

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL
February 19, 2021

The Cass County Council met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Hearing Room. Present were Brian Reed, Grover Bishop, Damon Foreman, Dave Redweik, Tracy Williamson, Dean Davenport, Bruce Ide, Attorney Jeff Stanton, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn.

Brian Reed opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence following.

Brian Reed welcomed new council member Damon Foreman.

AGENDA AMENDMENT – Brian Reed requested Public Comment Policy to be added to the agenda as item seven. Grover Bishop made a motion to add the item requested, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion passed 6 in favor to 1 opposed. Dave Redweik opposed.

MEETING MINUTES – Grover Bishop made a motion to approve the regular and executive meeting minutes as presented, Dave Redweik seconded. Motion carried 5 in favor to 2 abstain. Bruce Ide and Damon Forman abstained.

TRANSFER OUT OF SERIES – Assessor requested transfer out of series from the following account:

Account Line 32620.009 to Account Line 2360.009 in the amount of \$100.00

Dave Redweik made a motion to approve the transfer out of series as presented, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SECURITY - Phil Loos presented the 2020 End of the Year Security Report. Government Building Security Office staff includes one full time Director and five part time officers. Phil reported 437 weapons were intercepted, including knives, pepper spray, multi-purpose tools, guns, mini-taser, aerosol spray bottle, and one electric guitar. Security Officers generated 28 incident reports and conducted 46 employment background checks. Recertification training was cancelled due to COVID Pandemic; however, officers remain certified in first aid, firearms, and taser training.

Phil reported the metal detector received damage from a power surge and has been repaired. Screening equipment is 15 years old, estimate of new equipment \$20,000. Alvin Beckman is searching for grant funding to purchase new security screening equipment.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – ANNUAL REPORT – Dave Wegner presented and distributed the 2020 Community Corrections Report to Council. Report included a three-year

strategical plan to improve employment, expand and improve client and staff safety, enhance operational efficiency, expand therapeutic programming opportunities, increase efficiency in case management client supervision, and expand technology initiatives and innovation.

Report includes a staffing plan to better operate our program needs. Goal is to staff two full time and one/two part time correctional officers per shift. Retaining correctional officers has been a challenge, when neighboring counties offer a higher salary. Increasing salaries will be explored during next budget season in efforts to remedy this issue.

Dave reported a website has been created for the program to better provide information and services online during the COVID Pandemic. Website is easily accessed by link on the County website and has been a great tool to interact with clients and law enforcement partners.

PRETRIAL SERVICES – ANNUAL REPORT – Judge Kitts and Hillary Hartoin presented and distributed the 2020 Pretrial Services Report. Report include mission statement, vision, and goals of the program. Judge Kitts explained three-year strategic plan that includes a cost savings by using pretrial alternatives instead of incarceration for lesser felony violators.

Judge Kitts further explained the financial benefits and the assistance provided to the Sheriff's Department. Judge Kitts recommended establishing an independent department, Court & Pretrial Services, with full-time director and full-time case manager. Creating such a program will allow opportunities for grant funding.

Funding of new department and staffing will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY – Brian Reed presented and requested approval to adopt the public comment policy adopted by Commissioners.

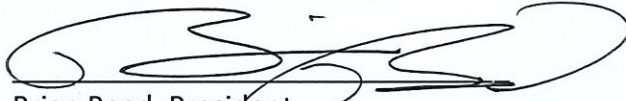
Grover Bishop made a motion to adopt Public Comment Policy as presented, Tracy Williamson seconded.

Upon further discussion and recommendation to modify the policy to fit the needs of the Council, it was requested to withdraw the motion and present revised policy at next meeting.

Grover Bishop withdrew the motion to adopt Public Comment Policy, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Brian Reed expressed condolences to the family of local Attorney Tod Groff upon his unexpected passing. Reed encouraged everyone to keep the Groff family & friends in thoughts and prayers.

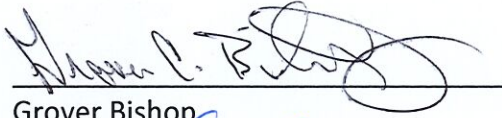
ADJOURNMENT – Grover Bishop made a motion to adjourn, Bruce Ide seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



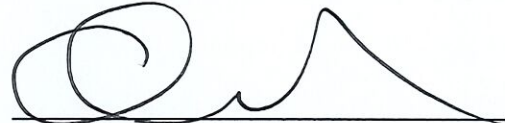
Brian Reed, President



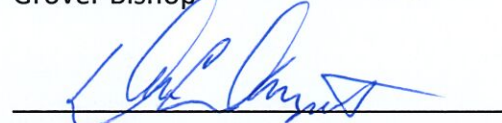
Tracy Williamson, Vice President



Grover Bishop



Dave Redweik



Dean Davenport



Damon Foreman



Bruce Ide

ATTEST:



Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor