

The Ogemaw County Commissioners met on this date in the Commissioner's Chambers, Ogemaw County Building, 806 West Houghton Avenue, West Branch, Michigan. Chairman Reetz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone stood for the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Roll call: Present – Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David.

**Motion by Scott, second by Neubecker, the meeting agenda be approved. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [8-5-#1]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Vaughn, the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting be approved as noted. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [8-5-#2]**

**Motion by Scott, second by David, the minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting be approved as noted. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [8-5-#3]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Vaughn, the minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting be approved as noted. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [8-5-#4]**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Frances Whitney, representing NEMCSA, presented the agency annual report to the board. She stated local funds make up 11.4% of the agency budget. Early childhood development services comprised the largest budget segment. The agency has a “new” home buyers program. Two local residents have utilized the program for funding a new home purchase. Ms. Persis stated the RSVP program helps placing volunteers with other local agencies.

Diane Pelts, AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority CEO, presented the authority annual report. She formally requested the county's annual appropriation of \$56,944.00. She projects the authority budget will be “flat”, i.e. very minimal increase. State level agencies have undergone a significant turnover in staff resulting in rate setting being delayed. She indicated that Ogemaw County Correctional Facility will have a case manager to address mental health/substance abuse disorders. The authority has a new contract with the local hospital for assessments. It is funded in part by the authority. She explained the authority is utilizing a new application for smart phones entitled *My Strength*. The app bridges the gap between counseling and the client. It is a free app available to anyone. Lastly she stated the authority is working on expanding a local support group for crisis training.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commissioner Vaughn stated the county administration meeting at the airport was very informative. A public hearing will be held at Forward's Conference Center September 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. concerning the *Iron Belle Trail*. He attended the *LEPC* meeting. Mike Bowers has assumed the Emergency Manager position. He was in attendance at the Law Enforcement Committee meeting. Ticket writing is up.

Commissioner Neubecker attend the Law Enforcement Committee meeting. He attended the Mills Township board meeting. The township banned the sale of recreational marijuana sales. He was informed about the meeting related to county administration.

Commissioner David attended the Mills Township board meeting. She also was in attendance at the County EDC meeting. Commissioner Scott's questions about EDC operation were addressed at the board meeting. The prior EDC Director position is vacant and there are no funds to fill the position. Northern Transformation Corporation hasn't billed the County EDC since January and funds are low. The Economic Outlook will be October 23, 2019 at 7:15 a.m. Sponsors are being sought for this event. County EDC is not sure they will continue to partner with Michigan Works!

Vice-Chairman Scott attended all of his township meetings except Ogemaw Township. Townships are interested in county operations. Tree clearing at the West Branch Community Airport is progressing. Union negotiations have commenced for E-911 employees. The county administration/administrator meeting went well. Mr. Klacking is not an administrator, he is the coordinator for the commissioners. An administrator has more authority than a coordinator. Denise Simmons and Ladonna Schultz would like to be included in the administrator search committee. There will be a final county general fund budget meeting on September 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Reetz attended the county administration/administrator meeting. He also attended a Farm Bureau meeting. Commissioners will be invited to a Farm Bureau meeting to be held on September 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Horton Township Hall.

**Motion by Scott, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the purchase of security pass cards at a cost up to \$15,000 from the Contingency line item. Roll call vote. Ayes – David, Neubecker, Vaughn, Reetz, and Scott. Motion carried. [8-5-#5]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Reetz, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Building & Zoning and Planning/ZBA offices to be moved to the county annex. Roll call vote.**

**Ayes – Neubecker, Vaughn, Reetz, Scott, and David. Motion carried. [8-5-#6]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Vaughn, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the bid from the Fab Shop to install an aluminum hand rail for the southeast entrance of the county building in the amount of \$1,494 to be paid from the Contingency line item. Roll call vote.**

**Ayes – Reetz, Scott, David, Neubecker, and Vaughn. Motion carried. [8-5-#7]**

**Motion by Neubecker, second by Vaughn, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Transit vehicle purchase grant as presented with permission for the board chairman to sign the necessary paperwork. Furthermore, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the purchase of a transit bus with cost up to \$76,000 with this grant funding. Roll call vote.**

**Ayes – Vaughn, Reetz, Scott, David, and Neubecker. Motion carried. [8-5-#8]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the bid from Meier Glass Service for county building window replacement with a cost up to \$5,296.82 to be paid from the Contingency line item. Roll call vote. Ayes – David, Neubecker, Vaughn, Reetz, and Scott. Motion carried. [8-5-#9]** Vice-chairman Scott stated this was competitive bidding and Meier Glass was awarded the bid as the company is local.

**Motion by Neubecker, second by Vaughn, the claims in the amount of \$269,305.95 be approved for payment. The Travis Tinker invoice of \$655 is added. Roll call vote. Ayes – Neubecker, David, Scott, Reetz, and Vaughn. Motion carried. [8-5-#10]** Commissioner David stated she has a meeting scheduled with Probate Judge Lambourn and Bridges to discuss child care funding issues. It was noted the Medical Examiner expenses are up; however, this is largely due to the number of county deaths have significantly increased this year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dave Ryan asked how will the County EDC help Mills Township. He would like this information for the next Mills Township meeting. He also added the \$80,000 for a county administrator will be more like \$110,000 with underlying costs for benefits.

Vice-chairman Scott stated the West Branch City manager sent him an email that Missaukee County hired a part-time administrator for \$40,000 in 2015. That person is now full time and has saved more than her salary. The current salary is \$73,000 for this person. Commissioner David stated the administrator salary is not set in stone.

**Motion by Scott, second by Vaughn, the meeting be adjourned. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [8-5-#11]**

Chairman Reetz adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes by Evan Bedtelyon  
Transcribed by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk  
Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk