

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Brian Lautzenheiser.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Mott; Connie Sobie, Janice Cunningham, Doug Lloyd, Adam Strong, Elbert Sidel, Diana Bosworth, Jeremy Mulvany, Kelley Cunningham, Eric Daley, Nathan Nighbert, Chad Powers.

The June 23, 2023 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 Augustine moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Chief Judge Janice Cunningham discussed the Court's budget and the challenges and changes facing the Courts in the upcoming fiscal year as well as looking into the future including changes in the level of demand for services driven by changes at the state level impacting operations, and the impact salary competition is having on recruitment and retention.

Prosecuting Attorney Doug Lloyd discussed the long-term challenges his department is facing. He addressed ongoing staffing levels when mixed with the evolution of technology significantly increasing the demands placed on his office, and changes in the level of demand for services driven by changes at the state level impacting operations. Prosecutor Lloyd shared the impact salary competition is having on recruitment and retention within his entire office, and how retention impacts his office's ability to handle more complicated and sensitive cases, especially in relationship to the case review and trial preparation.

Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Adam Strong discussed his tenure with Eaton County, highlighting the struggles employees in the Prosecutor's offices are facing with related to workload, salary level, and staffing turnover. Mr. Strong expressed that while employees within the Prosecutor's Office are passionate about their careers, there is a balance between compensation and job satisfaction in relationship to economic challenges.

Chairperson Mulder recessed the meeting starting at 10:24 a.m.

Chairperson Mulder reconvened the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Chief Deputy Sidel discussed the importance of developing relationships between the Sheriff's Department and County Administration and how he is approaching his new role, and how Chief Deputy Sidel agreed with the changing pressures on law enforcement and the impact salary competition is having on recruitment and retention.

County Clerk/Register of Deeds Diana Bosworth discussed changes she hopes to accomplish in the Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk's and Register of Deeds offices, and the challenges of legislative changes passed down to the County and how these demands impact future planning. Clerk Bosworth discussed planning to grow her team and the impact salary competition will have on recruitment and retention.

Youth Facility Director Jeremy Mulvany discussed the expansion and how this will impact his department's operations, both short-term and long-term; Director Mulvany also discussed his departments ongoing struggle with the impact salary competition is having on recruitment and retention.

Central Dispatch Director Kelley Cunningham discussed the 911 millage and the surcharge funding mechanisms. She also spoke about the potential of a building for housing and maintaining emergency services equipment. Director Cunningham also expressed concerns about the impact salary competition is going to have on recruitment and retention in the future.

Technology Services Director Eric Daley discussed the County's continuing technology needs as well as the difficulties his office has faced regarding hiring and retention. Director Daley expressed concerns about the impact salary competition is having on recruitment and retention in the future, especially with many private firms offering work-from-home and the increasing demand for professionals with information technology.

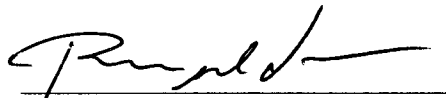
Deputy Technology Services Director Nathan Nighbert spoke to the committee regarding the solar infrastructure and the successful implementation of the electronic vehicles charging stations that are now open to the public.

Facilities Management Director Chad Powers spoke to the committee about the on-going costs for maintaining the County's infrastructure. Director Powers shared how capital expenditure planning for the County includes some sizeable investments in the future including things such as elevator replacements. He also spoke about concerns he has on the impact salary competition is having on recruitment and retention in the future.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways & Means Committee will be held on Friday, July 14, 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

