

**CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 2, 2023**

The Cass County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room. Present for the meeting were Ruth Baker, Mike Deitrich, Attorney Jeff Stanton, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn. Michael Stajduhar was absent

Ruth Baker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a moment of silence.

**AGENDA AMENDMENT** – Commissioner Baker requested approval to add Truck Traffic Restriction Ordinance to Highway Department Report item number III.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to amend the agenda as requested, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**MINUTES** – Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes as presented, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS & PAYROLL-** Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve the claims and payroll as presented, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**PRETRIAL & COURT SERVICES** – Hillary Hartoin presented two state grant applications for approval. Court Interpreter Grant provides funding for interpreter services in the amount of \$30,000 and Court Innovation Grant provides funding to purchase court room display and audio equipment in the amount of \$40,000. Both are one-year reimbursable grants.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to applied for both grants as presented, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**CORONER** – George Franklin presented monthly report for September.

**CAUSE OF DEATH**

NATURAL	7
DRUG RELATED	2
ACCIDENT	0
SUICIDE	0
TOTAL DEATHS FOR September:	9
AUTOPSIES PERFORMED:	3
TRANSPORTS:	6

George informed Commissioners of a recently passed House Bill that enables overdose deaths to be ruled as a homicide. That would involve the proper collection of evidence by law enforcement in prosecution of perpetrator.

**DISPATCH E-911** – Tara Grigsby presented monthly report for September.

911 Calls	1146
Admin Calls	4396
CAD Screens	2769
Overtime	31 shifts

Tara reported department is fully staffed for the first time in five years. Dispatchers continue course training for State Mandated Certifications.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT** – Serenity Alter presented the monthly report for September. Mike Collins completed 50 restaurant inspections with 2 follow up inspections, responded to 2 complaints and issued 5 food permits. Three environmental inspections and one follow-up, two lead follow-ups and three inspections, and one meth follow-up. Dan Musselman completed 16 environmental calls, 9 soil reports, 15 residential searches and 2 residential repairs, 2 new construction permits, 40 EPA lead removals, and 5 OSS permits.

Vital Records department received \$2,475 in document fees. The department printed 127 birth certificates, 144 certified death certificates, 1 paternity affidavit, and 1 genealogy search.

The Health Department is offering immunizations during office hours. During this report period 360 patients were seen with 516 vaccines given. Fourteen latent TB patients and thirty-one lead cases received care and medications if needed and four cases being followed. TB medication is provided free of charge through Purdue Pharmacy.

Serenity requested approval for additional full-time environmentalist position. Position will be initially funded through the legacy Health Maintenance Fund and moved to the new Health Public Fund.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve request for additional full-time environmentalist position, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Serenity announced upcoming Blood Drive hosted by County Health Department on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Those interested in donating may call ahead to schedule appointment.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** – Jeff Smith presented the monthly report for September. Crews completed 744 hours to road surfacing, additional 580 hours of patching, 558 hours of culvert and bridge work, and 261 hours of mowing.

Jeff announced the county has received the award of 1.75 million dollars of Federal Economic Development funding for the 300 South improvement project within the Clymers Agri-Business Park. Grant awarded after the third application process over the course of three years with cooperative efforts of; County Commissioners, Economic Development, North Central Regional Planning Council, and engineering firms of Lochmuller Group and HWC.

Jeff informed Commissioners of a proposal to be presented for handbook revisions to begin next year. Adopting a 35-hour work week, to attract and maintain quality personnel by boosting the hourly pay rate without increasing salaries and provide a competitive hourly rate compared to local agencies. Establishing a primary and secondary callout overtime personnel list.

Jeff requested the following items to be declared surplus:

- Six Echo Chain saws
- One 36" x 10 foot piece of used culvert pipe
- One 18" x 10 foot piece of used culvert pipe
- One 72" x 119" by 40 foot used culvert pipe
- One 1969 Huber pneumatic roller – tow behind

Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve items presented as surplus, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**ORD. 23-14 AMEND TRAFFIC SPEED LIMIT** – Jeff Smith requested approval to establish a uniform 35 mph limit in the Clymers Agri-Business park.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-14 as presented, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**ORD. 23-15 TRUCK TRAFFIC RESTRICTION** – Jeff Smith presented for approval truck restrictions in Clinton Township until the end of CR 500S detour due to the INDOT bridge overlay project on Highway 25 South. Project timeline is estimated at ten days.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-15 as presented, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

**EMS** – Brady Wiles presented the monthly report for September. EMS responded to 345 calls and provided 228 transports. Average response time of 6:29.

Brady reported 1409 billable miles consisting of 156 ALS calls plus 10 Level II ALS calls and 78 BLS calls. Total billed for the month was \$294,544.

Brady extended appreciation to Walton Volunteer Fire for use of their facility and accommodating County EMS.

**FRANCE PARK**– Dana Hildebrand presented the monthly report for September. Estimated revenue received for the month was \$68,560. Revenue received over the Labor Day weekend was \$30,778 of that amount \$18,143 was received in gate fees.

Weekend reservations are at full capacity for Modern Camping till closing date of November 1<sup>st</sup>. Events for the month of October include; Indy Dive Center Annual Fall Treasurer Hunt, Disc Golf Fall Series Tournament, and Sleepy Hollow Hayrides during the last three weekends.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT & RECOGNITION** – Commissioner Deitrich appreciated Walton Volunteer Fire for accommodating County Emergency Medical Services.


**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Angie Wallace had concerns about animals sheltered at Von Lich Kennels.

Commissioner Baker advised public comments are limited to agenda items and suggest discussing her concerns after the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Mike Deitrich made a motion to adjourn, Ruth Baker seconded. Motion carried.

  
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Ruth Baker, President

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absent  
Michael W. Stajduhar, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Deitrich

ATTEST:   
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Cheryl Acorn, Auditor