

Regular session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commission Chambers on April 16, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Chair Malone called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Shaffer.

Chair Malone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Clerk Abby Fader called the roll, and the following commissioners were present.

Dennis Allen	Rusty Baker	Terry Conklin	Jared Hoffmaster
Ken Malone	Luis Rosado	Rick Shaffer	

Also present: Teresa Cupp, County Administrator and Angie Steinman, Finance Director

Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Conklin and seconded by Commissioner Hoffmaster to remove agenda item 11.D the St. Joseph County Board Rules. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to add E. TowerPinkster Invoices to the agenda as item 11. E. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to add a closed session to the agenda as item 13. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Conklin to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Craig Crabill of Sherman Township commented on the election process.

Sheila Kupa of White Pigeon commented on the election presentation and equipment.

Gina Everson of Mendon announced candidacy for County Clerk and Register of Deeds.

Jason Bingaman of Mendon commented on the negative comments being made about the Sheriff department.

David Marvin of Lockport announced candidacy for County Prosecuting Attorney.

Chad Spence of Three Rivers announced candidacy for County Sheriff.

Dave Northrop of Sturgis commented on the Sheriff's race.

Presentations

Cameron Bullock presented the 2023 Pivotal Annual Report.

Drain Commissioner Jeff Wenzel presented the 2023 Drain Commission Annual Report.

Jerry Happel presented the 2023 Geographic Information System Annual Report.

County Administrator's Report

Administrator Cupp had no further report.

Committee Reports and Appointments

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Allen to reappoint Carol Naccarato, Kathy Pangle, and Kathrine Decker to the Pivotal Board with terms expiring March 31, 2027. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Hoffmaster to appoint Timothy Barron to the Commission on Aging with a term expiring June 30, 2024. Motion carried.

Probate Court Location

Resolution 5-2024

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of St. Joseph County has renovated a new building for the Family Division of St. Joseph County Courts, to include Probate, Juvenile and Friend of the Court Offices. The location of the building being in the County of St. Joseph, City of Three Rivers, Michigan; and

WHEREAS Pursuant to the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 600.816(1) A Probate judge shall hold sessions of the Probate Court in a City of the County where sessions of the Circuit Court are authorized by law to be held. Three Rivers, Michigan meets those requirements; and

WHEREAS Pursuant to the Revised Judicature Act of 1961(3) Subject to the approval of the County Board of Commissioners and the State Court Administrator, The Chief probate Judge of the County may designate 1 or more places in the County where regular sessions of probate Court may be held.

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of St. Joseph County have developed the Family Division of the St. Joseph County Courts Building for the benefit of the entire community and to assist in meeting the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt the location of the Probate Court moving to Three Rivers, Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the location of the Probate Court along with the Juvenile Court and the Friend of the Court be in Three Rivers, Michigan, County of St. Joseph.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to adopt the resolution approving the Probate Court location. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

2024 Equalization Report

Resolution 6-2024

WHEREAS, MCL 211.34(1) requires the County Board of Commissioners to meet in April each year to determine county equalized valuations; which equalization shall be completed and submitted along with the tabular statement required by Section 5 of Act No. 44 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended no later than May 1 of each year; and

WHEREAS, the assessment rolls of the various assessment jurisdictions have been reviewed by the various local Boards of Review throughout the County of St. Joseph and submitted to your Equalization Department in the appropriate timely manner; and

WHEREAS, those assessment rolls have been audited and balanced by your Equalization Department

in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the guidelines of the State Tax Commission; the results of such being listed on the attached equalization report and on the prescribed Michigan Department of Treasury Form L-4024 (County Equalization Directors Report of County Equalization).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners approves the County Equalized Valuations as indicated within the attached equalization report a cumulative total for Real Property of \$3,940,451,080 (Three Billion, Nine Hundred Forty Million, Four Hundred Fifty-One Thousand, Eighty Dollars) and a cumulative total for Personal Property of \$312,529,283 (Three Hundred Twelve Million, Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars). The combined total of Real and Personal Property of the Cities and Townships in St. Joseph County is \$4,252,980,363 (Four Billion, Two Hundred Fifty-Two Million, Nine Hundred Eighty Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars).

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to adopt the resolution approving the 2024 Equalization Report. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

Central Dispatch Communications Tower Location

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Conklin to approve the Central Dispatch Communications Tower Location at Cade Lake Park in Sturgis MI. Motion carried.

Pinkster Contract Update

Jen Sawyer from Barton Group gave an update on the TowerPinkster contract.

Commissioner Comments

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Conklin to have Commissioner Allen removed from the Law Enforcement Committee. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4-3 with Commissioners Allen, Rosado, and Shaffer dissenting.

Commissioner Hoffmaster commented the Clerk's Office and gave positive feedback on the Election Presentation.

Commissioner Rosado commented on the Road Commission and gave an update.

Closed Session

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to go into closed session to discuss a written legal opinion regarding the TowerPinkster Contract with legal counsel. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

At 6:26 p.m., the Commission adjourned to closed session.

At 6:44 p.m., the Commission reconvened to open session. Chairman Malone noted no decisions were made.

Adjournment

Chairman Malone adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.