

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker in the Board Room of the Oceana County Courthouse on Thursday, April 13, 2021, at 11:37 a.m. via Zoom.

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public participation was provided via audio/videoconference using Zoom. The online meeting ID was 856 6132 4603.

And additional resolution was added to the agenda to appoint a member to the Oceana County Board of Road Commissioners.

Mr. Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare a conflict of interest on the agenda items. No conflict of interest was declared.

No public comment at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – ESTABLISHING A BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN OCEANA COUNTY

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Erickson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners has determined that there are certain environmentally distressed, functionally obsolete and/or blighted areas in the county that the continued existence of such areas can limit, hinder or delay redevelopment or revitalization of properties within the county; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public for the Oceana County Board of Commissioners to facilitate identification and treatment of environmentally distressed, functionally obsolete and/or blighted areas and promote revitalization within Oceana County; and

WHEREAS, in order to further such interests, it is appropriate for the Oceana County Board of Commissioners to create and provide for the operation of a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority within the county pursuant to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners is required to hold a public hearing on the adoption of a proposed resolution creating a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") under the Act; and to publish notice of the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in accordance with Section 4(2) of the Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the public to promote the redevelopment of environmentally distressed, functionally obsolete and/or blighted areas of the county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby declares its intention to create and provide for the operation of the Authority within Oceana County, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing shall be held before the Oceana County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. in the Oceana County Building located at 100 State Street, Hart, Michigan on the adoption of a resolution creating the Authority within Oceana County and within the municipal limits of which the Authority shall exercise its powers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Oceana County Clerk (the "Clerk") shall give notice of the public hearing by causing a notice to be published, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 in a newspaper of general circulation in Oceana County and by posting said notice of the public hearing on the county's web site pursuant to the practice of the Clerk.

Roll call vote: Mr. Morse – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; and Mr. Walker –yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – CREATING AND FUNDING AN ATTORNEY REFEREE POSITION IN THE COURT SYSTEM

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Ms. Meyette to authorize the County Administrator to establish and fund from the General Fund one (1) Attorney Referee position for the court system. A general summary of key duties and responsibilities of the position are described as follows:

Under the direction of the Family Court Judge, the Attorney Referee is responsible for conducting various hearings in accordance with the Courts' statutory purpose and its policies and procedures; which requires a high degree of independent judgment and knowledge of Michigan Statutory and Case Law. This includes all hearings associated with the Friend of the Court, domestic and child welfare arraignments, formal and informal hearings associated with delinquency, protective proceedings, and traffic cases referred or petitioned to the Juvenile Court.

The County Administrator shall determine a wage range commensurate with the experience and knowledge required of the position and in accordance with Oceana County's wage classification system.

Roll call vote: Mr. Christians – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – FUNDING ONE ADDITIONAL CORRECTIONS OFFICER IN THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Ms. Meyette to authorize the County Administrator to establish and fund from the General Fund one (1) additional full time Corrections Officer position in the Sheriff’s Department. During the past several years, Sheriff Mast has assessed his staffing needs relating to the jail and has consistently concluded that additional staffing is necessary for efficient jail operations and to further enhance operational safety for both corrections staff and inmates.

Supporting Sheriff Mast’s request for additional jail staff is a staffing analysis conducted by the Michigan Department of Corrections in 2018 that stated “The Oceana County jail has some unique features which create a more labor intensive facility.”

A general summary of the duties and responsibilities of the position are described as follows:

The corrections officer is under the direct supervision of the Corrections Administrative Sergeant. Typical jobs that the corrections officer performs include, but are not limited to: a) Accurately completing and maintaining required jail logs, forms, files, reports, and other records pertaining to daily activities within the jail; b) Receiving and releasing inmates and supervising inmates within the jail and during other activities; c) Conducting security checks both inside and outside the jail; d) Enforcing jail rules; e) Making reports for violations and unusual occurrences; f) Assisting the public and inmate’s family members with information concerning an inmate’s stay in the facility; and g) Performing any other duties that may be assigned.

The wage for the additional Corrections Officer position shall be established in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement currently in effect for positions and employees represented by the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

Roll call vote: Mr. Beggs – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Christians - yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

Mr. Morse expressed his appreciation for the Sheriff’s Department and the work that they do.

Mr. Beggs recognized that Sheriff Mast requested two additional corrections officers and understands the need, however the Board will need to evaluate the request for an additional second corrections officer. One additional corrections officer will be approved today and discussions will ensue during budget time to see if a second corrections officer will be approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – RECOGNIZING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Morse to adopt the following Resolution on this 29th day of April, 2021:

WHEREAS, May is Mental Health Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, mental health is important for our individual well-being and vitality, as well as that of our families, communities and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a reminder of the importance of integrating mental health into preparedness and response for public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers, and adult caregivers reported having disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation associated with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, one out of every five adults in the U.S. will have a diagnosed mental health condition in any given year; and

WHEREAS, one in six U.S. children aged 2 to 8 years will have a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is a biologically based brain disorder that cannot be overcome through “will power” and is not related to a defect in a person’s “character” or intelligence; and

WHEREAS, West Michigan Community Mental Health is a federally certified community behavioral health clinic, and

WHEREAS, West Michigan Community Mental Health serves as the public behavioral health care provider for people with mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorders in Mason, Lake and Oceana counties; and

WHEREAS, West Michigan Community Mental Health served 3,143 individuals during Fiscal Year 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month and calls upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our state to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness to promote recovery.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; Mr. Beggs – no; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

Chairperson Walker asked if Mr. Beggs would like to comment on his reason for voting in the manner that he chose. Mr. Beggs explained his decision to vote against the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – SUPPORTING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FULFILLING STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS WITH REGARD TO STATE REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in 2005 State Revenue Sharing payments were discontinued to counties, relieving the State Budget of \$183 million in annual State Revenue Sharing payments to counties, with the promise and agreement that these payments would be restored by the State of Michigan when each of the individual counties' Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund was exhausted; and

WHEREAS, Oceana County's Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund was exhausted in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties has identified 60 Michigan counties that have received less than the statutorily required amount of State Revenue Sharing since Revenue Sharing Reserve Funds were exhausted; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Association of Counties has identified a \$107,048 cumulative shortfall in State Revenue Sharing payments to Oceana County since 2013; and

WHEREAS, with the influx of American Rescue Plan funds to the State of Michigan, there are sufficient funds available to make counties whole with regard to State Revenue Sharing payment shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, unlike Oceana County's allocation from the American Rescue Plan, the payment of the State Revenue Sharing shortfall will not be restricted to COVID-19 related expenses thereby making the funds available for critical infrastructure projects, pension fund or OPEB contributions, and other discretionary expenditures that are under the authority of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners does hereby support and urge the State of Michigan to fulfill its statutory obligations with regard to State Revenue Sharing payments for all 60 Michigan counties identified by the Michigan Association of Counties that received less than their statutorily required amounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oceana County Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader for the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and Oceana County's State Legislative delegation for their consideration and action.

Roll call vote: Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

Ms. Meyette noted that if the State of Michigan has not followed through with its statutory obligations, says a lot.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE OCEANA COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Morse to appoint Mr. David Spitler to the Oceana County Board of Road Commissioners for the remainder of the term previously held by Mr. Robert Carr; and expiring December 31, 2024.

Roll call vote: Mr. Christians – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

Mr. Beggs recognized that the whole board is in support of Mr. Spitler. No accusation, but he is concerned about alternating views.

Mr. Hardy remarked that all of the applicants were qualified for this position. Geographical representation would be a plus on this board.

Ms. Meyette stated that she found it very difficult to pick two.

Mr. Erickson reminded everyone that geographical representation is important and will enhance the road commission board. Apportionment of road commission may occur in future.

Mr. Walker noted that road commissioners are either all elected or all appointed.

Mr. Beggs withdrew his concerns from his first comment.

Mr. Christians stated that it was a difficult decision as they are all good candidates.

Mr. Morse appreciated that Mr. Spitler stated that he is fiscally conservative.

Ms. Meyette was encouraged by Mr. Hendrixon’s contribution to public service. He was a former Township Supervisor, who was able to improve some roads in the township and has continued education in road creation. She stated that he is always willing to lend a hand in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 – RELEASE OF FUNDS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for April 29, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$17,122.00
FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND	1,849.87
GIS FUND	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	20,375.57
CDBG	-0-
TECHNOLOGY	1,137.20
FORECLOSURE	4,380.00

K-9 UNIT	-0-
VETERANS AFFAIRS	3,440.74
MEDICAL RESERVE	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.	124.98
INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	15,939.68
LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND	-0-
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
VICTIMS SERVICES	-0-
CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT	-0-
GENERAL FUND	258,262.13
TOTAL	\$322,632.17

Roll call vote: Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Christians - yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Ms.Meyette – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Beggs mentioned that there was a large gathering at the Golden Township meeting during the discussion of the ORV ordinance.

Mr. Walker informed the board that Grant Township passed an ordinance to allow ORV’s on the road. The Village of Rothbury has not put one in place yet, as there is concern that if ORV’s were allowed on Village roads, there may be more accidents as a result.

Mr. Hardy reported the Mason-Oceana 911 implemented the new CAD system as of April 13 and that so far it seems to be going well.

Undersheriff Schiller noted that the CAD system is new to everybody and they are still learning to navigate it.

Ms. Meyette mentioned that she signed up for the MAC online conference. She indicated that she participated in the portion on Veteran’s Trust Fund, which she said was a good refresher for her. The second online conference pertained to leveraging money that’s coming in from the government. The conference was having technical issues and unfortunately Ms. Meyette missed out on a portion of it.

Ms. Meyette also questioned if the cleaning crew was still employed, if there were any added difficulties for them during the pandemic, and if this would qualify for reimbursement? Dr. Sobie mentioned that he did submit it under the public health section and that it has not been rejected yet, but expects it may be denied. Ms. Meyette asked that he convey the boards appreciation to them for their diligence.

Mr. Morse expressed his appreciation for everybody on the board and acknowledged that he enjoys being a commissioner.

Mr. Christians agreed with Mr. Morse.

Mr. Erickson announced that there will be two drive-thru clinics at the fairgrounds for the 2nd Covid-19 vaccination dose; he expects that about 100 people will be given their shot in two days. Hometown Pharmacy will have a walk-up clinic on Saturday with no appointment needed.

Mr. Erickson reminded everyone that DHD #10 will have a meeting tomorrow in Cadillac. Mr. Erickson also cautioned that the Oceana County Medical Care Facility may be experiencing some monetary loss due to the declining bed census. The Oceana County Medical Care Facility is working on a contract with Hometown Pharmacy to provide prescriptions to their residents.

Dr. Sobie spoke briefly regarding the dedication of the building, which he had framed.

Mr. Erickson spoke more on the dedication of the building.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.


Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk /MC

05/27/2021
Date


Mr. Walker, Chairperson