

**FINANCE AND EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Finance and Equalization Committee Meeting was called to order, in the Board Room of the County Building, by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 10:14 a.m.

Roll was called. Present: Mr. Hardy, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Christians, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Beggs and Mr. Morse.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk; Mr. Ginn, Grant Township Fire Department; Mr. Bono, Grant Township Fire Department; and Mr. Cavanaugh, Oceana’s Herald Journal.

Ms. Meyette noted that she felt there were items left out of the May 13, 2021 minutes. She discussed those items and other related items, but no changes will be made.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the agenda items as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Dr. Sobie began discussion supporting four (4) year terms for County Commissioners. Ms. Meyette inquired if the bill has any provision for staggering the 4-year terms. Mr. Sobie was not aware of any. Mr. Erickson expressed support in order to allow a longer period of time for acclimation to the position and duties of being a commissioner. Mr. Walker and Mr. Hardy also supported 4-year terms for that reason.

Dr. Sobie started discussion regarding donating an unused county asset to Grant Township Fire Department. Mr. Ginn and Mr. Bono spoke in favor of and gratitude for the consideration of the donation of the trailer for use as incident support trailer. Emergency Manager, Mr. Duram did a survey of area fire departments and no other department expressed interest in it. It would be available for other agencies to utilize as well, if needed.

Dr. Sobie facilitated discussion regarding a resolution to approve an Airport Improvement Project. He noted that the contract number for this project has changed and so he preferred to bring it back before the commissioners for review. The County has entered into similar contracts for many years in order to obtain federal funding for airport improvement projects.

Dr. Sobie did not read the claims for payment, however the following was available for review:

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Oceana County Administrator

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REVIEW OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT (>= \$1,000 and Other Noteworthy Expenditures)

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<b>Fund #</b>	<b>Dept. #</b>	<b>Dept. Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>				
210 - Ambulance Fund			\$ 227,900.00	to Life EMS for the quarterly service agreement.
249 - Building Department Fund			\$ 6,031.60	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 4,631.55	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 4,327.40	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 1,100.00	to BS&A software for remote training.
260 - Indigent Defense Fund			\$ 6,986.00	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 4,583.34	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
			\$ 6,681.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 6,004.00	to Hayes Law Office for court appointed attorney fees.
292 - Child Care Fund			\$ 1,699.20	to Fountain Hill Center for out-of-home placement.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund			\$ 6,609.42	to Huntington Bank for equipment purchases.
			\$ 1,663.33	to Wells Fargo for equipment leasing agreement.

<b>General Fund</b>		
101 - Board of Commisioners	\$ 4,214.68	to Smith, Haughey, Rice and Roegge for legal services.
131 - Circuit Court	\$ 3,346.34	to Hayes Law Office for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 3,346.34	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
136 - District Court	\$ 4,481.80	to State of Michigan for JIS fees.
148 - Probate Court	\$ 3,063.83	to State of Michigan for JIS fees.
262 - Elections	\$ 6,014.73	to Spectrum Printers, Inc. for ballots.
351 - Jail	\$ 1,000.00	to Dr. Paul Wagner for inmate medical.
	\$ 2,175.45	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 1,180.72	to Oceana Pharmacy for medications and supplies for March & April.
430 - Animal Control	\$ 1,120.00	to Oceana Veterinary Clinic for various services.
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 13,044.40	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
~ <b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 93,305.13</b>	

## **Administrator's Report**

### Senior Resources

On June 10, staff from Senior Resources will attend the Health and Human Services Committee meeting to briefly discuss the 2022 Area Implementation Plan that requires formal board approval. A copy of the plan has been distributed to commissioners.

### Administration

I was anticipating one final allocation of funds from the Federal CARES Act from 2020 in the amount of \$58,301 as part of the Act's payroll reimbursement program. We received a slightly adjusted allocation of \$57,817. We received a total of \$282,191 from this grant for payroll reimbursement.

Last week, we received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the first round of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act in the amount of \$2,570,452. And, the advisory committee chaired by Commissioner Hardy, that will make recommendations to the board about committing funds to programs and projects, met for the first time on May 19.

Initial tests of our new chart of accounts with treasury revealed 17 errors out of nearly 6,000 accounts that were processed. Our vendor is continuing testing to insure that the mapping for this transition is working well.

MMRMA has assigned an attorney to represent the County Clerk and County Board in a lawsuit filed by Mr. Charles Ritchard. Please direct all of your questions to me and I'll coordinate with the attorney.

We've hired several new employees and they are:

- Timothy Pluger – Deputy Animal Control Officer starting June 14th
- Joseph Kilchermaan – Juvenile Probation Officer started May 3rd
- Jordan Lesausky – Corrections Officer starting June 14th
- Travis Haner – Sheriff's Dept, summer ORV position starting May 28th

Current vacancies include:

- Juvenile Court Officer (resulting from retirement)
- Sheriff's Deputy (resulting from retirement)
- Attorney Referee
- Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
- Corrections Officer

### Brownfields Redevelopment Authority

An online informational session hosted by Ed VanderVries, Oceana County Equalization Director and Susan Wenzlick, Senior Brownfield Consultant of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., was held on May 18 with 17 attendees to answer questions related to the establishment of a brownfield authority. There seemed to be great interest in the establishment of this authority. As part of the June 10 public hearing on the subject, I will provide commissioners with a draft resolution formally establishing the authority. Following the adoption of the resolution there will be suggestions/applications taken on who to seat on the brownfield redevelopment authority board and then names will be presented to the Board

at a future meeting. There have been other authorities established in Michigan that utilize the members of the Land Bank Authority as brownfield authority board members as those two groups can work together on development projects.

Courts

We received an indigent defense grant payment from the state in the amount of \$25,894.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Hardy adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully,

Melanie A. Coon  
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk