

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, December 16, 2021, at 10:09 a.m.

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; and Ms. Marilyn Morse, Benona Township resident, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

No public comments at this time.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution to set the Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule for 2022. Any possible changes can be made today.

Dr. Sobie sought consideration of a proposed resolution to authorize a transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Public Improvement Fund. Transferring \$200,000 to build up reserves that the board could use for future improvements.

Dr. Sobie facilitated discussion regarding a resolution exempting County ad valorem property taxes from capture by a local taxing authority. Opting out would mean retaining local control to use this money for other causes in the county.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution to make an additional appropriation of \$40,000 to the Oceana County Economic Alliance for 2022. Ms. Jodi Nichols of The Right Place took this time to thank Oceana County for the past three years with them as she will be leaving the Oceana County Economic Alliance.

Dr. Sobie began discussion regarding the purchase of a new snowmobile with the primary funding by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Walker suggested that any resolution says David Allen Racing Motorsports rather than Power's Motorsports.

Mr. Morse sought consideration of a proposed resolution to honor Mr. Don Richards, New Era Village President, who will be retiring from the council. Resolution was edited for formality.

Dr. Sobie did not read the payment of claims, but 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	\$ 2,737.35	to Avenu Holdings for software fees.
	\$ 3,047.50	to GovOS for software fees.
260 - Indigent Defense Fund	\$ 9,876.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 5,064.00	to Hayes Law Office for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 5,416.66	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
277 - CDBG Fund	\$ 3,950.00	to Swihart's septic to install new septic system.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund	\$ 1,239.00	to SHI for computer equipment.
	\$ 1,034.72	to Charter Communications for fiber optic cable connection between buildings.
518- Foreclosure Fund	\$ 1,842.54	to Title Check LLC for parcel administration.
549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 7,638.20	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 5,344.60	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 6,204.30	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 5,342.75	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security for December and November OT.
	\$ 5,006.00	to Smith, Haughey, Rice, & Roegge for legal services.
248 - General Services	\$ 10,000.00	to Reserve Account for postage.
257 - Equalization	\$ 22,045.00	to V&V Assessing for equalization and assessing services.
265 - Courthouse and Grounds	\$ 2,178.41	to City of Hart for Utilities.
	\$ 1,596.48	to EPS for security system.
	\$ 1,249.44	to DTE Energy for utilities.
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 4,750.00	to Heacock Reporting for contracted court services.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 6,297.02	to Wex Bank for fuel.
351 - Jail	\$ 3,908.37	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 2,000.00	to Dr. Paul Wagner for inmate medical.
	\$ 2,326.49	to Hansen foods.
	\$ 3,013.85	to City of Hart for Utilities.
	\$ 1,498.10	to Correctional Recovery for medical billing services.
	\$ 1,237.14	to EPS for security system.
	\$ 1,282.88	to Oceana Pharmacy for medications and supplies for Jail.

528 - Transfer Station	\$ 7,910.00	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
601 - Health Department	\$ 5,300.00	to DHD#10 for monthly lease payment.
648 - Medical Examiner	\$ 13,376.28	to Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group for administrative services.
649 - Community Mental Health	\$ 10,833.37	to West Michigan Community Mental Health for monthly appropriation.
~ Total	\$ 111,151.58	

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

ADMINISTRATION

The American Rescue Plan Act funding advisory committee met last week to discuss opening up an opportunity for organizations to request funding for eligible projects. Organizations would be required to submit a proposal documenting their requests. The advisory committee would like some feedback from the Board of Commissioners regarding the committee's interest in setting a maximum amount of money to commit to the proposals. The committee's tentative plan includes a maximum allocation for all proposal up to \$1,000,000; and capping each proposal at no more than \$50,000, with discretion to increase the amount for a proposal that will have a strong, positive, impact on the community.

Following a recent accident involving the county's general use vehicle, an insurance adjuster determined it was a total loss. Working with our insurance company, a loss check will be issued to the county for the value of the vehicle and a salvage company will be picking it up soon. After the first of the year, I'd like to have the board consider replacing the vehicle after I've had time to look at some options.

A couple of carpet installation jobs, delayed from earlier this year, were finally completed – the Board of Commissioners Room and the Register of Deeds Vault. Others projects remain in the Register of Deeds Office, Clerk's Office, and Treasurer's Office.

Regarding the Pentwater-Hart Trail Project, I'm just starting to see some activity since assuming the fiduciary role for the project earlier this year. Last week, we received the next allocation from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$553,000.

Regarding the recent vacancy in the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Ms. Jodi Slinkard was hired to fill the Veterans Service Officers (VSO) position and she started on December 15. She was previously a part-time VSO for Newaygo County.

EMS

The Shelby Station experienced some interior damage last week when Life EMS reported that the suspended ceiling in the living room came down. Maintenance staff inspected the damage and will make the necessary repairs.

REMONUMENTATION

I spoke with Mr. Randy Hepworth last week about the field work involved in recording and placing survey monuments. Mr. Hepworth is phasing out his role doing the field work and has identified qualified surveyors who will begin doing this work in 2022. Mr. Hepworth, however, will provide administrative oversight for the state grant that pays for the costs associated with the remonumentation work.

I visited Montague Public Schools last week and gave some gift cards out as a thank you for participating in the flag process.

Mr. Troy Malone starts Monday as the new emergency manager.

Public Comment

Ms. Marilyn Morse, Benona Township resident, requested that the calendar on the website be updated to include all meeting dates. She also stated that the commissioners have a very difficult job, and she found the money discussed today to be truly astounding. Ms. Morse expressed concerns for government spending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, recited the words to "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Ms. Wittman asked for transparency and clarification of guest speakers. She also inquired about pension funding.

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

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk