

Board Conference Room
March 22, 2018
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Powers in the Board Conference Room on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Roll was called by the Clerk. Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Byl, Mr. Gustafson, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Sebolt, Mr. Walker and Mr. Powers. Absent: None.

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and seconded by Mr. Byl to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – EDC REQUEST TO INCREASE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE AGENCY’S STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and seconded by Mr. Byl to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Oceana County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was established in 1979 as a public corporation and governmental subdivision to assist with both current and prospective business development opportunities using an array of services such as research, site identification and selection, education, workforce development, and financing support; and

WHEREAS: In 2017, the EDC Board of Directors worked with The Right Place, a regional business development organization headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to conduct a series of strategic planning exercises with the outcome producing a set of new strategic goals that align with the mission of the EDC; and

WHEREAS: The Right Place has 40 years of experience developing a network of resources to support and strengthen economic development initiatives leading to economic prosperity for their clients; and

WHEREAS: By way of reference, strategic goals that emerged from the exercises facilitated by The Right Place are categorized into four broad areas, namely, 1) Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction; 2) Marketing and Communication; 3) Fund Development; and 4) Organization; and

WHEREAS: The categories, and strategic goals within them, shall serve as a foundation for focusing the EDC’s efforts to develop strong partnerships with our business communities, nonprofit communities, and governmental communities throughout Oceana County and West Michigan; and

WHEREAS: In recent years the EDC’s financial partners have included Arbre Farms, Peterson Farms, Oceana Foods, Shelby State Bank, Barber Steel Foundry, Valley View Pork, Todd Greiner Farms, Consumers Energy, City of Hart, Village of Shelby, and Oceana County; and

WHEREAS: The EDC desires to enter into an agreement with The Right Place to leverage its extensive pool of networks and resources to substantially improve outcome-based economic development results undertaken in, and for the benefit of, our communities throughout Oceana County; and

WHEREAS: To partner with The Right Place will require increased and consistent efforts by the EDC to secure sustainable financial support from a diverse group of partners, including Oceana County; and

WHEREAS: The EDC Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 13, 2018 passed a resolution to formally request additional appropriations from Oceana County for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020; and

WHEREAS: The Oceana County Board of Commissioners has a history of supporting the EDC through annual budgetary appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Oceana County Board of Commissioners supports a strong and resilient economy and as such agrees to provide an appropriation to the Oceana County Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$50,000 annually for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Oceana County Board of Commissioners adopted a fiscal year 2018 budget that included a \$30,000 appropriation to the EDC. By passing this resolution, a supplemental appropriation of \$20,000 would be made to the EDC using the fund balance account of the county's General Fund as the source for the supplemental appropriation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Upon the EDC's establishment of the Oceana County Economic Alliance, a new organization with tax exemption status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners shall appropriate all remaining funds agreed to by passing this resolution directly to the Oceana County Economic Alliance during each fiscal year.

Roll call vote: Mr. Gustafson-yes; Mr. Byl-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Ms. Meyette-yes; Mr. Sebolt-yes; Mr. Walker-yes; and Mr. Powers-yes. Absent: None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – AUGUST 7, 2018 BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR THE PROVISION OF OPERATING MILLAGE FOR THE OCEANA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

Moved by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Powers to request the Oceana County Board of Commissioners to approve the following August 7, 2018, Ballot Proposition for the provision of operating millage for the Oceana County Council on Aging:

Shall the limitation upon the total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property for all purposes in any one year under the Michigan Constitution be increased in the County of Oceana, Michigan by 1.00 mills (which is equal to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value of all such property) for a period of six years, 2018 through 2023 inclusive, for the purpose of paying costs of operations to provide services to older citizens of the County through the Oceana County Council on Aging, a Michigan non-profit corporation? The amount of revenue the County will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the County in the first calendar year is estimated to be \$1,189,601. The proposed millage is a renewal of a previously authorized millage of .7493 mills and a new additional millage of .2507 mills, the revenue from which would be disbursed to the Oceana County Council on Aging.

Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Powers-yes; Ms. Meyette-yes; Mr. Walker-no;
Mr. Byl-yes; Mr. Sebolt-no; and Mr. Gustafson-no. Absent: None.

Motion carried.

Chairperson Powers felt that it would be a real loss to the community to lose the services of the COA; but, also realizes the concern with the outreach of services to other areas of the county.

Mr. Byl related that even though he would have preferred different ballot language, this was what was presented, thus he voted in favor of it.

Mr. Sebolt preferred that the COA request for millage be reduced to .7500 mill since Oceana County is the 7th highest taxed county in the State. He loves the services and wants to see those continue; however, he does not favor the 1.00 mill, thus he voted no.

Mr. Walker stated that he voted no because there were several meetings held with the COA on reaching out to other areas of the county, one being his area, District 7. It was also asked if the COA would consider allocating up to a maximum of 10% of this millage (if approved) for other organizations in the county to provide services. The answer was that they could not afford it. He did appreciate that the wording was changed from 10 years to 6 years. He asked for assurances that the COA would reach out to the area that he serves, and as of yet there have been no assurances. He believes in the Council on Aging, but he represents residents in his district and they are not being served well.

Mr. Gustafson appreciates all that the COA has to offer; but, feels that the outreach to other areas of the county could be better, thus he voted no.

Ms. Meyette commented that her vote was not necessarily in support of the millage wording as she prefers the private sector offering the services. However, the COA does provide much to the community and she would not want to see that lost.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – DRAIN ASSESSMENT LOAN REGARDING LAKE HOLIDAY DRAIN DISTRICT

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Walker to provide a drain fund assessment loan to the Oceana County Drain Commissioner in the amount of \$65,000 for the purpose of reducing a future deficiency assessment for the Lake Holiday drain district. The source of loan funds will be the General Fund's fund balance. The terms of agreement for the loan are as follows: the loan effective date is March 22, 2018; although no scheduled payments are required, repayment of the loan shall be made in full no later than March 31, 2024; and an annual rate of interest of 1.50% shall be charged. Interest charges will begin accruing from the loan effective date until paid in full. Early payoff of the loan is allowable.

Roll call vote: Ms. Meyette-yes; Mr. Walker-yes; Mr. Sebolt-yes; Mr. Byl-yes; Mr. Gustafson-yes;
Mr. Brown-yes; and Mr. Powers-yes. Absent: None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – AMENDMENT TO FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUILDING DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Moved by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Byl to increase the FY 2018 Building Department Fund (#249) budget by \$20,802 to cover the cost of establishing a separate defined benefit pension plan in the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS). The County Administrator is authorized to amend the budget using the Building Department Fund’s fund balance account which has a pre-audit unreserved fund balance of \$129,953.

Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Byl-yes; Mr. Gustafson-yes; Ms. Meyette-yes; Mr. Walker-yes; Mr. Sebolt-yes; and Mr. Powers-yes. Absent: None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – APPLICATION FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Sebolt to authorize the Oceana County Emergency Manager to apply for an Emergency Management Performance Grant, through the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, for up to \$10,000, to enhance the county’s capabilities to provide for the multi-agency coordination of information and resources to support incident management activities. If awarded, the grant program requires a 50% cash or in-kind match.

Roll call vote: Mr. Walker-yes; Mr. Sebolt-yes; Ms. Meyette-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Gustafson-yes; Mr. Byl-yes; and Mr. Powers-yes. Absent: None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 - PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Byl and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the payment of claims in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$ 66,969.12
GIS FUND	6,000.00
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	7,189.17
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FUND	4,425.24
ANIMAL CONTROL BUILDING	-0-
TOTAL FORECLOSURE FUND	4,050.00
K-9 FUND	882.00
VETERAN AFFAIRS	3,870.27
MEDICAL RESERVE CORP	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND R.O.D.	46,109.98
CAPITAL PROJECTS-EQUIP. REPLACEMENT	-0-
LOCAL CORR. OFFICERS TRAINING FUND	-0-
GENERAL FUND	<u>360,790.08</u>
TOTAL	\$ 500,285.86

and to authorize the County Clerk to draw warrants and the County Treasurer to pay the same.

Roll call vote: Mr. Byl-yes; Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Gustafson-yes; Mr. Walker-yes; Mr. Sebolt-yes; Ms. Meyette-yes; and Mr. Powers-yes. Absent: None.

Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Byl noted that he attended several Board of Review meetings within the past few weeks and found things to be positive. He is hopeful this is an indication that operations in the Equalization Department are moving in a positive direction. It seemed like the reviews went much easier than in past years, with little changes.

Commissioner Gustafson recently attended the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission meeting in Ludington. The meeting was held in a facility whereby several public service agencies can meet. He related what a nice facility it was whereby so many entities could use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jake Lubera, the new District Ranger with the Huron-Manistee National Forests, United States Department of Agriculture, introduced himself. He works out of the Baldwin office in Lake County but is involved in several activities in Oceana County. His goal and purpose is to serve and protect public works and land. He is excited in his new position and looks forward to working in the area.

Chairperson Powers asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.


Rebecca J. Griffin, Clerk

4-10-18
Date


Mr. Powers, Chairperson