

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Woodward and Gingell issue joint statement regarding Michigan Supreme Court ruling against Oakland County Treasurer for \$8.41 foreclosure**

*Board to form special committee to convene hearings to minimize damage to county taxpayers and prevent from ever happening again*

**July 17, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled in a unanimous decision that Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner violated the constitutional rights of a property owner when he foreclosed on a senior citizen for \$8.41, sold the property at auction and kept the net value of the home.

Board Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak) and Republican Caucus Chairman **Michael J. Gingell** (R-Lake Orion) issued the following statement:

“The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is gravely concerned that County Treasurer Andy Meisner violated the constitutional rights of an elderly homeowner, and other residents, as determined by the unanimous Michigan Supreme Court today. This carelessness and ineptitude will likely cost Oakland County taxpayers more than \$34 million. In light of this ruling, the Board will have to evaluate what steps need to be taken to protect taxpayers and ensure the treasurer does not make this mistake again. We are extremely disappointed in his leadership and poor decision making.”

Last year, the Board of Commissioners approved Miscellaneous Resolution #19246 calling for a law change to prevent the county treasurer from foreclosing on property and keeping the “profit” from an auction sale. County Treasurer Andy Meisner opposed this action.

Woodward will appoint a special committee to lead the investigation into this matter. The purpose of the committee will be to plan for and mitigate the financial impact this is likely to have on the taxpayers of the county, and evaluate measures which may include a forensic audit, to ensure safeguards are in place to prevent this from ever happening again. To lead the special committee, Woodward will appoint Commissioner **Helaine Zack** (D-Huntington Woods), Chair of the Board’s Finance and Infrastructure Committee. Woodward and Gingell will also serve on the committee.

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