

MERCER COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
August 6, 2019

Board convened at 6:42 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance roll call showed the following members present: Board Members Flowers, DeFrieze, Frieden, Fullerlove, Gregg, Hare, Moreland, Rind, and Sarabasa. There was a quorum present.

During Public Comment, Darla Dixon requested that a meeting be set up between the township assessors and the Zoning Committee. Chairman Sarabasa stated that such a meeting could be set up and asked Clerk Blaser to assist in doing so.

Dr. Seamus Reilly, President of Carl Sandburg College, and Edward Barry, Carl Sandburg College Foundation Board, spoke to the Board in an effort to keep communication open and reinforce that Carl Sandburg is an option for residents of the County.

Darin Surr was not present to speak.

During Consent Agenda discussion, Josh Frieden spoke on the lack of an ordinance for Dollar General (Alexis location). He stated that the rezoning for the proposed store was approved by Zoning Board of Appeals at its July 25th meeting; however, no ordinance was drafted to present to the County Board. Board Member Frieden advised the Board that this matter has been delayed due to the absence of a zoning officer within the County. Ken Silverthorn (representing Overland Engineering, LLC) reiterated the time sensitivity issue and stated that his employer would be willing to pay any fees incurred in moving forward as soon as possible and not tabling the issue until the September meeting. Motion to set a special meeting for Monday, August 12, at 1 p.m. made by Board Member Gregg seconded by Board Member DeFrieze was approved by vote of the Board. Board Member DeFrieze then asked Chairman Sarabasa if the passing of the Consent Agenda would allow Sheriff Terrill to work with the Mercer County School District to hire a full-time SRO as outlined in the Law Enforcement Committee Minutes. Chairman Sarabasa confirmed that would be the case. No further discussion on the matter. Motion to accept the consent agenda made by Board Member Frieden seconded by Board Member Fullerlove was approved by vote of the Board.

Carla Ewing presented the Public Health budget for FY2020 to the Board. Chairman Sarabasa suggested the Board table the discussion until the September meeting in order to get the draft budget paperwork from Bohnsack & Frommelt and see if there are any issues. Carla informed the Board that the Public Health Board approved the budget at its July 24th meeting. She also advised the Board that the Public Health budget is separate from the County budget in that it does not use monies from the General Fund; Public Health funds come from grants and fee revenue. Chairman Sarabasa recommended waiting to vote until Bohnsack & Frommelt hand out budget worksheets.

Motion to enter into closed session by Board Member Fullerlove seconded by Board Member DeFrieze. All ayes. Motion carried. The Board entered closed session at 7:00 p.m.

The Board re-entered open session at 7:11 p.m.

Motion to approve claims by Board Member Sarabasa seconded by Board Member Hare was approved by roll call vote of the Board – 9 ayes, 0 nays. The claims presented for payment on August 15, 2019 are as follows: General Corporate \$50,353.00, Public Health \$39,620.73, Veterans Bogardus \$338.04, County Highway \$20,558.88, County Aid Bridge \$14,651.24, Federal Aid Matching \$16,032.78, Township Motor Fuel \$138,494.63, Motor Fuel \$14,622.58, Animal Control \$195.82, Pet Population \$50.00, Law Library \$2,741.78, Liability Insurance \$14,901.02, Probation Fees \$1,401.86, Drug Crime Lab \$75.00, GIS Clerk \$62.95, State’s Attorney Automation \$478.00 for a total of \$314,578.31.

The focus of the meeting then switched to the issue of the County Administrator position. Bohnsack & Frommelt is stepping down and Ron Fullerlove will be taking over as the County Administrator. Board Member Sarabasa nominated Board Member Frieden to be Vice Chairman of the Board. Motion to approve said nomination by Board Member DeFrieze seconded by Board Member Moreland was approved by vote of the Board. Motion to accept the resignation of Bohnsack & Frommelt by Board Member Fullerlove seconded by Board Member Gregg was approved by vote of the Board. Motion to accept the resignation of Board Member Fullerlove from the County Board by Board Member DeFrieze seconded by Board Member Frieden was approved by vote of the Board. Motion to approve the appointment of Ron Fullerlove as County Administrator by Board Member DeFrieze seconded by Board Member Frieden was approved by vote of the Board. Motion to approve the appointment of Board Member DeFrieze as Finance Committee chairman by Board Member Frieden seconded by Board Member Fullerlove was approved by vote of the Board. Chairman Sarabasa appointed Board Member Moreland to take over as the chairman of the Insurance Committee due to Board Member Fullerlove’s resignation.

In other business, the issue of the time clock was again discussed. Bev Lower addressed the Board and stated that a decision needs to be made as to whether the County should keep the current software in place or switch to a different, all-encompassing software. Chairman Sarabasa advised her to discuss her research with Ron Fullerlove and let him take over from there. Montie Schell then spoke regarding the issue of the elevator. Chairman Sarabasa stated that there are no budget numbers and won’t be until the September meeting, so the Board would not be able to make a decision. Montie stated that the PBC has the money for the repairs in its reserves. Chairman Sarabasa voiced his opinion and asked the Board to consider the previous estimate of \$9.7 million for updates to the Courthouse (from 2015) and think about whether they want to put funds into the Courthouse building or whether they want to look at updating other County buildings (jail/annex) instead. He stated that a feasibility study is needed to see which option is more cost effective. Ron Fullerlove stated that he would do some research on this subject and report at the next Board meeting. All

Board Members are in agreement that there needs to be a contingency plan in case the elevator goes down. Board Member DeFrieze questioned if there would be room in the jail/annex to house the offices in question. Discussion to continue.

Motion to adjourn to Monday, August 12th at 1:00 p.m. by Board Member Sarabasa seconded by Board Member Frieden was approved by vote of the Board at 7:40 p.m.