



MINUTES

St. Clair County Board of Commissioners Judiciary/Public Safety Committee

**Board of Commissioners' Room
County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060**

July 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call/Opening

Commissioner Vandebossche called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Jorja Baldwin, Lisa Beedon, Jeff Bohm, Joi Torello, Dave Rushing and Dave Vandebossche

Commissioners Absent: Steve Simasko

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda

Moved by Jeff Bohm, supported by Lisa Beedon, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandebossche.

3. Citizens to be Heard

None

4. Updates

None

5. Conceptual Initiatives

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Office of Public Guardian - Contract Approval Request for Thomas Reuters CLEAR Programming

Moved by Lisa Beedon, supported by Jorja Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the agreement with Westlaw for the Clear Proflex subscription for a 3 year term in the total amount of \$21,639.12. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandenbossche.

B. Resolution 23-13 - Proposed Revisions to St. Clair County Animal Control and Protection Ordinance

Melissa Miller, Animal Control Director, gave an overview of the changes to the Ordinance to reflect all the updated laws. She discussed the revisions regarding humane care, dogs at large and dangerous dogs. She went on to discuss the docking of ears and tails as recommended by the American Veterinary Association. Finally, she discussed the requirements for the seizure of animals.

Much discussion was held.

Moved by Jorja Baldwin, supported by Jeff Bohm, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to adopt Resolution 23-13 the St. Clair County Animal Control and Protection Ordinance. Carried - Roll Call Vote 5-1. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Torello, Vandenbossche. Nays: Rushing.

C. FY 2024 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Application Approval

Moved by David Rushing, supported by Jorja Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the FY 2024 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment grant application in the amount of \$242,953. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandenbossche.

D. Sheriff's Office Contract Approval Request - Tek84 for Jail Intercept Body Scanner

Moved by Lisa Beedon, supported by Jorja Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the purchase of a whole body security scanner and 5-year warranty in an amount not to exceed \$202,500. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandenbossche.

E. Sheriff's Office Contract Approval Request - Motorola Solutions

Moved by David Rushing, supported by Jorja Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the agreement with Motorola Solutions for the replacement of the Sheriff Department's radios and 3 year warranty in an amount not to exceed \$634,897.30. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandenbossche.

8. Other Judiciary/Public Safety Matters

None

9. Information Only

None

10. Receive and File Packets

Moved by Lisa Beedon, supported by Jorja Baldwin, to receive and file packets and all information received. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandenbossche.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Lisa Beedon, supported by Jorja Baldwin, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Ayes: Baldwin, Beedon, Bohm, Rushing, Torello, Vandenbossche.

Committee Chair: Dave Vandenbossche

Note: The County complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Administrator/Controller's Office, Suite 203, 200 Grand River Avenue, Port Huron, MI 48060, (810) 989-6900 three days prior to said meeting.

From: Simasko, Steve <ssimasko@stclaircounty.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:43 AM

To: Hepting, Karry <KAHepting@stclaircounty.org>; Bohm, Jeff <jboh@stclaircounty.org>; Morris, Kristine <kmorris@stclaircounty.org>

Cc: Baldwin, Jorja <jbaldwin@stclaircounty.org>; Beedon, Lisa <lbeedon@stclaircounty.org>; Torello, Joi <jtorello@stclaircounty.org>; Rushing, David <drushing@stclaircounty.org>; Vandenbossche, Dave <dvanbossche@stclaircounty.org>; Simasko, Steve <ssimasko@stclaircounty.org>

Subject: Request for Workshop or Special Committee RE: Animal Control Ordinance Proposed Revisions

To All,

I noticed on Friday that the 07/06/2023 committee agenda for Public Safety included a proposal to revise the SCC Animal Control Ordinance. I was on the Board when a prior administrator proposed that we update the animal control ordinance. There was substantial public interest in the animal control ordinance "update". Various groups vocalized their personal positions, interests and concerns. We heard from animal rights advocates, People for The Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), kennel owners both large commercial and small old time mom and pop back yard operators, dog breeders, animal rescue advocates, sporting dog groups, farmers and your average citizen to name a few. In my opinion, the ordinance proposed at that time was heavily weighted in favor of the animal rights PETA interests. It was an example of a process driven by special interests that lacked balance and common sense. As such it created an uproar by the unrepresented. That process as some of the old times will recall rivaled or exceeded the contention seen last year with the health director and Covid 19 issues.

I will not be at the committee meeting this afternoon and wanted to reach out to each commissioner with my concerns. It appears that the ordinance version that I worked on in 2010 or so was last revised in 2018. It is certainly appropriate and good practice to periodically review our ordinances. I have begun my review of the proposed changes to the ordinance and am about half way through. The proposed changes are not just minor adjustments and "house keeping" matters, they are substantial on many key areas. I have contacted a few of my colleagues on the board and am writing this e mail to each of you asking that this ordinance revision be tabled and set on for a separate public workshop meeting in order to go thru this in detail rather than merely send the proposed revision to full board for final action after committee. This issue deserves a closer look by the Board to consider all interests here and avert over regulation and certain inappropriate and impractical revisions that affect the agricultural/farming practices of the citizens we represent as submitted. One of the commissioners suggested to me in a phone call that it is our "job" to just pass these things on to full board as submitted after discussion at the committee level. I could not disagree more in a case like this. The public, all the public, animal rights advocates, People for The Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), kennel owners, dog breeders, animal rescue advocates, sporting dog groups, farmers and our average citizens deserve a thorough public review and meaningful opportunity to address us on this issue.

I am requesting, consistent with our bylaws, that this matter be tabled and a public hearing be convened in the form of a workshop (my preference) or separate committee to allow proper consideration and public input on this very important issue.

As I am unavailable for the committee meeting this afternoon I further request that this communication to the board be made part of the official record and copies made available to public in attendance who may be interested.

Respectfully,

Steven L. Simasko