

FINANCE AND EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance and Equalization Committee Meeting was called to order, in the Board Conference Room of the Oceana County Courthouse, by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 10:43 a.m.

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Dr. Lisa Williams, West Michigan Community Mental Health Executive Director; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; and John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2021 meeting.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Wittman urged commissioners not to vote on the resolution proposed by Dr. Williams and asked for clarification as to why this resolution is being discussed during the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting when it was previously discussed at the Health and Human Services Committee meeting. She also stated that she feels there is a lack of information on the website about this matter.

Dr. Williams continued discussion and consideration of a proposed resolution opposing Senate Bills 597 & 598 and House Bills 4925-4929. She explained that these proposals would completely eliminate Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) such as the Lakeshore Regional Entity, which are local, whereas the alternatives are not. Mr. Erickson voiced concern that this would cause us to lose our ability to read our own needs within our community. Ms. Meyette stated that she is concerned people will fall through the cracks with this legislation. Dr. Williams assured them that these are valid concerns with these bills and that people falling through the cracks is her biggest fear. Mr. Morse stated that he doesn't think he has enough information to make a decision today as the Board hasn't heard what the argument for these bills are.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs. Michigan Association of Counties recommends this be passed by local boards because it opens up collaborative opportunities and shows our willingness to participate in collaborative opportunities that might emerge.

Dr. Sobie explained that the following three resolutions don't provide any additional money to these entities, it just takes the money out of a "different bucket", so to speak, and it would relieve some of the pressure on the general fund.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution supporting a recommendation from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee to appropriate funds to District Health Department #10. The fees paid to District Health

Department #10 are based on the population of Oceana County. Mr. Beggs stated that he is in favor of these resolutions because of the positive impact that they will have on the general fund, however he expressed that he is unhappy with District Health Department #10 and the way that things have been handled over the past several months.

Dr. Sobie sought consideration of a proposed resolution supporting a recommendation from the ARPA Funding Advisory Committee to appropriate funds to West Michigan Community Mental Health.

Dr. Sobie facilitated consideration of a proposed resolution supporting a recommendation from the ARPA Funding Advisory Committee to appropriate funds to the Oceana County Economic Alliance.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution supporting a recommendation from the ARPA Funding Advisory Committee to appropriate funds to establish a fulltime economic development coordinator position for 4.25 years. This position will be goal oriented and results driven. As this is being funded federally, towards the end of the 4.25 years there may be a proposal to keep funding the position through the general fund.

Dr. Sobie sought consideration of a proposed resolution supporting a recommendation from the ARPA Funding Advisory Committee to appropriate funds to redesign the county's website. The goal here is to communicate with the public more effectively as a county. The project would cost \$25,000 and Dr. Sobie has received four proposals.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution supporting a recommendation from the ARPA Funding Advisory Committee to appropriate funds to enhance board room technologies for public participation. This would include better microphones and the purchase of digital cameras that can be integrated with Zoom to enhance public participation.

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				
239 - Shelby Twp Community Park Fund			\$ 2,146.50	to Landscape Architects & Planners for project services. Fully reimbursed via private donations.
249 - Building Department Fund			\$ 4,431.05	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 3,183.90	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 3,507.35	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
256 - Automation Fund			\$ 2,634.65	to Avenu Holdings for software fees.
260 - Indigent Defense Fund			\$ 11,876.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 6,804.00	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 4,342.00	to Hayes Law Office for court appointed attorney fees.

292 - Child Care Fund	\$ 3,050.33	to Fountain Hill Center for out-of-home placement.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund	\$ 1,142.34	to Charter Communications for fiber optic cable connection between buildings.
	\$ 1,688.00	to Micro-Tel Center for microcall renewal contract.
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 1,213.38	to Huntington Bank for employee training.
	\$ 2,296.20	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.
172 - County Administration	\$ 1,200.00	to John Fuentes, certified public account, for professional services for ARPA.
202 - County Auditing	\$ 14,400.00	to Gabridge & Company, PLC for 2020 financial statement audit report, final billing.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 2,717.31	to Emergency Services for equipment repairs.
	\$ 1,401.80	to Nye Uniform.
	\$ 1,277.37	to Walicki's A-1 Auto Body and Towing, LLC for vehicle maintenance and repairs.
331 - Marine	\$ 1,500.00	to the Village of Pentwater for the 2021 annual Marina slip fee.
351 - Jail	\$ 3,032.40	to City of Hart for Utilities.
	\$ 2,356.71	to Gordon Food Service.
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 9,042.90	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
605 - Contagious Disease	\$ 3,263.03	to Huntington Bank for equipment purchases.
~ Total	\$ 95,199.90	

Administrator's Report (as written by Dr. Sobie):

Administration

Although it's a couple of months away, I've confirmed hosting the West Central Michigan County Alliance meeting at the West Michigan Research Station on October 25 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Richard Raffaelli who will give a short program on the purpose of the facility to conduct research to support agriculture.

I submitted the first compliance report to U.S. Department of the Treasury regarding the American Rescue Plan. For the time period reported, through July 31, 2021, we did not have any expenditures.

Just a quick reminder that the 2022 budget workbooks will be distributed to commissioners on September 9.

Emergency Management

My staff has posted the upcoming vacancy of the Emergency Manager's position. I'm planning for a 2-3 week overlap with the current Emergency Manager. However, I'm evaluating if the position needs to remain at 35 hours per week or if 30 hours per week makes more sense. Of course, if an event occurs requiring the Emergency Manager's involvement then all hours needed to address the event will be worked.

Public Comment

Ms. Wittman asked Health and Human Services Committee Chair Paul Erickson why Dr. Williams was on the Finance and Equalization Committee agenda rather than on the Health and Human Services Committee Agenda like at the last board meeting. Mr. Erickson explained that this was because there was no Health and Human Services meeting today and the matter was time sensitive. Dr. Sobie further explained that because some committees only run once a month, Finance and Equalization becomes the catch-all because it runs biweekly. Ms. Wittman doesn't think that there has been enough time for the commissioners to make a decision here and urges them not to vote today.

Ms. Wittman also asked that other virtual meeting formats be considered apart from Zoom.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Hardy adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk