

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. John Warner, Oceana County Deputy Drain Commissioner; and Ms. Michelle Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021, Planning & Environmental Services Committee.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morse requested an addition to the agenda to allow the addition of an update to Oceana County Economic Alliance.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Ms. Meyette to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, Hart City resident, asked for clarification as to the meeting that was currently being conducted. She explained that she attempted to obtain information regarding the topics to be addressed in today's meetings. Her main concern was regarding the proposed resolution to exempt counties with populations of less than 75,000 from certain provision of the Open Meetings Act. She also provided a written request for this information and requested a response by the end of business today.

Mr. Tom Allison, Golden Township resident, asked the Board members if they had any authority regarding the mask/vaccine mandates at the Oceana County Medical Care Facility. Mr. Morse responded that the only authority is that this board is responsible for appointments of the members to the board. Mr. Morse also informed Mr. Allison that the mask/vaccine mandates are under the authority of the Health Department.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution to enter into a Fiscal Year 2022 Services Agreement with Michigan State University Extension. Mr. James Kelly, MSUE Director provided a brief overview of the agreement.

Dr. Sobie brought forth consideration of a resolution to approve the Oceana County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Bylaws. Mr. Beggs and Ms. Meyette expressed concerns with some of the verbiage and requested clarification before approval.

Ms. Michelle Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner, and Mr. John Warner, Oceana County Deputy Drain Commissioner, began discussion regarding concerns related to the Crystal Valley Dam. Mr. Warner provided a presentation that showed the condition of the dam and offered options for the Board to consider.

Chairperson Morse provided an update on the Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA). He stated that OCEA and other counties have faced challenges with the partnerships with The Right Place, but emphasized that these challenges have nothing to do with the quality of services provided by The Right Place. Chairman Morse explained the various challenges and the advantages of changing to a new model. He also stated that the OCEA cannot agree to a contract without assurance of funds for next year which would jeopardize the relationship with The Right Place in years to come. Chairperson Morse suggested that the County increase the funding with and a match of ARPA funds be considered.

Mr. Walker requested to have the contract and budget available to the commissioners for their review prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Walker also suggested that a legal opinion be obtained from counsel describing the authority/oversite of the Board of Commissioners regarding the Oceana Medical Care Facility.

Public Comment

Ms. Wittman questioned why Mr. Walker would need a legal opinion when two out of three members are appointed by this commission. She requested that this board use the authority that she believes the Board of Commissioners has.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Morse adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk