

Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commissioners' Room, Courthouse in Centreville, Michigan on January 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Pangle.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

County Clerk Lindsay Oswald called the roll and the following Commissioners were present:

Allen J. Balog Kathy Pangle
Ken Malone Dennis Allen

Also present: Teresa Doehring, County Administrator; Angie Steinman, Finance Director

Commissioner Czajkowski was absent.

AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Pangle and seconded by Commissioner Balog that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Pangle that the minutes for January 7, 2020 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes of the Animal Control Advisory Board meeting of October 16, 2019.

Minutes of the COA Advisory Board meeting of November 20, 2019.

It was moved by Commissioner Balog and seconded by Commissioner Malone that the communications be placed on file. Motion carried.

CITIZENS' COMMENT

County Treasurer Judie Ratering introduced Kathy Humpheys as a candidate for county treasurer.

Gordon Evilsizor, Florence Township Supervisor, noted his candidacy for sheriff.

Tim Carls of Florence Township commented on the budget.

Rebecca Shank of Constantine commented on the refugee program.

REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO HIRING FREEZE – COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

It was moved by Commissioner Pangle and seconded by Commissioner Malone to approve the exception for a community corrections director. Motion carried.

REVISIONS TO DISTRICT COURT NON-CONTRACT EMPLOYMENT POLICY

It was moved by Commissioner Balog and seconded by Commissioner Malone to approve the revisions. Motion carried 4-0 upon a roll call vote.

CERTIFY APPOINTMENT OF ERIN GOFF AS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Pangle to appoint Erin Goff as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion carried.

COUNTY PROPERTY FOR COVERED BRIDGE DAYS

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Pangle to approve the request for property for Covered Bridge Days. Motion carried.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY ACT NOTICE OF INTENT
RESOLUTION 3-2020

Commissioner Malone presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners intends to authorize the establishment of a property assessed clean energy program (“PACE Program”) and create a PACE district pursuant to Act No. 270,

Public Acts of Michigan, 2010 (“Act 270”), for the purpose of promoting the use of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements by owners of certain real property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners intends to find that financing energy projects is a valid public purpose because it reduces energy costs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, stimulates economic development, improves property values and increases employment in the County; and

WHEREAS, the types of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems that may be financed under the PACE Program include, but are not limited to: insulation in walls, roofs, floors, foundations, or heating and cooling distribution systems; storm windows and doors; multi-glazed windows and doors; heat-absorbing or heat-reflective glazed and coated window and door systems; and additional glazing, reductions in glass area, and other window and door system modifications that reduce energy consumption; automated energy control systems; heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning and distribution system modifications or replacements; caulking, weather-stripping, and air sealing; replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to reduce the energy use of the lighting system; energy recovery systems; day lighting systems; installation or upgrade of electrical wiring or outlets to charge a motor vehicle that is fully or partially powered by electricity; measures to reduce the usage of water or increase the efficiency of water usage; any other installation or modification of equipment, devices, or materials approved as a utility cost-savings measure by the PACE Program; a fixture, product, device, or interacting group of fixtures, products, or devices on the customer's side of the meter that use one or more renewable energy resources to generate electricity. Renewable energy resources include, but are not limited to: biomass (including a biomass stove but not an incinerator); solar and solar thermal energy; wind energy; geothermal energy and methane gas captured from a landfill; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners intends to create a PACE district having the same boundaries as the County’s jurisdictional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners intends to join Lean & Green Michigan™, and intends to utilize Lean & Green Michigan, LLC as PACE administrator (the “PACE Administrator”) to administer its PACE Program; and

WHEREAS, the report referenced in Section 9(1) of Act 270 (the “PACE Report”) shall be available on the County’s website at www.stjosephcountymi.org, and shall be available for viewing at the office of the County Clerk located at 125 W. Main St., Centreville MI, 49032.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Commissioners, being fully apprised of the PACE Program, finds that financing energy projects is a valid public purpose because it reduces energy costs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, stimulates economic development, improves property values and increases employment in the County.
2. The Board of Commissioners, by adoption of this Resolution, formally states its intention to establish a PACE district having the same boundaries as the County’s jurisdictional boundaries and a PACE Program as described in and for the reasons set forth in this Resolution.
3. The Board of Commissioners formally states its intention to provide a property owner-based method of financing and funds for energy projects, including from owner-arranged financing from a commercial lender, which funds and financing shall be secured and repaid by assessments on the property benefited, with the agreement of the record owners, such that no County moneys, general County taxes or County credit of any kind whatsoever shall be pledged, committed or used in connection with any project as required by and subject to Act 270.
4. The Board of Commissioners, by adoption of this Resolution, formally states its intention to join Lean & Green Michigan™, and to utilize Lean & Green Michigan, LLC as PACE Administrator.
5. The Board of Commissioners hereby sets a public hearing for February 4, 2020, at 5 p.m., in the Board of Commissioners office, 125 W. Main St., Centreville MI, 49032, to receive comments on the proposed PACE Program, including the PACE Report.
6. The County Clerk is authorized and directed to publish a notice of intent to establish a PACE district and a PACE Program, and a notice of the public hearing set by this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation in the County as a display advertisement prominent in size. The County Clerk shall maintain on file for public review a copy of the PACE Report and shall cause the PACE Report to be available on the County’s website in accordance with the requirements of Act 270.
7. All resolutions and parts of resolutions inconsistent with this Resolution are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

It was moved by Commissioner Balog and seconded by Commissioner Malone to adopt the resolution. Motion carried 4-0 upon a roll call vote.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Ms. Doehring had nothing further.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Budget Amendments

There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Balog stated that the Committee had not met.

Judiciary

Commissioner Malone stated that the Committee had not met.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Malone stated there was nothing to report.

Executive/Committee of the Whole

Chairman Allen stated that minutes were available.

Other Committees

Commissioner Pangle noted the Human Services Commission researching homelessness.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Pangle to continue with current committee assignments. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Pangle noted federal action regarding the foster refugee executive order.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:32 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Balog and seconded by Commissioner Malone that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until February 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Lindsay Oswald, County Clerk

Dennis Allen, Chairman