

Board Conference Room  
March 10, 2022  
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker at 11:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Chairperson Walker.

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. Elisha Swanson, Hart Township resident; Mr. Arko den Englese, Shelby Township resident; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2022 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare a conflict of interest on the agenda items. No conflicts were declared.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Hardy requested to add a resolution regarding hiring Byce & Associates, Inc. to perform a feasibility study on a whether a new jail facility should be built or if other alternatives would suffice.

Moved by Ms. Meyette and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1 – ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL TO PERFORM A CRYSTAL VALLEY DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Christians to authorize the Oceana County Administrator to amend the Fiscal Year 2022 American Rescue Plan Act Fund (#286) budget in the amount of \$18,800+ \$1,200 for the sedimentation for the purpose of hiring Spicer Group to perform a Crystal Valley Dam Feasibility Study. The feasibility study will prepare a report that evaluates repair and removal options for the dam and a cost analysis for the options.

The Chairperson of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign all necessary agreements to conduct the feasibility study.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 – APPROVING A THREE-YEAR RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH INDIGENT DEFENSE CONSULTANTS**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the proposed Independent Defense Managed Assigned Counsel Administrator Agreement with Indigent Defense Consultants, P.C. for continued administration of the county’s indigent defense program as mandated by Public Act 93 of 2013 and the establishment of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. The Oceana County Administrator is authorized to sign the three (3) year agreement that begins October 1, 2022 and continues through September 30, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 – APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MASON-OCEANA 911 BOARD REGARDING THE CONTINUED ASSESSMENT OF A LOCAL TELEPHONE SURCHARGE**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson to adopt the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, under the Emergency 911 Service Enabling Act, Public Act 32 of 1986, as amended, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners approved a 911 Service Plan on February 28, 2002 to benefit the citizens of Oceana County by providing a uniform and well known emergency contact system; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan enacted Public Act 164 of 2007 and Public Act 379 of 2008 to further support 911 service in Michigan that allows for the creation of a county-based local 911 surcharge on all communications service providers that can access 911 and provides for the collection, disbursement, use and audit of said funds; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years Mason-Oceana 911 has deemed that a monthly county-based surcharge of \$2.09 placed on all communications service providers continues to be necessary to fund 911 services in Oceana County; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated amount of anticipated annual revenue from a county-based 911 surcharge is estimated to be at least \$160,000 collected between July 1 and June 30 of each year.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the county-based 911 surcharge of \$2.09 on communications devices as permitted by law and the surcharge shall remain unchanged in all subsequent years following adoption of this resolution unless rescinded or otherwise changed by the Oceana County Board of Commissioners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the Chairperson of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners and/or the Oceana County Clerk are authorized to sign each year all documents required by the State 911 office; including any digital signatures.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Hardy read the following portion of the County bid policy:

“Section 3. Purchases or Contracts of \$1,000 or More Per Unit. Any expenditure for supplies, materials, equipment, professional services, construction projects or contracts obligating the county, where the amount of the county's obligation is at least \$1,000 or more per unit may be approved by the County Administrator or the Board of Commissioners with or without soliciting sealed bids.”

Mr. John Cavanagh, *Oceana-Herald Journal* correspondent, asked about waiving the bid policy in this instance. Dr. Sobie responded that if the resolution is passed, the bid policy would essentially be waived.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 4 – AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE BYCE & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs to authorize the Oceana County Administrator to amend the Fiscal Year 2022 American Rescue Plan Act Fund (#286) budget in the amount of \$24,000 for the purpose of hiring the engineering and architectural firm of Byce & Associates, Inc. to prepare a feasibility study to determine the adult detention needs of Oceana County and how those needs may be satisfied through construction of new facilities or other alternative solutions.

The County Administrator is authorized to sign all necessary agreements to conduct the feasibility study.

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

Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 5 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

**Moved by** Mr. Hardy and **seconded by** Mr. Morse to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for March 10, 2022 in the tentative amounts as follows:

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>AMBULANCE</b>            | <b>\$2,103.52</b> |
| <b>GIS</b>                  | <b>-0-</b>        |
| <b>FOC</b>                  | <b>10,739.90</b>  |
| <b>PENTWATER-HART TRAIL</b> | <b>-0-</b>        |

|                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>SHELBY TWP COMMUNITY PARK</b>   | <b>-0-</b>           |
| <b>AUTOMATION R.O.D.</b>           | <b>2,394.10</b>      |
| <b>INDIGENT DEFENSE</b>            | <b>3,380.70</b>      |
| <b>LCOT</b>                        | <b>-0-</b>           |
| <b>K9</b>                          | <b>-0-</b>           |
| <b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING</b>   | <b>200.00</b>        |
| <b>CDBG</b>                        | <b>9,150.93</b>      |
| <b>ARPA</b>                        | <b>725.00</b>        |
| <b>VETERAN AFFAIRS</b>             | <b>10,207.49</b>     |
| <b>TECHNOLOGY &amp; INNOVATION</b> | <b>4,845.00</b>      |
| <b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>            | <b>16,508.00</b>     |
| <b>FORECLOSURE</b>                 | <b>8,216.10</b>      |
| <b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>         | <b>8,812.21</b>      |
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>                | <b>376,734.28</b>    |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                 | <b>\$ 454,017.23</b> |

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

Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Elisha Swanson, Hart Township resident, stated that County Commissioner meetings are held at a time when working residents of the county are not able to attend and participate in an informed manner prior to action taken by the Board. He also asked if these meetings could be held at a more accessible time for the general public to attend.

Mr. Arko den Engelse, Shelby Township resident, questioned why more bed space is needed in the jail and is concerned with the cost to the taxpayers.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, inquired as to why is there a policy if it is not going to be followed. Ms. Wittman also noted concerns with requests under the Freedom of Information Act that she felt were returned with incorrect information. She also offered to volunteer to work with the Sheriff to obtain private donations for the jail facility.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Walker, Chairperson