

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Joseph Brehler, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott and Jeanne Pearl-Wright.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Barbara Rogers; District Court Judges Julie O'Neill and Kelly Morton; Bob Robinson, Dan Skiver, Kelli Quiroga, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie.

The October 14, 2022 regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2022 Ways and Means Committee meeting. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

District Court Judges Julie O'Neill and Kelly Morton were present to discuss the vacant Attorney/Magistrate position and provide information regarding the position responsibilities and challenges in recruiting an attorney for the position. A letter by the judges was presented (attached). The judges discussed the qualifications Attorney/Magistrate candidate must be a registered elector in Eaton County, cannot practice law in Eaton County and the schedule is 20 hours per week with 24/7 on-call coverage. This has created difficulty retaining individuals in the position. The judges requested to post the position to recruit for an attorney and a non-attorney in order to find additional candidates. Discussion held regarding the qualifications of a non-attorney, training, oversight and duties able to be performed by a non-attorney magistrate. The judges are available at any time to address questions from the magistrate and are also able to review the work of the magistrate. There was also discussion regarding a law student serving as the magistrate, which could result in continued training turnover. There was also discussion regarding the 24/7 on-call status. There was also discussion by Committee members regarding full-time versus part-time being more attractive to candidates. The District Court Judges clarified a request is not being made to increase the position to full-time. The request is to fill the position as a permanent, part-time, Non-Attorney Magistrate, in the event a qualified candidate does not apply for the part-time Attorney Magistrate position. There was discussion regarding a member of the Committee participating in the hiring process. Controller Fuentes suggested working with the Court to develop a job description that will allow for more flexibility in hiring. After considerable discussion, no action was taken on the Court's request. An update will be provided at the November regular meeting.

No Public Comment

Treasurer Bob Robinson was present to provide a Foreclosing Governmental Unit Report of Real Property Foreclosure Sales. The 2020 report is required to be completed and submitted to the Michigan State Treasurer

and also to the Board of Commissioners (attached). Treasurer Robinson provided an explanation of the contents of the report and an update on the foreclosures in the County. In 2020, there were only two foreclosure sales for unoccupied properties and all others were suspended due to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to receive the Foreclosing Governmental Unit Report of Real Property Foreclosure Sales from the Treasurer to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Robinson provided information regarding the Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds (attached) and discussed the role of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to make taxing authorities whole by purchasing delinquent taxes owed to those authorities. The Treasurer then manages the tax collection for the real property delinquent tax rolls. An overview of the chargeback process was also provided. Treasurer Robinson provided detailed information and responded to questions by the Committee.

The positions update was presented and reviewed (attached). There was discussion regarding the recruitment effort for Sheriff deputies. Controller Fuentes discussed the efforts by the Sheriff's Office including, recruitment efforts directly with the police academies, sponsorship candidates as well as establishing a recruitment marketing campaign utilizing a public relations firm. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to refill the vacancies as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The August Health Insurance Expenditure report was presented (attached). The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$726,505) compared to the budget projection for both the County and Health Department. The County's portion is an unfavorable variance of (\$625,642). The County's active employees' unfavorable variance is (\$454,773) and the retirees' unfavorable variance is (\$170,868). The report continues to show the trend of claims as discussed at the September regular meeting.

Dan Skiver (Brown and Brown) and Kelli Quiroga (BCBS) were present to discuss the renewal recommendation for the County's current health insurance plans. The recommendation is to continue the current health insurance benefit programs and increase the individual contract stop-loss coverage to \$100,000; thereby reducing the premiums for this coverage by approximately \$750,000. The required employee contributions under PA152 were provided and reviewed (attached).

Commissioner Augustine moved to approve the renewal of the administrative services contract, as recommended and the required employee contribution rates as presented, for the health benefit plan year beginning January 1, 2023. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The dental and vision insurance renewals were presented and reviewed (attached). Commissioner Brehler moved to approve the dental and vision renewals as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mulder recessed the meeting at 10:42 a.m. for a break.

Chairman Mulder reconvened the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

An update of the Child Care Fund was presented and discussed (attached). Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2022 is \$202,785. A total of \$300,000 in appropriations was reduced from the General Fund and Juvenile Millage Fund equally.

It was reported that the County approved acceptance of a grant based on an anticipated award of \$100,000. During the grant process the County had indicated its intent to include \$10,000,000 for possible construction or renovation to increase capacity at the Youth Facility to address a statewide shortage of available juvenile

treatment bed space as indicated by Judge Byerley and discussed by Youth Facility Director at previous meetings. The County was notified on September 16, 2022 the state had approved the County's award of \$10,100,000, including the conceptual request for construction. Discussion held.

As a result, the Court, Facilities Director Powers and the Controller are developing a process to identify potential construction managers to invite to submit proposals for a design-build project, based on an expedited timeline given to grant requirements. Further discussion held.

Commissioner Brehler moved to accept the revised grant award and provide the authority to the Controller and the Court to continue to develop a process and plan to utilize the \$10,100,000 for construction and/or renovation of a facility to serve the youth of Eaton County. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A letter to Governor Whitmer and MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel from stakeholders regarding the concern for the shortage of placement options for high risk youth in communities was presented and discussed (attached).

Mr. Fuentes provided an update to the status of the 2021/2022 Public Improvement projects as well as the preliminary final expenditures (attached). A summary and detail report of the Public Improvement projects over the last ten years was presented (attached).

Mr. Fuentes presented and discussed an analysis of the full faith and credit pledged by Eaton County. There is 8% of the total statutory debt limit pledged by the County for its full faith and credit for all debt with 6% related to drainage district projects.

An update of the American Rescue Plan identified uses and allocations was presented (attached). Controller Fuentes discussed the addition of a request provided by Chairman Whittum for \$3 million related to Emergency Medical Services. Discussion held. No action taken.

There are currently no proposed 2022/2023 budget amendments. The projects not finalized for the 2021/2022 budget are being reviewed for carryover into the 2022/2023 budget to be presented at a future meeting.

Mr. Fuentes presented the list of expiring citizen appointment (attached). Mr. Fuentes discussed number of members serving on the Historical Commission currently totals eleven residents of Eaton County and one Eaton County Commissioner. The current Ordinance and By-Laws provide for a total of ten members. An updated Ordinance and By-Laws of the Historical Commission was presented increasing the members to twelve. Discussion held. Commissioner Mott moved to recommend approval of the amendment to the Ordinance and By-Laws of the Historical Commission and to approve the appointments to the Historical Commission and Land Bank Authority, as presented to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution declaring November as Family Court Awareness Month was presented (attached). Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Declare November as Family Court Awareness Month to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the payment of the claims against the County in the amount of \$2,526,026.43 and immediate claims in the amount of \$21,954,275.22 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

No Public Comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held on Thursday November 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room at the County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Mulder', written in a cursive style.

Chairman Blake Mulder