



# Manistee County Board of Commissioners

Manistee County Courthouse • 415 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

CHAIRPERSON  
Jeffrey Dontz  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Karen Goodman

Margaret Batzer  
Mark Bergstrom  
Pauline Jaquish  
Gene Lagerquist  
Richard Schmidt

CLERK  
Jill Nowak  
(231) 723-3331  
CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR  
David A. Kieft, Jr.  
(231) 398-3504

## POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, August 28, 2020  
2:30 p.m.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

### MINUTES

Members Present: Margaret Batzer (remotely), Gene Lagerquist and Karen Goodman, Chairperson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Lisa Sagala, Interim Administrator/Controller; Undersheriff Brian Gutowski; Heather Vasquez, Equalization Director; Pat Heins, Circuit Court Administrator; Jason Torrey, Emergency Manager; Sam Sobaski, Appraiser; Julie Schmeling, Administrative Assistant; Kristyn Malkowski, Property Description Specialist; Gracon; unidentified phone numbers and Jill M. Nowak, County Clerk.

The meeting was called to Order at 2:30 p.m.

### **NOTE – Items requiring Board Action are indicated in BOLD**

The County Board and its Committees are operating remotely and electronically by Zoom under Executive Order #2020-154 issued by Governor Gretchen Whitmer due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Once the Administration Office has all filled positions, Ms. Sagala is hoping to begin work on the County handbook and policies. The County does have baseline policies, but they need to be updated. To hire a company is very expensive but it is time consuming. Ms. Sagala will reach out to schools to see if it may be possible to have a college student

interested in Public Administration perform an Internship that could be able to help with this project.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING UPDATING VACATION POLICY  
(PTO)**

Ms. Sagala stated that carry over options and options for payout in the Paid Time Off (PTO) Policy (Appendix A) are still being reviewed. Ms. Sagala has received feedback on the options available and heard concern of extra amounts of time off that are on the books that can overextend offices. Comments received were in favor of deferred comp, bank, HRA and pay out at severance as options. Ms. Sagala will continue to work on this policy. Another issue is transitioning other departments/entities/courts that have different schedules and/or benefits and different accrual rates into comparable plans. Union negotiations are taking place and that has to be considered as well. Ms. Sagala hopes that negotiations will be done by October and that will help move forward with the policy.

**OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be in October (no September meeting).

The meeting was adjourned at the Call of the Chair at 3:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Goodman, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Lagerquist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Batzer

# APPENDIX A

## PTO Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of Paid Time Off (PTO) is to provide employees with flexible paid time off from work that can be used for such needs as vacation, personal or family illness, doctor appointments, school, volunteerism, and other activities of the employee's choice.

The PTO days you accrue, effective January 01, 2021 replace all existing vacation, sick time, and personal days that you have been allotted under prior policies. The vacation time you accrued will carry over, in excess of the PTO policy, per the guidelines at the time.

### Guidelines

Each full-time and part-time employee will accrue PTO bi-weekly in hourly increments based on their length of service as defined below. PTO is added to the employee's PTO bank when the bi-weekly paycheck is issued. PTO taken will be subtracted from the employee's accrued time bank in one-hour increments.

Temporary employees, Elected Officials, and interns are not eligible to accrue PTO.

New Employees are eligible to use accrued PTO on the first of the month following 90 days of employment.

Eligibility to accrue PTO is contingent on the employee either working or utilizing accrued PTO for the entire bi-weekly pay period. PTO is not earned in pay periods during which unpaid leave or short-term disability leave are taken.

An employee injured at the County under circumstances such that Workers' Compensation benefits are paid by the County, shall, with respect to vacation years occurring after the employee's return to work, have the period during which Workers' Compensation benefits were paid counted as continuous employment for the purpose of determining the amount of vacation to which the employee is currently entitled.

Employees may use time from their PTO bank in half hour (.5) increments. The time that is not covered by the PTO policy, and for which separate guidelines and policies exist, include company paid holidays, bereavement time off, required jury duty, and military service leave.

To take PTO requires two days of notice to the department head unless the PTO is used for legitimate, unexpected illness or emergencies. Use the Paid Time Off form to request PTO. In all instances, PTO must be approved by the employee's department head in advance.

### Paid Time Off (PTO) Exceptions

- Employees who miss more than three consecutive unscheduled days may be required to present a doctor's release to Human Resources that permits you to return to work.
- PTO taken in excess of the PTO accrued can result in progressive disciplinary action up to and including employment termination. This time off will be unpaid. The only possible exception to this policy must be granted by the Board of Commissioners.
- PTO accrued prior to the start of a requested and approved unpaid leave of absence must be used to cover hours missed before the start of the unpaid leave.
- Under Manistee County's Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policy, all accrued PTO time is taken before the start of the unpaid FMLA time.
- Unscheduled absences that result in consecutive days off, excessive call ins, pattern absences may all be considered as absence incidents in relation to potential disciplinary action.
  - Progressive disciplinary action relative to incidents of absenteeism is administered on a rolling 12-month calendar as follows:
    - One – three incidents: No disciplinary action. Supervisory coaching.
    - Fourth incident: Verbal Warning with a documented coaching session
    - Fifth incident: Written warning in the employee's file
    - Sixth incident: Employment termination

An employee who receives a second written warning in a rolling 24-month time period will have his or her employment terminated.
- An employee who has used all of his or her FMLA and Short-Term Disability benefits, and is still unable to return to work, will have his or her employment terminated.
- Any employee who misses two consecutive days of work without notice to their supervisor may be considered to have voluntarily quit their job.

### Specific Eligibility for Paid Time Off (PTO)

PTO is earned on the following schedule based on a 37.5 or 40 hour work week. PTO is prorated based on the number of hours worked on an employee's regular schedule.

#### Years of Service

0-4: 120 or 128 hours per year, earned at a rate of .06153 for each full work week in a calendar year.

5-9: 157.5 or 168 hours per year, earned at a rate of .08077 for each full work week in a calendar year.

10-15: 195 or 208 hours per year, earned at a rate of .1000 for each full work week in a calendar year.

**16-20: earn one additional day per year until you reach 20 years of service.**

**16: 202.5 or 216 hours per year, earned at .10384 for each full work week in a calendar year.**

**17: 210 or 224 hours per year, earned at .10770 for each full work week in a calendar year.**

**18: 217.5 or 232 hours per year, earned at .11154 for each full work week in a calendar year.**

**19: 225 or 240 hours per year, earned at .11540 for each full work week in a calendar year.**

**20: 232.5 or 248 hours per year, earned at .11923 for each full work week in a calendar year.**

#### **Maximum Time Accumulated**

Although you may carry over unused PTO time from year to year, there is a cap on the amount of PTO time you can accumulate.

Each employee may carry over 37.5 or 40 hours of accrued PTO over into a new calendar year. At the end of each calendar, employees may cash out up to 3 days of PTO time. Employees are responsible for monitoring and taking their PTO over the course of a year so that they do not lose time accrued when the current calendar year ends. (PTO is subject to department head approval and not every employee can take accumulated time in December: Manistee County must continue to serve customers.)

If extenuating business circumstances prevented the employee from taking scheduled PTO, this PTO may be carried over and taken in the first half of the next calendar year with the approval of the department head.

Employees are paid for the PTO they have accrued at employment end. If an employee has used PTO time not yet accrued, and employment terminates, the PTO taken is deducted from the final paycheck. Employees who give two weeks' notice of employment termination must work the two weeks without utilizing PTO. If an employee dies, the County will pay to the person the employee designates as the next of kin, accrued but unused PTO. This provision also applies to employees who are laid off.

Employees who are rehired will receive credit for the former time worked and accumulate current PTO for the combined time.

**Donating Hours**

Employees who wish to donate PTO leave to another employee, he/she will complete the PTO Donation Form and submit to Administration.

The minimal amount of leave donation allowable is – eight (8) hours; the maximum allowable leave donation is – forty (40) hours. The employee donating the leave must have a balance of at least eighty (80) hours remaining in his/her PTO Bank, after the donation. Accrued and unused paid leave donated by any one employee may not exceed 160 hours.

DRAFT

PTO Donation Form – Donor Application Form

For Payroll Period Ending \_\_\_\_\_.

I. DONOR INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Social Security Number)

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF LEAVE DONATED:

PTO [ ] # HOURS DONATED \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The minimal amount of leave donation allowable is – eight (8) hours; the maximum allowable leave donation is – forty (40) hours. The employee donating the leave must have a balance of at least eighty (80) hours remaining in his/her PTO bank, after the donation. Accrued and unused paid leave donated by any one employee may not exceed 160 hours.

II. PERSON TO RECEIVE LEAVE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M.I.) (Social Security Number)

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Use of donated leave is limited to the average number of hours in the employee's weekly schedule.
- 2. Donated leave may not be used to supplement paid benefit program(s) (i.e. Disability Leave, Worker's Compensation)
- 3. Donated leave hours will be subject to taxes for both the employee donating and the employee receiving the donation.

**III. CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this request is made voluntarily. By signing I hereby relinquish all rights to the leave shown above and the benefits accruing to or attached to the same. I certify that I will have a remaining balance of 80 hours or more of combined leave (sick, vacation, personal and compensatory) after making this donation. I also understand that my identity as a donor is to be kept confidential and I will also honor that confidentiality.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Donating Employee

**IV. VALIDATION – TO BE COMPLETED BY ADMINISTRATION**

Annual Leave Balance Before Donation	_____	Number of Hrs. Hours Donated	_____	New Annual Hrs. Leave Balance	_____	Hrs.
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ADMINISTRATION REVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE DATE

A-7

Jane Smith - New Employee as June 1, 2020

Current Policy- Not eligible for time off in 2020, earning for 2021.

Time Available as of January 1, 2021 - hours that were earned from June 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020	44 hours
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Front Loading  
up to two  
weeks  
according to  
agreement for  
2021 year only



Start accruing PTO every pay period - will earn 120 hours between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.	44 hours
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Time to be used by December 31, 2021	164 hours
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Jane Smith - Employee as June 1, 2018

2-Year Employee

Current Policy- Earning leave time for 2021.

Vacation Time Unused from 2020	22.5 hours
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Earned as of January 1, 2021 - hours that were earned from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020	75 hours
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Front Loading up to two weeks according to agreement for 2021 year only



Start accruing PTO every pay period - will earn 120 hours between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.	75 hours
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Time to be used by December 31, 2021	195 hours
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Remaining Hours that will be provided options to get compensated for time	22.5 hours
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Jane Smith - Employee as June 1, 2015

5-Year Employee

Current Policy- Earning leave time for 2021.

Vacation Time Unused from 2020	37.5 hours
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Earned as of January 1, 2021 - hours that were earned from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020	112.5 hours
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Front Loading up to two weeks according to agreement for 2021 year only
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Start accruing PTO every pay period – will earn 157.5 hours between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.	75 hours
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Time to be used by December 31, 2021	232.5 hours
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Remaining Hours that will be provided options to get compensated for time	75 hours
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Jane Smith - Employee as June 1, 2009

11-year Employee

Current Policy- Earning leave time for 2021.

Vacation Time Unused from 2020	75 hours
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Earned as of January 1, 2021 - hours that were earned from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020	150 hours
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Front Loading up to two weeks according to agreement for 2021 year only



Start accruing PTO every pay period – will earn 195 hours between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.	75 hours
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Time to be used by December 31, 2021	270 hours
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Remaining Hours that will be provided options to get compensated for time	150 hours
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