

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

December 11, 2023

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, December 11, 2023 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Bill Merriman
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Merriman, who directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Present	Wessel	Absent	Douglass	Present
French	Present	Starkey	Present	Noe	Present
Hance	Present	Schultz	Present	Gibson	Present
Ruppel	Present	Snellgrove	Present		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all board members are present except for Wessel.

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

Chairman Merriman now leads the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under Public Comment, Eric Snellgrove, speaking as a parent and not a board member, brings up a situation that happened to his daughter at the Cass County Health Department. Snellgrove's daughter had an exam scheduled on July 25, 2023 and one of the registration questions asked for his daughter's sexual orientation. Snellgrove did not feel this was an appropriate question for his 11-year old daughter. Snellgrove states he addressed this with Director Teresa Armstrong.

Snellgrove wants to make the board aware of this situation. He hopes that the board will seek individuals who are knowledgeable about current statutes when appointing new members.

Chairman Merriman presents the minutes of the November 13, 2023 Cass County Board meeting. Starkey moves to approve the minutes and French seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Noe reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on December 7, 2023, and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports the committee met on November 27, 2023. Roger Lauder gave a report. Lauder is checking to see what the county's liability would be if a countywide warning system is implemented. The next meeting will be held on December 27, 2023.

The Cass Rural Water Board met and reported a 2% water loss.

Hance, Liaison of the Cass County Health Board, reports a meeting was held on November 29, 2023. The board approved wage increases.

Snellgrove reports that the Animal Control Commission met and approved all bills. The next meeting will be held on December 27, 2023.

The Policies and Procedures Committee met on December 4, 2023, to discuss the Paid Leave for All Workers Act effective January 1, 2024.

Douglass, reporting for the Road and Bridge Committee, reports they met on December 4, 2023, and approved all bills. The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2024 at 6:00pm.

French, Liaison for the E-9-1-1 Board, reports that they met on November 27, 2023 and discussed emergency radios and approved all bills.

Gibson, Liaison for MCS, reports that a meeting was held on November 30, 2023. The activity reports were reviewed. DHS will be sending out half of the Homeless Improvement Grant (\$59,000) on January 2, 2024. The next meeting will be held in March of 2024.

Snellgrove reports the Cooperative Extension Christmas Party will be held in Carrollton on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Noe, Liaison for O.E.D.C., reports that Katie Vitale reported on the Christmas Festivities held in Beardstown. There will be no meeting in December.

Starkey, Liaison for OEDC Tourism, reports that Erin Brown will begin working on the Cass County Social Media Project after the 1st of January. Katie Vitale said that Erin is welcome to use the information and photos from the Connect media page.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Mass Transit

Housing Authority

Legislative

Supervisor of Assessments

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Insurance and Bonds

Mental Health 708

TIF

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

A motion to receive the resignation of Harold Kuhlman from the Board of Review is made by Gibson and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the appointment of Brian Millard to the Cass County Board of Review to replace Kuhlman. A motion to approve the appointment is made by Hance and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Merriman presents a proposal to change the time of the Cass County Board Meeting to 6:00 p.m. Douglass moves to approve changing the time of the Cass County Board Meeting to 6:00 p.m. and Snellgrove seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Merriman next presents the new Paid Leave Policy for the Cass County Employee Policy Manual. The new policy meets the requirements of the Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA). A motion to approve the new Paid Leave Policy is made by Snellgrove and seconded by Starkey. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Absent	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	No	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present except for Hance have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

(See Attached PL Policy)

Chairman Merriman next presents for approval the Pehlman and Dold Agreement. Gibson moves to approve the agreement and Douglass seconds the motion. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Absent	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

(See Attached Agreement)

Chairman Merriman next presents the Cass County Highway Inventory. Douglass moves to receive the County Highway Inventory and French seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Inventory)

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Resolution. Starkey moves to approve the Resolution and Schultz seconds the motion. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Absent	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Chairman Merriman presents the County Engineer Salary Resolution and the Agreement for the County Engineer Salary. Starkey moves to approve the Resolution and Agreement and Hance seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution and Agreement)

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the purchase of body cameras for the Sheriff's Department in the amount not to exceed \$110,000. The Sheriff will apply for grant funds to reimburse the county for the purchase of the cameras. Douglass moves to approve the purchase of the body cameras and Hance seconds the motion. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Absent	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

Chairman Merriman next states that there is a need to form a committee to discuss IT for all Cass County Departments. Board Member Wessel will be the acting Chairman of the Committee and the rest of the members will include Elected and Appointed Officers, Cass County Board Chairman Bill Merriman and Kevin Krohe.

Chairman next presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Zoning Officer and Maintenance. A motion to receive the monthly reports is made by Noe and seconded by Snellgrove. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

A motion to receive the Semi-Annual reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff is made by Douglass and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The approval of claims is next presented to the board. A motion to approve the claims is made by Douglass and seconded by Gibson. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Absent	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

At approximately 8:03 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of January 8, 2024, is made by Starkey and seconded by French. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk