

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, June 24, 2021, at 10:13 a.m.

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; and Mr. Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald Journal, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

All commissioners agreed to approve the agenda items as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Dr. Sobie facilitated discussion regarding a resolution to appoint members to the Remonumentation Peer Group Review Board. Dr. Sobie explained that this is an annual exercise. J. Randolph Hepworth, Oceana County Surveyor, has recommended these individuals to be appointed. The Peer Group Review Board meets approximately twice a year and receives a per diem. The Peer Group Review Board reviews and approves the work that the County Surveyor has done.

Dr. Sobie began discussion regarding a resolution to approve the Annual Homeland Security Grant Program Intergovernmental Agreement.

Dr. Sobie initiated discussion regarding a resolution to authorize a grant application to the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. This grant would supplement the revenue derived from the millage collected. Ms. Meyette stated that this grant helps to support the additional employee in the Veterans Affairs Department.

Dr. Sobie started a discussion regarding the 2020 MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report. Dr. Sobie pointed out that the employer contributions for the 2020 MERS DB plan were just under \$1.1 million. The 2021 contributions will drop to just under \$975,000. He indicated there are primarily two reasons for that drop. The first being that some supplemental payments have been approved by the board that have reduced the unfunded pension liability. The second reason is the implementation of the Bridged Benefits program which essentially reduced the retirement multiplier from 2.5 to 1.75. The result was a drop in liability from around \$4 million to \$2.7 million.

Mr. Walker noted that the decision to implement the Bridged Benefits program was a difficult decision. Employees do still benefit from some years of service at the higher multiplier.

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

Oceana County Administrator

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

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
Special Revenue Funds				
256 - Automation Fund			\$ 4,246.25	to Avenu Holdings for software fees.
260 - Indigent Defense Fund			\$ 1,088.00	to Anna Rapa for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 6,099.00	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 6,418.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 4,583.33	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund			\$ 1,137.20	to Charter Communications for fiber optic cable connection between buildings.
General Fund				
101 - Board of Commissioners			\$ 7,500.00	to MGT of America for FY 2021 CRP Billing Services.
			\$ 8,522.22	to MAC for Dues.
			\$ 6,541.28	to Smith, Haughey, Rice and Roegge for legal services.
131 - Circuit Court			\$ 3,596.34	to Hayes Law Office for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 3,596.34	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.

136 - District Court	\$ 2,236.00	to The Ebco Company for case files.
141 - Friend of the Court	\$ 1,080.00	to John Bulger for referree services.
202 - County Auditing	\$ 11,400.00	to Gabridge & Company, PLC for final billing for 2020 Audit.
257 - Equalization	\$ 5,545.00	to V & V Assessing for assessing services provided to the City of Hart.
265 - Courthouse and Grounds	\$ 1,874.88	to City of Hart for Utilities.
267 - Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,000.00	to MGT of America for FY 2021 CRP Billing Services.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 4,420.74	to Enterprise for fleet vehicle management.
	\$ 1,389.34	to Dale's Radiator & A/C for vechicle repairs.
351 - Jail	\$ 2,985.75	to City of Hart for Utilities.
	\$ 2,691.64	to Correctional Recovery for medical billing services.
	\$ 1,455.37	to EPS for security system.
	\$ 1,000.00	to Dr. Paul Wagner for inmate medical.
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 6,433.88	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
605 - Contagious Disease	\$ 14,336.17	to BIS for digital recording system agreement.

~ **Total** \$ **111,176.73**

Administrator's Report

Administration

I "attended" a virtual Michigan Association of Counties – County Administrator's meeting on June 11. These periodic meetings allow administrators to discuss and share ideas and ask each other questions, as well as MAC staff gives legislative updates. The main topic of discussion was funding from the American Rescue Plan.

U.S. Treasury released a compliance reporting guide this week and I'm currently reviewing the requirements.

I submitted a filing extension to the Michigan Department of Treasury for the county's 2020 audit report. Our auditing firm, Gabridge & Co., needs additional time to complete the audit, including the federally-mandated single audit. The new submission deadline is July 31, 2021.

Working with Commissioner Craig Hardy, we've developed a press release about the creation and purpose of the county's ad hoc American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee that was distributed a few days ago. I've also created a web page to publish information describing the efforts of the committee at <https://oceana.mi.us/ARP>

Commissioner Phil Morse and I were talking recently about starting a strategic planning initiative with the Board of Commissioners.

Parks

Early last week, Mr. Garry McKeen and I had a conference call with WMSRDC regarding grant funding for the Marshville Dam removal project; and total project funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

I had a telephone conference with the Land Conservancy in Grand Rapids about a property owner in Benona Township who wants to donate 40 acres of land to an entity willing to take it on as a park or nature preserve. Stony Creek runs through the property. I've informed Mr. McKeen who is also a board member with the Oceana County Conservation District. Mr. McKeen will facilitate conversations with the various parties and a visit to the property.

Courts

Dr. Karen Moore, our indigent defense administrator, reported that our FY 2021-2022 budget and compliance plan were approved by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) on June 15.

Sheriff's Department

Under the newly established lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management, one new vehicle was delivered to the department and all other vehicles remain a work in progress.

Economic Development

Ms. Jodi Nichols, Business Development Coordinator, met with Mr. Curt Lohman, airport manager, to discuss fundraising ideas for the volunteer association because it is interested in replacing the courtesy car at the airport. Ms. Nichols stated that she learned a lot about the county's airport as an asset to the community.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Hardy adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk