNTY RECREATION MASTER PLAN. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski, Hutchinson and Hope. Nays: None.

It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024-2028 ISABELLA COUNTY RECREATION MASTER PLAN. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski, Hutchinson and Hope. Nays: None.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

It was moved by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve and place on file the December 19, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes, the January 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting minutes, the January 9, 2024 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting minutes, the January 9, 2024 Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee Meeting minutes, and the January 9, 2024 Human Resources and Public Works Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance and Administration Committee:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded Commissioner Swaney by December 15, 2023 Invoice List in the amount of \$233,507.63, the December 22, 2023 Invoice List in the amount of \$166,232.80, the December 29, 2023 Invoice List in the amount of \$130,899.99, the January 5, 2024 Invoice List in the amount of \$440,541.15, and the Adjustment List dated January 11, 2024. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski, Hutchinson and Hope. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the Agreement for Animal Shelter Services between the Humane Animal Treatment Society (HATS) and Isabella County, effective January 1, 2024, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Jaloszynski, Engler, Swaney, Hutchinson and Hope. Nays: None.

**Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Engler and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Local Consent Agreement and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Engler, Hutchinson, Swaney, Jaloszynski and Hope. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and seconded by Commissioner Engler to approve the discontinuation of the \$15.00 per animal

adoption fee collected by Isabella County, effective immediately. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski, Hutchinson and Hope. Nays: None.

**Human Resources and Public Works Committee:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the purchase of a BOBCAT S62 Skid Steer at a total cost of \$10,931.00 to be covered by 2% funds from fall 2023 from Ellen's Equipment Inc. and authorize the Board Chair to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Jaloszynski, Hutchinson and Hope. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the MiSAIL Partner Agreement for the Union Township Buyup of 6-inch resolution imagery with the State of Michigan through its Department of Technology, Management and Budget Center for Shared Solutions and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Hutchinson, Jaloszynski and Hope. Nays: None.
3. It was moved by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the DBA name change for the account with Elavon, Inc. from "Isabella County" to "Isabella County Parks" and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Hope, Hutchinson and Jaloszynski Nays: None.
4. It was moved by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to accept the Resolution #2024-01 adopting the 2024-2028 Isabella County Recreation Master Plan and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Swaney, Engler, Hope, Hutchinson and Jaloszynski Nays: None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dawn Betha of 407 West Drive, Mt. Pleasant, stated that she is a homeowner and wants to address the fact that there is a millage and the County needs to start living within their means and find other ways to make cuts instead of taxing the community.

Brian Hornoff of 11497 S. Woodruff Rd., Blanchard stated that the millage will be taxing buildings and structures and that the only ones being affected by this millage will be the property owners. This will cost him a 14% tax increase and that the Commissioners should look at other ways to find money as other counties do. He hopes the millage is voted down.

Kevin Salisbury of 2864 W. Weidman Rd., Mt. Pleasant wanted to know why the signs he sees in town show a 38% increase and wants to know why this is so high. Is it the jail? It is the responsibility of those that we voted into office to spend within the means of the county budget.

Linda Richardson of 3033 S. Coldwater Rd., Mt. Pleasant stated that she thinks the shortfall is from mishandling of funds and the money that has been taken out of the treasurer from the lady before, the time limit of the jail. The new swimming pool we do not need and wants to also know how she can get an audit.

Kelly Fountain of 811 S. Franklin Street, Mt. Pleasant stated that the school just received a large millage, the jail is behind already and everyone is struggling right now.

Gene Haymaker of 5480 E. Valley Rd., Mt. Pleasant stated that he respects all the elected officials and police but currently the taxes are so high and we are in a time that does not allow for these extra taxes. He challenges the BOC to find others areas to cut and to start doing some creative thinking.

Patricia Carrick of 2088 N. Johnson Rd., stated that tax increases are nothing in the county versus the pool. Why can't the windmills pay from some of the shortfall in the budget?

Tom Olrich of 6653 W. Fremont Rd., Blanchard stated that he views the huge hike on the taxes as a free hand out. Is every county doing this? Amish do pay some taxes and he has a lot of questions.

Stephen Morgenstern of 5188 Parkview Drive stated that he is accountable for his own house and other stuff. The county is not financially stable with their money

and they must start to be financially feasible. He feels that the County has failed the public out in Nottawa Township as well.

Lisa Diaz Sytsma of 3250 S. Andrews Drive, Mt. Pleasant introduced herself as a member of the Mid Michigan Aquatics Recreational Authority and wanted to explain to the general public the actual facts of the pool. She explained that the pool has nothing to do with the County millage and that they are two separate proposals. The pool proposal has been in the works for over 6 years and there is a lot of data to be shared with the general public. The data information will provide the truth of the proposal and it needs to be shared. The proposal covers the area of the City of Mt. Pleasant, Union Township and the Mt. Pleasant School District area.

Jack Williams of 2190 Cornerstone Drive, Mt. Pleasant wanted to know if the millage was set on the ballot as a timing issue so that those who travel south do not have the ability to vote on this issue. The people are tired of being taxed with surcharges on so many things and do not want to continue paying for services and wants to know where is the money going?

Allison Chiodini of 3194 S. Concourse Dr., Mt. Pleasant spoke on the Aquatics Pool Proposal and stated that the budget is sustainable for the pool. There has been many hours and homework done to get where they are today on the pool.

Mary Alsager of 1631 E. Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant stated she was a part-time employee of the county as she teaches swimming classes through the Commission on Aging. She explained the beneficial reasons of the pool on the elderly.

Eric Beckman of 1417 E. Bennett St., Mt. Pleasant stated that he is the Mt. Pleasant High School swim coach. He stated that the pool will provide something positive to the kids in the areas and that it might keep some of them out of jail. This project will also bring new people to the community and provide more jobs.

Mark Stansberry of 8080 Upham Dr., Mt. Pleasant stated that he is a community member and owns Mt. Town Rehab here in Mt. Pleasant. He is a supporter of the pool and it will have a huge positive economic impact with employment opportunities. He also stated that it is vital that kids know how to swim in case of emergencies.

Sherlyn Loubert of 1305 Tomah Drive., Mt. Pleasant was a former PACER coach and she knows how vital it is to have kids understand how to swim. Swimming

is also a great way for kids to exercise. She explained that the PACERS died a few years ago due to a lack of a pool in this area but that some parents still have their kids participate by driving them to Midland.

Pat Schafer of 2105 Miller Rd., Mt. Pleasant stated he does not want the pool and is not happy with the jail. He is also very upset that the sheriff did not look into the election fraud.

John Zang of 623 Hopkins, Mt. Pleasant stated that there are two bodies of water, 2 diving boards and many employment opportunities.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Engler announced that the Hazardous Waste will be at the Isabella County Fairgrounds again this year on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. – Noon. On May 18<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup> there will be the tire collection from 8:00 a.m. till full.

Chairman Hope spoke in regards to how we got to where we are today with the millage proposal.

It was moved by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M. Motion carried.

APPROVED