

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk; and John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021, Planning & Environmental Services Committee as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Morse requested to add discussion regarding the expiring Oceana County Medical Care Facility millage for the 2022 election cycle to the agenda.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution to extend the waste hauling agreement with American Classic. The current agreement is working well and the company continues to suggest opportunities to grow Oceana's recycling capabilities. The extension of the contract would provide additional time to continue working on some of the initiatives planned for the Transfer Station. Dr. Sobie clarified that the extension of the contract would not affect pricing. Dr. Sobie also mentioned that he would like to revisit the fee schedule in the near future.

Mr. Morse continued with previous discussion regarding the Strategic Planning Initiative. The strategic planning work group summarized five goal priorities:

1. Continually work to improve the overall financial health of the county and its various budgets.
2. Ongoing administrative responsiveness to commissioners and their need for accurate and reliable information and data to make informed decisions.
3. The Board of Commissioners will commit to serving as a friend of visioning in local investments.
4. Strengthen the relationships with stakeholders and build trust in government.
5. Assess and strengthen countywide emergency services such as: police, EMS, fire, emergency management, 911, and so forth.

Mr. Morse asked for feedback from the commissioners.

Mr. Morse began discussion regarding the millage for the Oceana County Medical Care Facility debt retirement. He suggested that perhaps another millage be presented for the

same millage rate, so taxes would not increase, and would free up some much-needed aid for other organizations. Mr. Morse reiterated that a public safety millage may be more amenable to voters.

Dr. Sobie reminded the Board that there will be three millages expiring in 2023, the Council on Aging, Veterans Affairs, and the Medical Care Facility. He recommended that if the Board did decide to ask for another millage that they do so in 2022 and be detailed in explaining that the new millage is a result of the retirement of other millages.

Mr. Beggs noted that five of the commissioners haven't been through this process and asked what the requirements and timeline would be for these millages.

Dr. Sobie replied that he could work with the Equalization Director on millage wording for the Board to review and he would check on the dates for submission.

Ms. Coon informed the Board that the petition deadline to get something on the ballot for August 2, 2022 is April 26th and the wording deadline is May 10th.

Public comment

There was no public comment at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Morse adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully,

Melanie A. Coon
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk