

Regular session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commission Chambers on February 20, 2024, at 5 pm.

Chair Malone called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Shaffer.

Chief Deputy Register Gina Everson called the roll, and the following commissioners were present.

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

Also present: Teresa Doebling, County Administrator; Angie Steinman, Finance Director

Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Allen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the minutes of January 16, 2024. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Kathy Humphreys of Nottawa commented on her filing to run for Treasurer in the 2024 election.

Martha Cathcart of White Pigeon commented on the goose nest destruction.

Carl Merkh of Sturgis commented on the Prosecutors office.

Kelly Weaver of White Pigeon commented on elections.

Deborah Davis commented on filing to run for Prosecutor.

Matthew Avery of Burr Oak commented on voting issues.

Craig Crabill of Sturgis commented on elections.

Andrew Brandt provided public comments.

Shawn Parshall commented on the TowerPinkster contract.

Tim Carls of Centreville provided public comments.

Rebecca Shank of Constantine commented on the open meetings act.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

County Administrator's Report

There was no further report.

Committee Appointments

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Baker to appoint Rick Shaffer to the St Joseph County Conservation District Board with a term expiring December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Resolution to Approve the 2024 Road Improvement Millage

Resolution 2-2024

Whereas, St. Joseph County Road Commission has requested that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners consider a millage ballot question to be placed on the August 2024 ballot; and

Whereas, the ballot question is for a renewal of the current millage.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following ballot question language for a special election to be called and held in August of 2024:

ROAD MILLAGE RENEWAL

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed against all property in St. Joseph County, Michigan be renewed at 1 mill which is one dollar (\$1.00) per each one thousand dollars of taxable value and be levied and billed for a period of ten (10) years, 2024-2033 inclusive for road purposes within the incorporated cities and villages in St. Joseph County, Michigan and to improve, repair and maintain existing local roads within the townships in St. Joseph County, Michigan, with the money to be collected and distributed in accordance with all applicable statutes? It is estimated that this proposal would produce revenue of \$2,465,386 during the first calendar year.

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Baker to adopt the resolution approving the Road Commission 2024 Millage Renewal Proposal. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

Resolution to Allow Canada Goose Nest Destruction

Resolution 3-2024

WHEREAS, under the authority of the Michigan DNR Wildlife Conservation Order, Chapter V, Sections 5.51, 5.51a, and 5.51b, and 5.110, and

WHEREAS, the St Joseph County Board of Commissioners has received complaints of overpopulation of Canada Geese inhabiting areas of White Pigeon Township including Klinger Lake, Cade Lake Fish, Michiana Fish Lake south of White Pigeon and others in the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the St Joseph County Board of Commissioners has determined that the geese create an unsightly and unhealthy condition for residents; and

WHEREAS, testing of the water in Klinger Lake has revealed elevated levels of E. coli bacteria; and

WHEREAS, the St Joseph County Board of Commissioners is of the opinion that a program of nest destruction, pursuant to permits issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will provide the most humane method of dealing with the overpopulation issue:

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the St Joseph County Board of Commissioners hereby formally requests the assistance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the

implementation of a program of goose nest destruction for a 5-year period (through 2028) on behalf of county residents, as long as the individual applicants abide by the DNR guidelines, including applying for permits annually.

IT IS FUTHER RESOLVED that this program shall be at no cost or liability to St Joseph County. By adoption of this Resolution, St Joseph County will not be filing an application on behalf of any person or entity, will not be subject to the rules, regulations, terms and conditions of any permit that may be granted, and assumes no responsibility or liability for compliance with any permit that may be issued.

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to adopt the Canada Goose Nest Destruction resolution. Motion carried 7-0 upon roll call vote.

Review of the TowerPinkster Architectural Contract for the Centreville Courts Project.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Conklin to allow the County Administrator to negotiate the termination of the contract with TowerPinkster. Motion carried 4-3 upon roll call vote with Commissioners Allen, Rosado, and Shaffer dissenting.

Commissioner Comments

There was no further business.

Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Hoffmaster to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm. Motion carried.

Ladena M. Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk