

## APRIL 13, 2021 STATUTORY EQUALIZATION MEETING

APPROVED  
4/27/2021

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/89228578199>  
Mason, Michigan – 6:30 p.m.  
April 13, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Crenshaw called the April 13, 2021 Statutory Equalization Meeting of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with Public Act 228 of 2020 regarding the Open Meetings Act and State of Emergency declared by the Board of Commissioners for Ingham County.

Members Present at Roll Call: Celentino (Ingham County, Michigan), Crenshaw (Ingham County, Michigan), Graham (Ingham County, Michigan), Maiville (Ingham County, Michigan), Naeyaert (Ingham County, Michigan), Peña (Ingham County, Michigan), Polsdofer (Ingham County, Michigan), Schafer (Ingham County, Michigan), Sebolt (Ingham County, Michigan), Slaughter (Ingham County, Michigan), Stivers (Sussex County, Delaware), Tennis (Ingham County, Michigan), and Trubac (Ingham County, Michigan).

Members Absent: Grebner.

A quorum was present.

### TIME FOR MEDITATION

Chairperson Crenshaw asked those present for a moment of silence, prayer, or meditation.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Slaughter moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Maiville supported the motion.

The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously. Absent: Commissioner Grebner.

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grebner arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that, without objection, the following substitutes would be added:

5. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE RENAMING OF THE “INGHAM COUNTY CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE” TO THE “INGHAM COUNTY CULTURAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE”
6. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FOR THE PEOPLE ACT WHICH CHANGES CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS TO REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN POLITICS

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14. RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTING AND FUNDING OF THE DEPUTY EQUALIZATION DIRECTOR POSITION WITHIN THE INGHAM COUNTY EQUALIZATION/TAX MAPPING DEPARTMENT

19. RESOLUTION TO RE-ESTABLISH AND CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

RESOLUTION 21-035 FROM THE HILLSDALE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE HILLSDALE COUNTY SHERIFF AND HILLSDALE COUNTY PROSECUTOR IN NOT ENFORCING OR PROSECUTING UNCONSTITUTIONAL MANDATES PERTAINING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. Chairperson Crenshaw instructed that this matter be placed on file.

RESOLUTION 2021-200 FROM THE GENESEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR TERMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. Chairperson Crenshaw instructed that this matter be placed on file.

RESOLUTION 2021-06 FROM THE CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING A COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY MICHIGAN COUNTIES IN OPPOSING CURRENT AND FUTURE ORDERS UNILATERALLY ISSUED BY GOVERNOR WHITMER AND STATE AGENCIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19. Chairperson Crenshaw instructed that this matter be placed on file.

RESOLUTION 2021-07 FROM THE CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 1 2021. Chairperson Crenshaw instructed that this matter be placed on file.

AN EMAIL FROM ANSHU VARMA RESIGNING FROM THE INGHAM COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER BOARD. Chairperson Crenshaw accepted the resignation with regret and instructed that this matter be placed on file.

### **LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT**

Henry Mayers, Meridian Township resident and President of Michiganders for Fair and Transparent Elections, stated that he had submitted Agenda Item No. 6 to Commissioner Stivers for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. He further stated that money in politics had become a crisis for our democracy and was no longer a partisan matter.

Mr. Mayers stated that in 2016, the country spent \$1.5 billion on the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. He further stated that in 2020, the country spent \$14.5 billion on the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election, three times the amount spent in the previous presidential election.

Mr. Mayers stated that in the 2018 U.S. Congressional elections, the country spent three times the amount spent in the 2016 U.S. Congressional elections for six of the most competitive races. He further stated that the country had better things to do than spend \$14.5 billion to elect candidates.

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Mr. Mayers stated that now, donations were being made more through organizations rather than the individuals, which made it impossible to know their original donors. He further stated that even organizations expected to report, like Political Action Committees (PACs), it was found that as much as 60 percent of their funds could not be traced back to an individual.

Mr. Mayers stated that dark money had now begun to play a major role in the nomination of U.S. Supreme Court nominees. He further stated that raising enough money was a major distraction for state and federal officeholders, and as a result, they were obligated to give special attention to those donors.

Mr. Mayers stated that research has shown that all of this had convinced voters that their vote does not matter. He further stated that saying an end to this was first priority for our democracy.

### **CLARIFICATION/INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

None.

### **CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Maiville moved to adopt a consent agenda consisting of all action items, with the exception of Agenda Items No. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 34, and 35. Commissioner Sebolt supported the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those agenda items that were on the consent agenda were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Items voted on separately are so noted in the minutes.

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**ADOPTED – APRIL 13, 2021  
AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

Introduced by the County Services Committee of the:

**INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FOR THE PEOPLE ACT WHICH CHANGES  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS TO REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN POLITICS**

**RESOLUTION #21 – 182**

WHEREAS, the foundation of our democracy is free, fair, and credible elections; and

WHEREAS, our democracy is a representative one, it is essential that elected officials represent and pursue the interests and needs of their voters, avoid self-dealing relative to their personal financial interests, and avoid corruption and undue influence from outside financial interests; and

WHEREAS, election campaigns, from the earliest days of our democracy, were conceived as a very public process in which the candidates seek to inform and motivate their electorate to choose them to represent the interests and needs of their district; and

WHEREAS, rulings of the United States Supreme Court over the last 50 years have expanded the meaning of the First Amendment of the federal constitution so as to empower unlimited political spending with “free speech” protections; and

WHEREAS, these rulings have led to a dramatic increase in “dark money”, funds raised for the purpose of influencing elections by nonprofit organizations that are not required to disclose the identities of their donors; and

WHEREAS, research has documented that the bulk of dark money advertising use deceptive identities, is oppositional in nature, often intended to distort the facts regarding a candidate and inflame voter opinion and engender irreconcilable partisanship; and

WHEREAS, some Michigan corporations have launched, and solely financed, deceptive non-profit social welfare dark money groups for the sole purpose of defeating local elected officials that have refused to support their private interests; and

WHEREAS, the costs of the 2020 federal election exploded from \$6.3 billion in 2016 to nearly \$15 billion in 2020; and

WHEREAS, dark money funding was, for the first time, the largest class of money in Michigan’s 2018 Governor’s Election; and

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WHEREAS, there is a growing body of research that indicates that the confluence of all of the above problems is a major factor in the oft-cited increasing loss of confidence by American citizens in the election process, our representative form of democracy, and our government itself; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the increasing need for full disclosure of and limits on election money, as well as disclosure of candidate personal financial interests to protect the integrity of our elections.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that in order to restore faith in our elections, achieve equality of voice, and true representation, we, the elected officials of Ingham County hereby:

- Call all on our congressional delegation to support and pass HR1/SR1, more commonly known as *For the People Act*, and
- Call all on our congressional delegation to support and pass an amendment to the US Constitution, and submit it to the states for ratification, a Constitutional amendment to clarify that States may set even-handed limits on the spending of money to influence elections in the States and that Congress may set even-handed limits on the spending of money to influence Federal elections, and that in so doing, the States and Congress may distinguish between natural persons and legally recognized entities such as corporations, unions and government authorities; and
- Call on our state delegation to support an amendment to the Michigan constitution and passage of enabling legislation to require the disclosure of all election campaign financing associated with public election messaging generated by any and all persons and entities. This new requirement for our elections should in like fashion include disclosure of personal financial resources by reporting by all candidates and elected state public officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners requests that the County Clerk forward copies of this resolution to the Leadership of the U.S. Congress, and our delegation therein, the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader for the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives and Ingham County's State Legislative delegation.

**COUNTY SERVICES: Yeas:** Stivers, Celentino, Grebner, Sebolt, Slaughter, Peña, Naeyaert  
**Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Approved 04/06/2021**

Adopted as part of the consent agenda.

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### SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Commissioner Graham moved to reappoint Sandy Drake to the Capital District Library Board; Theodore Seitz to the Jury Board; and Anne Thompson to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Commissioner Stivers supported the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion.

Clerk Barb Byrum, County Clerk, stated that Virginia Rezmierski could use the 'Chat' feature on Zoom to address the Board of Commissioners.

### COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he wanted to say Happy Birthday to Commissioners Slaughter and Celentino.

Commissioner Peña stated that he wanted to inform the Board of Commissioners that he had been approached by residents to commend the Board of Commissioners for the passage of Resolution #21-137. He further stated that one African-American individual had issues related to her hair and a Sikh had been victim of nastiness related to his hair.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he knew Ms. Rezmierski well. He further stated that she was a retired Public Policy instructor at the University of Michigan, as well as a licensed psychologist.

Commissioner Schafer stated that Ms. Rezmierski had been working with the Stockbridge and surrounding area to identify a medically underserved area. He further stated that she had been instrumental bringing together many of the business groups and the township to apply for recognition from the federal government, which had already indicated that it was a medically underserved area.

Commissioner Schafer stated that Ms. Rezmierski had demonstrated extensive leadership seeking grants and other opportunities. He further stated that she had been working with Stockbridge Community Schools to have a facility attached to a bond issue.

Commissioner Schafer stated that in the future, Ms. Rezmierski would be asking for assistance from the Board of Commissioners to pursue and provide resources for a medically underserved area.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that if Ms. Rezmierski wanted to address the Commissioners, he asked her to send her comments to [clerk@ingham.org](mailto:clerk@ingham.org) for Clerk Byrum to distribute her comments to the Board of Commissioners.

### CONSIDERATION AND ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS

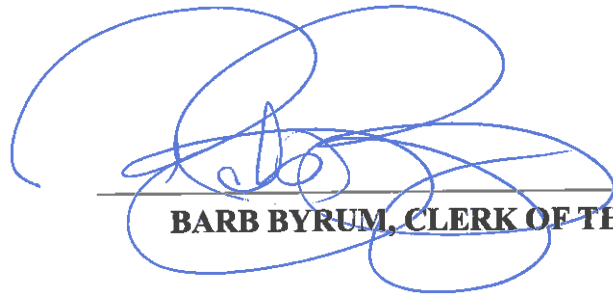
Commissioner Tennis moved to pay the claims in the amount of \$17,951,143.49. Commissioner Slaughter supported the motion.

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The motion carried unanimously.

**RECESS**

The meeting was recessed at 7:04 p.m.



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**BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD**