

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, March 10, 2022, at 10:19 a.m.

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

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Sheriff Mast; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Mr. James Draper, Newfield Township resident; and Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, were also present.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Dr. Sobie invited Sheriff Mast and Undersheriff Schiller to begin the discussion regarding the idea to construct a new Sheriff's Department and Jail Facility supported by a special millage.

Sheriff Mast noted that Honeywell was recently onsite and conducted an energy conservation assessment and reported the findings to the board. The Sheriff's Department/Jail were the main areas where the majority of energy improvements would be necessary. Sheriff Mast explained that the jail design is a linear jail which is not optimal. He provided the board with a packet that included a preliminary proposal for a "Special Public Safety Millage". The data included in the packet showed millages that other counties have in place for Jail/Law Enforcement as well as question/answers. Sheriff Mast requested the board to allow a feasibility study to be conducted by Byce & Associates, Inc. to determine the adult detention needs and whether or not the solution is to build a new facility or if there could be other alternatives.

Mr. Walker reminded the board of the bid policy and recommended that it be followed. He also asked the Sheriff if there were other companies that could provide the same feasibility study. Sheriff Mast indicated that while there are other companies that could conduct this type of study, Byce & Associates, Inc. was the most recommended.

Dr. Sobie added that the ARPA Fund could be the funding source for the cost of the study.

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				
215 - Friend of the Court Fund			\$ 8,200.00	to Image Soft for professional services.
256 - Automation Fund			\$ 2,336.10	to GovOS for software fees.
277 - CDBG Fund			\$ 1,314.93	to NCCS center for non-profit housing for contractual services program income.
			\$ 7,836.00	to Paulsen Heating and Cooling, Inc for approved emergency home repair.
292 - Child Care Fund			\$ 2,548.80	to Fountain Hill Center for out-of-home placement.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund			\$ 4,845.00	to VC3, Inc for software.
405 - Capital Projects			\$ 5,708.00	to Mediatechnologies, LLC for new security desk.
			\$ 10,800.00	to Integrity Business Solutions for CSB classroom furniture.
518- Foreclosure Fund			\$ 7,742.10	to Title Check LLC for parcel administration.
549 - Building Department Fund			\$ 1,885.65	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 3,172.40	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
			\$ 1,550.45	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
General Fund				
301 - Sheriff			\$ 2,432.78	to Cardmember Services for various expenses.
			\$ 13,947.17	to Enterprise for fleet vehicle management.
			\$ 1,500.00	to All Traffic Solutions for annual software fee.
			\$ 6,766.10	to Wex Bank for fuel.
			\$ 1,352.00	to Nye Uniform.
351 - Jail			\$ 2,416.29	to Gordon Food Service.
			\$ 14,107.00	to Advanced Correctional Healthcare for on-site medical services per contract.
			\$ 9,986.63	to Correctional Recovery for medical billing services.
			\$ 3,370.37	to City of Hart for Utilities.
			\$ 2,768.48	to DTE Energy for utilities.
568 - Soil Conservation District			\$ 4,000.00	to Mason-Lake Conservation District for FY 2022 household hazardous waste appropriation.

595 - Airport	\$ 15,467.32	to AvFuel for fuel.
~ Total	\$ 125,517.47	

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

Administration

I'm exploring opportunities with risk management to see if their risk avoidance grant program will provide some funding to help offset a portion of the first year's cost to implement new computer network security measures that were approved by the Board in February. If an opportunity is available, I'll bring it to the Board for consideration.

We received a quarterly revenue sharing payment from the state in the amount of \$87,447. Additionally, we received some supplemental federal funding for our Emergency Management Program Grant in the amount of \$12,630. However, the state miscalculated the amount and will likely be requested a portion of it to be returned to the state.

The Friend of the Court office hired Ms. Amy Heer (Mears) to fill the data entry operator position. I'm also pleased to report that we've hired a building inspection department coordinator and permit specialist. The new coordinator will be Ms. Brooke Sylvester (New Era) and the permit specialist is Ms. Connie Van Huis (Mears).

District Court still has an opening for their Adult Probation and Collections Enforcement Officer position.

House Bill 5054 would provide \$250 million in grant funding for local units of government whose pension systems are funded above 60%, but less than 100%. This means that if the Bill becomes law that the county may be eligible to receive support from the state to increase our funded level, thus lowering our unfunded pension liability.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Regarding the bylaws for the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and per the Board of Commissioner's directive, language was included in the bylaws that denies the Authority the right to exercise the power of eminent domain without explicit approval from the Board of Commissioners. The language was reviewed by Commissioner Beggs in January and incorporated into the bylaws distributed to the Authority.

Public Comment

Mr. James Draper, Newfield Township Resident, commented that he agrees that public safety for the citizens is a primary concern. He suggested that if a new facility is built, consider the plans to include the possibility of expansion at a later date. Mr. Draper also encouraged the Board to follow the policy for obtaining bids.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to involve citizens in the discussion of the possibility of a new jail facility. She also

suggested the composition of the committee. Ms. Wittman also expressed her dissatisfaction with additions to the agenda on the day of the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Hardy adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk