

Minutes

Cass County Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

The Cass County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the board room at the courthouse with members present: Steve Baier, chair; Stephen Green, Wendy Richter, Mark O'Brien and Bernard Pettinger. Absent: none.

Pettinger moved, Richter second, to adopt the agenda as amended, to include an update from Hitchcock House board members. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public comments:

1. Rod Deter asked if there has been any movement toward development of a county strategic plan. There was discussion that many other local entities are working on strategic plans and the county is available to assist them. If the county does develop a strategic plan, it will need to be ideological in nature and fluid to change as board members change.

2. Craig Meyer asked if addressing junk on properties could be a joint venture with the county and cities because small towns cannot afford to keep abating junk properties. Once the junk is cleaned up, the mess comes back.

Hitchcock House board members explained the foundation walls of the 160-year-old house are cracking and need repair. Drought and/or ground hogs may have created a void that has contributed to the problem. The board has been in communication with the National Park Service to learn about the allowed historical materials that will be used for repairs and have received a quote of \$72,000. Board members expect it could cost more once the extent of repairs needed is more fully known. The specific limestone needed is currently available, and results of a federal grant application will be available August 1st. The contractor would like to start work August 1st, so the house will be closed to the public beginning July 23, 2023 in order to prepare for construction.

Zoning Administrator Mike Kennon asked the board how they would like him to proceed regarding excessive scrap metal and inoperable vehicles on rural properties. The board recommended he proceed with rezoning one property and consult with the county attorney regarding changes to the ordinance.

Green moved, O'Brien second, to approve homestead and military tax credits and exemptions as recommended by County Assessor Mary Anstey. All ayes. Motion carried.

County Engineer Trent Wolken reviewed current road and equipment projects.

Debbie Schuler, Cass County Mental Health and General Relief Coordinator, provided reports for the months of April, May and June.

Green moved, Richter second, to approve Resolution 2023-26, Appropriations and Transfers for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Ayes: Green, Richter, O'Brien, Baier, Pettinger. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Pettinger moved, Green second, to approve Resolution 2023-27 Allocating Final ARPA Payments to Fire Departments totaling \$185,000. Ayes: Pettinger, Green, Richter, O'Brien, Baier. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Committee reports: Green on the landfill, Richter on Healthy Cass.

Reports filed: Cass County Sheriff and Recorder.

At 11:06 a.m. O'Brien moved, Richter second, to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting July 18, 2023.