

## **PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

### **MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Jim Mott, Terrance Augustine, Joseph Brehler, Blake Mulder, Barbara Rogers & Jane Whitacre

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Jeremy Whittum and Brian Droscha; Commissioner Brian Lautzenheiser (Remotely), Donna Webb (EATRAN), Gene Bryan, Morgan Feldpausch, Claudine Williams, Riky Spayde (Friends of Eaton County Parks), Rachel Kuntzsch (Friends of Eaton County Parks) and John Fuentes

The February 9, 2022 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairperson Mott.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Augustine requested item 7b - Friends of Eaton County Parks, be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Mulder moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Augustine moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Whitacre seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Donna Webb, EATRAN General Manager, was present to provide the agency's semi-annual report. A review of ridership levels was provided and discussed. It was also reported that the agency is currently operating 22 of its 30 routes. Limitations are being caused by the number of vacant driver positions. An update was also provided on the ongoing regional public transportation discussions among the tri-county agencies. Discussion held.

An update was provided on behalf of the Parks Department. Remaining interviews to fill the vacant director position are re-scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022. It was reported that the Department and City of Grand Ledge desire to exercise the final one-year extension for the city park mowing contract, and a contract will be prepared for signature.

It was also reported that, as previously discussed by former Director Stowell, the Department is interested in receiving a contribution from the Friends of Eaton County Parks to fund a feasibility study for a trail connecting Charlotte and Eaton Rapids. Discussion held. Claudine Williams provided an overview of the previous attempts to pursue a project for possible grant funding, which was negatively received by the cities and surrounding townships. Further discussion held. The discussion of the Committee was that it was not advisable for a study to be pursued for such a project through the County Parks Department.

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Rachel Kuntzsch, Friends of Eaton County Parks, was present to provide and discuss the organization's recent public polling data regarding a county parks millage. As noted in the results of the telephone survey of randomly selected registered voters, the majority indicated support for a millage. Discussion held. Chairman Whittum indicated his intent to establish a workgroup to discuss millage alternatives to increase revenue to address projected future shortfalls. Further discussion held.

Gene Bryan, Construction Code Enforcement Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. The monthly housing starts, permit and inspection activity reports were reviewed. It was also reported that the State has adopted the 2018 Plumbing Code for enforcement. The County Plumbing Code Ordinance will need to be updated to reflect the current State Code.

Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend approval of an amendment to the County Plumbing Code Ordinance to reflect the adoption of the 2018 State Code. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

An update was provided on the selection and hiring process to fill the Construction Code Enforcement Director position. Discussion held.

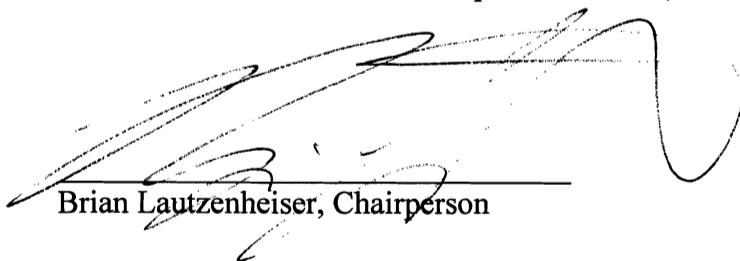
Morgan Feldpausch, Resource Recovery Coordinator, was present to provide the monthly report for Designated Implementing Agency. An update was provided on the annual waste licensing and semi-annual surcharge remittances. It was noted that there was an unresolved issue involving one of the hauler remittances that the Department is working to resolve. Discussion held.

Claudine Williams, Community Development Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. It was reported that the County will need to hold a public hearing in March for the proposed expenditures for the County's CDBG Program Income funds. It was also reported that the Department is working with the Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan to utilize an additional \$19,850 in grant funds for direct services for eligible veterans. Discussion held.

It was also reported that in order to remain eligible for future Purchase of Development Rights Grant Funding, the County Master Plan will be required to be updated in 2022. The Department will be developing an RFP and selection process. It was also reported that this RFP will include a standalone project for placemaking improvements within the County complex to incorporate projects identified by the Sustainability Steering Committee. Discussion held.

Chairperson Mott adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held at 9:00am on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.



Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson