

1. A Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners was held in the City of Monroe on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Frederick at 7:00 p.m. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT

Henry Lievens
David Hoffman
Daniel Donahue
William Sisk

Jerry Oley
Jason Sheppard
LaMar Frederick

ABSENT

Stephen Bell
(excused)
Mary O’Neill
(excused)

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Commissioner Sheppard led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Chairman Frederick offered a Moment of Silence in honor of those that lost their lives on September 11th.
4. Motion by Commissioner Donahue to approve the Agenda for the Tuesday, September 13, 2011, Regular Meeting as presented. Supported by Commissioner Sheppard. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYES

Henry Lievens
David Hoffman
Daniel Donahue
William Sisk

NAY

Jerry Oley
Jason Sheppard
LaMar Frederick

ABSENT

Stephen Bell
(excused)
Mary O’Neill
(excused)

Motion carried.

5. Motion by Vice-Chairman Sisk to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, August 23, 2011, Regular Meeting and waive the reading of the minutes. Supported by Commissioner Hoffman.

Motion carried.

6. Resolutions, Special Tributes & Presentations

Resolution recognizing Summerfield Girl’s Softball Players for obtaining Division 4 State Championship read:

WHEREAS, the 2011 SUMMERFIELD BULLDOG GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM, became Division 4 State Champions on Saturday, June 18, 2011; and

WHEREAS, with a record of 29-6, the Lady Dawgs brought home a state title for the second consecutive year by beating Unionville-Sebewaing 6-5; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SUMMERFIELD BULLDOGS GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM members include Brianna Breitner, Shelby Bruckner, Nicole Denman, Caleigh Elliott, Taylor Goodin, Ellen Gregory, Laura Hewitt, Masako Inoue, Alix Jaeger, Kysha LaMonde, Olivia Mustfaga, Olivia Ostrosky, Emily Puterbaugh, Leah Puterbaugh, Kelsea Reed, Katie Reese and Hayley Wahl; and

WHEREAS, this state softball championship is a title not only for the team members and coaches but also for the parents, fans and all those involved in the softball program, as well as the entire Summerfield High School Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 13th day of September, 2011, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and applauds the 2011 SUMMERFIELD GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM and Coach Robert Taylor and Assistant Coaches David Knaggs, Lee Mullins, David Puterbaugh, Kelly Kalb, Heather Carlson and Ramey Boteler and Managers Jenna Boss, Ellie Boteler, Ashley Bucher, Lexi Diver, Adison Garst and Sydney Spaulding for their outstanding accomplishments this season and for continue to bring pride to the County of Monroe.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens to adopt the resolution recognizing Summerfield Girl's Softball Players for Obtaining Division 4 State Championship. Supported by Commissioner Hoffman. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYES

NAY

ABSENT

Henry Lievens
David Hoffman
Daniel Donahue
William Sisk

Jerry Oley
Jason Sheppard
LaMar Frederick

Stephen Bell
(excused)
Mary O'Neill
(excused)

Motion carried.

7. Resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Monroe Farmers Market read:

WHEREAS, the Monroe Farmers Market has recently celebrated its 80th Anniversary of operation in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Farmers Market has developed over the years, a strong reputation as the site for citizens of Monroe and adjoining counties to purchase fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruit in season, as well as curios and similar items of interest assembled by local craftsmen; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Farmers Market is conducted in an open air environment permitting the shoppers to walk through the Market and purchase at a leisurely pace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 13th day of September, 2011, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners hereby congratulates the Monroe Farmers Market on its 80th Anniversary and firmly believes that the Monroe Farmers Market will continue to provide an opportunity not only for local growers and craftsmen to display their produce, fruit and wares, continue to provide a learning experience for the young people of the community and to provide an alternative purchasing opportunity for the citizens of Monroe and adjoining counties.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens to adopt the resolution recognizing the 80th Anniversary of the Monroe Farmers Market. Supported by Commissioner Hoffman. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYES

NAY

ABSENT

Henry Lievens
David Hoffman
Daniel Donahue
William Sisk

Jerry Oley
Jason Sheppard
LaMar Frederick

Stephen Bell
(excused)
Mary O'Neill
(excused)

Motion carried.

8. Resolution honoring Patricia and Russell Vincent for undertaking many historical based projects read:

WHEREAS, Monroe County has a rich history that involves many noteworthy people and displays numerous significant events along a lengthy timeline; and

WHEREAS, Patricia and Russell Vincent have held a lifelong interest in the historical cemeteries in Monroe County and in many case, undertaking extensive clean-up and physical restoration of these cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, these research and restoration projects have included Woodland Cemetery, Old St. Mary's Cemetery, St. Antoine Cemetery, Bone Hill Cemetery, Nobles Pond Cemetery, Lutheran Home Cemetery, Old City Cemetery, Brest Cemetery and various Potter Cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, they have located the graves of such local historic notables as Colonel Francois Navarre, Captain John Paxton, Judge Isaac P. Christiancy and others; and

WHEREAS, the Vincent's dedication to the pursuit of history is not limited to their work with cemeteries, but has included active participation and leadership in local historical organizations over many years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 13th day of September, 2011, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners hereby honors Patricia and Russell Vincent for their many years of dedication to historical preservation and for their long and tireless work in helping preserve some of the remnants of Monroe County's people and heritage.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Sisk to adopt the resolution recognizing Patricia and Russell Vincent for undertaking many historical based projects. Supported by Commissioner Oley. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYES	NAY	ABSENT
Henry Lievens	Jerry Oley	Stephen Bell
David Hoffman	Jason Sheppard	(excused)
Daniel Donahue	LaMar Frederick	Mary O'Neill
William Sisk		(excused)

Motion carried.

9. Resolution approving the annual Indigent Veterans' Relief Millage to fund indigent veterans' claims for the 2012 calendar year read:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Veterans' Relief Fund Act, that being Act No. 214 of the Public Acts of 1899, each County in the State of Michigan is required to annually levy up to 1/10th of a mill for the purpose of creating a fund for the relief of honorably discharged indigent veterans and the indigent spouses, minor children, and parents of indigent or deceased veterans; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 24, 2009, the County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution to establish the Indigent Veterans' Relief Millage, which provides that up to 1/10th of a mill shall be levied annually, as required by the Veterans' Relief Fund Act, to pay for indigent veterans' claims of Monroe County residents; and

WHEREAS, the approval of the millage was not subject to the popular vote requirement of the Headlee Amendment to the State Constitution (Article 9, Sec. 31) because the Legislative authorization for the millage in the Veterans' Relief Act predates the Headlee Amendment; and

WHEREAS, a Veterans' Relief Fund was established by the County Board of Commissioners, and said Veterans' Relief Fund is currently being administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which was also established by Resolution of the County Board of Commissioners on or about November 24, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the taxes collected pursuant to the Veterans' Relief Millage, which provides relief for indigent veterans, is limited to only the expenses related to indigent veterans; and

WHEREAS, each year the County Board of Commissioners is to annually review the amount of revenue collected by the Veterans' Relief Millage, by evaluating the amount of revenue carried over from the previous year, if any, and the current need of veterans' services in the County to determine the next year's millage, not to exceed 1/10th of a mill, to be collected by the County Treasurer for use under the Veterans' Relief Fund Act; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that there will be an increased number of indigent veterans in the upcoming 2012 calendar year and as a result, the need for indigent veterans' services will increase; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that 1/20th of a mill be levied to generate approximately \$284,754.00, and be assessed and collected in December of 2011, and January and February of 2012, to pay for indigent veterans' claims in calendar year 2012; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that 1/20th of a mill will be sufficient to provide for the projected need of indigent veterans' services for the 2012 calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the requirement in the Veterans' Relief Fund Act, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners approves that 1/20th of a mill be levied to generate approximately \$284,754.00, and be assessed and collected in December of 2011, and January and February of 2012, to pay for indigent veterans' claims in calendar year 2012, with the proceeds of such millage to be placed into the County's Veterans' Relief Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds generated by the millage shall be used for direct services for eligible indigent veterans and dependents, which includes employee staff time providing such services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board of Commissioners shall annually review the amount levied by the Veterans' Relief Millage, and shall set that amount, not to exceed 1/10th of a mill, based on the amount of revenue carried over from the previous year, if any, the current need of veterans' services in the County and any other factors deemed relevant by the County Board.

Motion by Chairman Frederick to adopt the resolution approving the annual Indigent Veterans' Relief Millage to fund indigent veterans' claims for the 2012 calendar year.

AYES	NAY	ABSENT
Henry Lievens	Jerry Oley	Stephen Bell
David Hoffman	Jason Sheppard	(excused)
Daniel Donahue	LaMar Frederick	Mary O'Neill
William Sisk		(excused)

Motion carried.

10. The following items were listed under Consent Agenda:

- A. Finance Committee Report (09/13/11)
 - 1. The Finance Committee recommends to the full board to approve the 09/14/11 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$431,832.65.
- B. Approval of Non-Claims Against the County:
 - 1. Check Register dated 08/26/11 in the amount of \$779,197.04.
 - 2. Check Register dated 09/02/11 in the amount of \$610,016.24.
 - 3. Check Register dated 09/09/11 in the amount of \$697,353.97.

Motion by Commissioner Sheppard to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Donahue. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYES	NAY	ABSENT
Henry Lievens	Jerry Oley	Stephen Bell
David Hoffman	Jason Sheppard	(excused)
Daniel Donahue	LaMar Frederick	Mary O'Neill
William Sisk		(excused)

Motion carried.

11. Old Business –

- A. Proposed changes to the Solid Waste Hauler Licensing and Waste Generator Fee Ordinance and Solid Waste Funding Resolution – referred to Physical Resources Committee.
- B. Electronic monitoring and video arraignment program – referred to Judiciary, Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee agenda.
- C. Employee cell phone and social internet usage – referred to staff; creating policy

Draft policy to be discussed on Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

- D. 2012 – 2016 Monroe County Capital Improvements Program Update – referred to Physical Resources Committee.
- E. Consideration of amending Section 14 of County Policy 448 – Courthouse Facility Security Screening to include the Prosecuting Attorney and Board of Commissioners – referred to Judiciary, Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee.
- F. Historical Museum Sustainability Plan – millage/2012 operation

Vice-Chairman reported there are several opportunities to consider and it is worthwhile to continue seeking those opportunities.

Commissioner Sheppard stated the problem is the Historical Commission has not moved toward partnering with an agency, more time has been spent on the plan than funding law enforcement and suggesting 1) close the museum, 2) disband the Historical Commission and 3) turn the museum over to someone that can run with it. He noted it is time to take a stance and get out of the business; suggested looking at the National Park Service operating the museum.

Vice-Chairman Sisk stated a partnership is a good idea; it needs to be explored and noted a lot of time was spent with maintaining public safety at the previous year level.

Commissioner Donahue stated he would be willing to fund the museum for six months in 2012, millage should be pursued and it would be a travesty to mothball the museum and noted it is worthwhile to make the museum viable.

Commissioner Hoffman stated it is worth looking at all opportunities.

Chairman Frederick stated he is struggling with finding funding, the museum houses a unique collection and he is willing to talk about a millage.

Commissioner Lievens stated the Board should do everything in their power to keep the museum open; the Board needs to think about how to transition. He also stated he would like to get out of the museum business and urged the Board to move forward with finding opportunities to sustain the museum.

Commissioner Oley stated the Board asked for a sustainability plan and the Historical Commission presented a plan, they did not present a viable plan, now, the Board is forced to come up with a plan. He also stated the Board has an obligation to look at partnering with an agency, there is a wall between the Historical Commission and Historical Society members, the Board needs to do what is best for the entire community, it would be silly to close the doors and law enforcement is 50% of the budget; the museum's share is much less than law enforcement.

Dorothy Navarre, Bates Lane, Monroe stated she is concerned with the problems that exist between the Historical Commission and Historical Society.

Chairman Frederick stated the Board appoints the Historical Commission members and they have no jurisdiction over the Historical Society. He also stated everyone should have the opportunity to place their name on the Historical Society's ballot.

Dr. DeVries urged the Board to keep the museum under the public sector and stated he is in support of seeking a millage and not in support of privatizing the museum.

Jerry Fogel, Milan stated the museum partnered with the Monroe County Community College and volunteers worked for free; without them, the project would not have happened. He also stated the Historical Commission did not identify seeking a millage as an alternative because they were lead to believe the Board was in support of utilizing PA 88 funds.

Dean Hazel, Monroe spoke regarding the importance of history/history books and urged the Board to save collections that would otherwise be lost.

- G. Proposed MSU Extension Memorandum of Agreement and outcome of retaining Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator position.

The agreement is being critiqued; Board to consider options at the next meeting.

- H. Discussion of Retiree Health Care Board

Staff spoke with labor counsel regarding the plan/trust and composition of the Retiree Health Care Board and will attend the next Finance Committee to discuss same.

12. Citizens Time –

Joanne Dixon, Providing for Paws noted she has video evidence of animals being abused and spoke regarding being denied to show the video.

Chairman Frederick stated he will discuss with legal counsel.

Trina Stillwagon, Monroe SPCA stated she has a problem with the Board ignoring the abuse, the video is new and not evidence in the pending case, the Board approves Animal Controls budget and ordinance and questioned why the video cannot be shown.

Chairman Frederick stated he does not know if the videos are part of the legal process so he won't show it and if it is not part of the legal process, he will allow it to be shown. He also noted Animal Control has passed all Department of Agriculture inspections.

Ms. Stillwagon stated she and others have questions they would like to ask the Sheriff.

Chairman Frederick noted he will ask the Sheriff about Ms. Stillwagon's comments and handout.

Ms. Dixon stated the abuse has nothing to do with the court case it has to do with Animal Control not doing their job.

Dave McMurphy noted it is appalling that the Board smiles and giggles at the ladies; the Board has the ability to intercede to see if the animals are being abused and urged the Board to find out if what these ladies are saying is the truth or a myth.

Michelle Mitchell questioned the funding mechanism for Animal Control.

Chairman Frederick stated the funding mechanism for Animal Control is through collected taxes.

Ms. Mitchell stated the animals are being abused by Monroe County workers.

Mike Grodi, President, Correction's Association spoke regarding the overtime deficit for corrections officers and urged the Board to look at the staffing analysis.

13. Administrator's Report –

Royce Maniko, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer reported the following:

Introduced Kathleen Vanderbush, the newly appointed Veteran's Affairs Director.

Ms. Vanderbush stated it is an honor to be an advocate for veterans and their families.

On schedule for hiring the full time Health Officer; looking at internal candidates; the Board will interview the applicants and make the final selection.

Commissioner Lievens noted he would like to be included in the process.

14. Members Time –

Commissioner Sheppard stated the County needs to be out of the museum business; a private entity can do a better job than the current system.

Chairman Frederick stated he has been out to Animal Control; he will go out again and noted he will speak to Sheriff Crutchfield and Linda Benson, Director, Animal Control.

Commissioner Lievens announced that the Personnel Services/Human Resources Committee will meet on the first Tuesday of each month.

15. Motion by Commissioner Hoffman to adjourn. Supported by Commissioner Sheppard.

Motion carried.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



R. LaMar Frederick, Chairman



Sharon D. Lemasters, Monroe County Clerk