

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023**

**9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Joe Brehler, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Barbara Rogers and Jeanne Pearl-Wright.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, and Frank Holmes; Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie, Finance Director Melissa Ballard, Human Resources Director Ben Dawson, Equalization Director Tim Vandermark (virtual), Treasurer Bob Robinson, Central Dispatch 911 Director Kelley Cunningham, Public Defender Administrator Tim Havis, Physical Plant Director Chad Powers, Rehmann Representative Nathan Baldermann, Eaton County Health and Rehabilitation Services CEO Martha Richard, and Granger Construction Representative Mark Butler.

The April 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the March 10, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Nathan Baldermann, with the audit firm Rehmann, was present to discuss the results of the audit of the County Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2022. Mr. Baldermann explained that the County received an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements' presentation in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and provided a review of the financial statements and upcoming Government Accounting Standards Board requirements. Mr. Baldermann and Ms. Sobie answered questions from Committee members.

Mr. Baldermann also spoke regarding the findings included in the audit report. Discussion held.

Equalization Director, Tim Vandermark, presented the recommended 2023 Equalization report to the Committee for their review and presented a summary of the reports. The total increase in equalized value from 2022 to 2023 was 8.74%. Discussion held. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the 2023 Equalization Report to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vandermark also presented a resolution for the partial termination of a farmland development rights agreement. Discussion held. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Human Resources Director, Ben Dawson, presented a Human Resources update. Discussion was held regarding the implementation of changes for human resources software as well as other important changes being implemented at the County.

The positions update was presented. Commissioner Brehler moved to refill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Melissa Ballard presented the 2021/22 Final Year End Financial Report. Discussion held.

Ms. Ballard also presented the Health Insurance Report for February. The report indicates a small favorable variance of \$7,550 as compared to the budget projection. Additionally, the report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$166,066) compared to revenues received.

An update of the Child Care Fund was presented and discussed. Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures, the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2023 is \$803,476.

The Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (PA 202) Report for fiscal year 2022 was presented. Discussion held.

Chairperson Mulder recessed the meeting for a brief break at 10:17 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Treasurer Bob Robinson presented a cash flow analysis for Eaton County Health and Rehabilitation Services. Martha Richard, Eaton County Health and Rehabilitation Services Director, presented reports and information regarding continued funding issues facing the facility. Ms. Richard requested consideration of a millage or other long-term funding strategies for the facility. Discussion held.

Commissioner Brehler moved to authorize the Treasurer to authorize cash transfers of up to \$1.5 million to Eaton County Health and Rehabilitation Services through September 30, 2023 in aggregate. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Discussion held. Commissioner Augustine moved to amend the recommendation to authorize the Treasurer to authorize cash transfers of up to \$1.5 million through May 17, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Discussion held. Commissioner Brehler opposed. Motion amendment carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sobie presented a resolution to approve the application for the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) grant and compliance plan. Discussion was held regarding compliance with Standard 8 of MIDC which dictates minimum salary requirements for certain MIDC funded positions. Ms. Sobie indicated that compliance with Standard 8 is mandatory for continued state funding, however this will impact other attorneys employed by the Courts and the Prosecutor's Office as this disproportionately inflates salaries of specific positions without a corresponding increase to these other areas. She recommends a review of all attorney positions through the reclassification process. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the application for the MIDC grant and compliance plan as well as to recommend the review of attorney positions through the reclassification process. Commissioner Lautzenheiser supported. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Powers provided updates regarding the Jail and Youth Facility security upgrade, Jail fire alarms, Health Department renovations, the solar project, EV charging stations, and the Placemaking plan. Discussion held.

Mark Butler, a representative from Granger Construction, presented an update regarding the Youth Facility Expansion Project. Discussion held.

Budget amendments were presented and discussed. Central Dispatch 911 Director Kelly Cunningham provided information on the purchase of radio equipment for Potterville Public Schools as well as the purchase of software for emergency services for the County Complex. Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to declare National Workers' Memorial Day was presented. Commissioner Rogers moved to recommend the resolution to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to approve the application for Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program for the 2024 to 2028 fiscal years was presented and discussed (attached). Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to recommend the approval of the payment of the claims against the County totaling \$12,278,238.42 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved to authorize the review of position reclassification requests and new positions through the reclassification process. Seconded by Commissioner Brehler. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha discussed concerns by townships related to drain assessments that were paid early with the expectation of saving interest costs. These townships are receiving bills related to those assessments referencing interest expenses. Treasurer Robinson provided an explanation of the assessment and bond process, noting assessments are based on the term and period of the total assessment where paying the assessment early does not result in a savings in the total cost of the project. Discussion held.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on May 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.

  
Blake Mulder, Chairperson