

Board Conference Room
August 26, 2021
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Erickson, in the Board Room of the County Building, on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 12:07 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Vice-Chairman Erickson.

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

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk, and City of Hart resident Ms. Peggy Wittman.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairperson Erickson asked if any commissioners wished to declare a conflict of interest on the agenda items. No conflict of interest was declared.

Vice-Chairperson Erickson inquired if there were any changes to be made to the agenda.

Ms. Meyette moved and seconded by Mr. Morse to remove resolution #21-93 from the agenda.

Voice vote. Motion failed.

Vice-Chairperson Erickson stated that the agenda would stand as is.

There was no public comment at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OCEANA COUNTY LAND BANK BOARD

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Christians to accept the recommendation of the Oceana County Treasurer to reappoint the following individuals to the Oceana County Land Bank Authority Board for a three-year term effective October 1, 2021 and expiring September 30, 2024:

- Mr. Randy Miller
- Ms. Lynne Cavazos
- Mr. James Yancey

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – APPROVING A CONTINUATION AGREEMENT TO USE CDBG FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROJECTS

Moved by Mr. Morse and **supported by** Mr. Christians to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

WHEREAS, Oceana County has previously worked with the Michigan State Housing Authority and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation on the Community Development Block Grant program to provide loans for housing rehabilitation projects in Oceana County; and

WHEREAS, the originating source of funds to make Community Development Block Grant loans or grants by the above described state agencies was the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, home owners who received funds from a loan are required to pay back the loan when the home owner sells the home, at which time loan payoffs become program income received by Oceana County; and

WHEREAS, Oceana County has received \$37,286 in program income during the time period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates that when more than \$35,000 in program income is received by Oceana County during the Community Development Block Grant program’s fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), that all program income either be returned to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation or used for eligible emergency home repair projects in Oceana County; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2021, the County Administrator recommended to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners that the County Administrator inform the Michigan Economic Development Corporation of Oceana County’s intent to use program income for eligible emergency home repair projects; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners accepted the County Administrator’s recommendation and adopted a resolution on June 24, 2021 (resolution #21-68) to provide notice to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator is recommending that Oceana County continue its agreement with NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing to serve as a qualified third party administrator with duties and responsibilities described in the agreement, which is provided as a supplement to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing has expressed interest in continuing the role of a third party administrator.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County Administrator is authorized to use program income for the purpose of providing grants for eligible projects in full compliance with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s compliance guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is authorized to continue with the agreement between Oceana County and NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing as a third party administrator, and the County Administrator will provide necessary oversight of the third party administrator's policies, procedures, and activities regarding use of program income; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, following adoption of this resolution by the Oceana County Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator is authorized to publish a public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation informing citizens that a public hearing will be held on September 23, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at which time citizens will be afforded the opportunity to comment on the use of restricted program income for emergency home repair projects in Oceana County; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the County Administrator is directed to submit all required notices and reports to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and to periodically report to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners the status of approved projects and the expensing of program income.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – MODIFICATION OF VACATION AND SICK LEAVE POLICIES

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve a recommendation from the County Administrator to modify the vacation and sick leave accrual policy to award earned time to employees on a pay period basis; rather than annually for vacation time and monthly for sick time. The change in policy affords employees an opportunity to use their accrued time as individual needs arise. This is particularly relevant to new employees. Upon approval, the new accrual policy will take effect immediately.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – MODIFICATION OF LONGEVITY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve a recommendation from the County Administrator to modify the longevity payment schedule that provides additional compensation to employees given to them on the basis of length of service. The recommendation adds two new categories of longevity, namely, three (3) years of service and 20 years of service; and increases the longevity payment for the historical categories as further described below. Upon approval, the new payment schedule will take effect January 1, 2022.

Length of Service	Current Payment	New Payment
3 years		\$500
5 years	\$300	\$1,000
10 years	\$500	\$1,500
15 years	\$700	\$2,000
20 years		\$2,500

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – OPPOSING SENATE BILLS 597 & 598 AND HOUSE BILLS 4925-4929

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

WHEREAS, the Michigan Community Mental Health Act, Public Act 54, was signed into law in 1963 to create the public behavioral health system; and

WHEREAS, the state’s public behavioral health system supports and serves 300,000 of Michigan’s citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state’s public behavioral health system forms the safety net for some of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens

WHEREAS, Michigan’s public behavioral health system is nationally recognized for its high level of performance – care outcomes, effectiveness, efficiency, proven ability to control costs; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s public behavioral health system is leading the nation in implementing evidence-based integrated care at the community level; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental components of Senate Bills 597 and 598 and House Bills 4925-4929 would shift Medicaid financing and managed care functions from the public behavioral health system to a private Medicaid health plan system and eliminate public oversight, public accountability and public governance; and

WHEREAS, the proposals specifically incentivize and prioritize profits to private Medicaid health plans at the expense of the public and the citizens served by the public behavioral health system; and

WHEREAS, the current public system is the fiscally responsible way to manage costs. The overhead of a private health plan is 2.5 times higher than the current public system. Privatizing the state’s behavioral health system would mean an immediate \$300 million loss in dollars for persons served; and

WHEREAS, the proposals focus on financial integration. Integration must begin at the patient level; and

WHEREAS, the proposals would threaten the ability of Community Mental Health Service Providers to deliver services thus putting the recovery of a number of Michigan citizens at risk; and

WHEREAS, the drastic and complex overhaul of the public behavioral health system would create new costs, new complexity and other barriers to care, putting the mental wellbeing of thousands of Michigan citizens at risk.

WHEREAS, navigating this change in the midst of a pandemic will only add to the stress and concerns of those served; and

WHEREAS, state lawmakers are attempting to move the legislation on a short timeline, which does not allow for meaningful stakeholder involvement, proof of concept, or buy-in; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Oceana opposes Senate Bills 597 and 598 and House Bills 4925-4929. We believe any behavioral health redesign must maintain the efficacy, responsiveness and integrity of the community-based behavioral health system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Jon Bumstead, Representative Scott VanSingel, Senator Mike Shirkey and Representative Mary Whiteford.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 – SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STATE MATCH PROGRAMS

Moved by Ms. Meyette and **supported by** Mr. Morse to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

WHEREAS the state of Michigan has faced tremendous challenges as it dealt with a deadly pandemic for nearly a year and a half and is now presented with an opportunity to strategically invest in our residents, entrepreneurs, businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS Michigan will receive more than \$10 billion in fiscal recovery aid, with 83 counties slated to get \$1.9 billion directly in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds; and

WHEREAS cities and larger townships will receive a total of \$1.8 billion and non-entitlement communities (smaller units) approximately \$644 million, with the state of Michigan itself receiving more than \$6.5 billion; and

WHEREAS eligible expenditures include revenue reimbursements, savings and growing interest on the funds, broadband infrastructure, economic development and individual assistance programs; and

WHEREAS county leaders are already under pressure to announce spending decisions and elected officials at all levels of government will have to make decisions on where and

how they will use the dollars within federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties is working on a match program to earmark close to \$4 billion in state ARP funds to leverage all levels of government to strategically invest the one-time dollars in areas of greatest need for improvement; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties has received positive feedback on the ideas put forth for match programs within the state; and

WHEREAS Michigan has a chance to amplify investments with the influx of federal funding and a collaborative effort by all levels of government that will allow the dollars to be stretched to invest in common goals; and

WHEREAS the comprehensive approach to leverage ARP dollars will provide Michigan the ability to amplify investment for our future by focusing resources in five key areas: water infrastructure and broadband, local capacity and fiscal stability, housing and community development, comprehensive economic development and public health and safety; and

WHEREAS our future success is inextricably linked, and strategic investment of our available resources needs to support and strengthen these connections.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners supports the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT #10

Moved by Mr. Beggs and **supported by** Mr. Hardy to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

WHEREAS, in May 2021, an Oceana County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee was established to review eligible uses for the federal funds received by Oceana County and then to make recommendations to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners about how to use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the eligible categories of expenditures that include supporting a public health response, addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, water and sewer infrastructure, broadband, premium pay, and government services to the extent of the loss of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners that \$70,181 be allocated from the ARPA funds to District Health Department #10 for the fourth quarter Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends continued annual allocations from the ARPA funds to District Health Department #10 in the amount of \$286,155 for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, totaling \$1,144,620; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee's total recommended allocation to District Health Department #10 is \$1,214,801.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from the Funding Advisory Committee and directs the County Administrator to appropriate the ARPA funds as described above.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 8 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO WEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Moved by Mr. Beggs and **supported by** Mr. Hardy to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

WHEREAS, in May 2021, an Oceana County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee was established to review eligible uses for the federal funds received by Oceana County and then to make recommendations to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners about how to use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the eligible categories of expenditures that include supporting a public health response, addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, water and sewer infrastructure, broadband, premium pay, and government services to the extent of the loss of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners that \$32,500 be allocated from the ARPA funds to West Michigan Community Mental Health for the fourth quarter Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends continued annual allocations from the ARPA funds to West Michigan Community Mental Health in the amount of \$130,000 for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, totaling \$520,000; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee's total recommended allocation to West Michigan Community Mental Health is \$552,500.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from the Funding Advisory Committee and directs the County Administrator to appropriate the ARPA funds as described above.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 9 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO OCEANA COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Moved by Mr. Morse and **supported by** Mr. Christians to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

Whereas, in May 2021, an Oceana County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee was established to review eligible uses for the federal funds received by Oceana County and then to make recommendations to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners about how to use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the eligible categories of expenditures that include supporting a public health response, addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, water and sewer infrastructure, broadband, premium pay, and government services to the extent of the loss of revenue; and

Whereas, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends annual allocations from the ARPA funds to Oceana County Economic Alliance in the amount of \$45,000 for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, totaling \$180,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from the Funding Advisory Committee and directs the County Administrator to appropriate the ARPA funds as described above.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A FULL TIME ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR POSITION FOR 4.25 YEARS

Moved by Mr. Morse and **supported by** Mr. Christians to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

Whereas, in May 2021, an Oceana County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee was established to review eligible uses for the federal funds received by Oceana County and then to make recommendations to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners about how to use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the eligible categories of expenditures that include supporting a public health response, addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, water and sewer infrastructure, broadband, premium pay, and government services to the extent of the loss of revenue; and

Whereas, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends establishing a full time Economic Development Coordinator position in the county funded solely from ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the projected annual cost for the new position is \$14,100 for Fiscal Year 2021 and \$85,000 for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 for a total aggregated cost of \$354,100.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from the Funding Advisory Committee and directs the County Administrator to appropriate the ARPA funds as described above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at the end of Fiscal Year 2025, the position shall be eliminated unless the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves a resolution authorizing continued funding of the position from the General Fund.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 11 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO REDESIGN THE COUNTY’S WEBSITE

Moved by Mr. Hardy and **supported by** Ms. Meyette to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

Whereas, in May 2021, an Oceana County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee was established to review eligible uses for the federal funds received by Oceana County and then to make recommendations to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners about how to use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the eligible categories of expenditures that include supporting a public health response, addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, water and sewer infrastructure, broadband, premium pay, and government services to the extent of the loss of revenue; and

Whereas, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends appropriating \$25,000 from the General Fund (#101) to the Technology Fund (#298) for the purpose of funding a website redesign project; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the General Fund for the project because ARPA funds have assisted with expenditures to agencies like District Health Department #10 and West Michigan Community Mental Health freeing up funds for discretionary purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from the Funding Advisory Committee and directs the County Administrator to transfer \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Technology Fund as described above.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 12 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ENHANCE BOARD ROOM TECHNOLOGIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Moved by Mr. Hardy and **supported by** Mr. Beggs to adopt the following Resolution on this 26th day of August, 2021:

Whereas, in May 2021, an Oceana County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Advisory Committee was established to review eligible uses for the federal funds received by Oceana County and then to make recommendations to the Oceana County Board of Commissioners about how to use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the Funding Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the eligible categories of expenditures that include supporting a public health response, addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, water and sewer infrastructure, broadband, premium pay, and government services to the extent of the loss of revenue; and

Whereas, the Funding Advisory Committee recommends appropriating at least \$45,000 from the General Fund (#101) to the Technology Fund (#298) for the purpose of funding technology enhancements in the Board of Commissioners Room to promote public participation; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the General Fund for the project because ARPA funds have assisted with expenditures to agencies like District Health Department #10 and West Michigan Community Mental Health freeing up funds for discretionary purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from the Funding Advisory Committee and directs the County Administrator to transfer \$45,000 from the General Fund to the Technology Fund as described above.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 13 – RELEASE OF FUNDS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for August 26, 2021 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$80.14
FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND	1,849.87
GIS FUND	-0-
TECHNOLOGY	4,523.32
FORECLOSURE	300.00
K-9 UNIT	51.98
VETERANS AFFAIRS	3,287.05
MEDICAL RESERVE	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.	2,769.63
PENTWATER HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMMUNITY PARK	2,146.50

CDBG	-0-
ARPA	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	25,855.77
LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND	68.55
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
VICTIMS SERVICES	-0-
CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT	-0-
GENERAL FUND	267,112.49
TOTAL	\$319,479.68

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

Motion carried.

Public Comment

City of Hart resident Peggy Wittman requested that she be put on an agenda, at an evening meeting so that community members may attend. She would like to speak about how a vaccine mandate would be a violation of her first amendment rights.


Mr. Erickson stated that he understands the concern, but he also feels that wearing a mask is a small price to pay if it makes others more comfortable.

Commissioner's Reports

Ms. Meyette stated that she doesn't believe enough people in power understand how powerful the first amendment is in the courts, as there is precedent there.

Ms. Meyette also mentioned that Hesperia had an individual perform a community assessment that held forums for different groups with an open community form in which approximately 60 people attended.

Vice-Chairperson Erickson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.


 Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

11/10/2021
 Date


 Mr. Erickson, Vice-Chairperson