

Board Conference Room  
July 14, 2022  
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker at 11:46 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: Mr. Beggs, Mr. Morse, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Christians, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Erickson, and Mr. Walker.

Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. Jim Draper, Newfield Township resident; Mr. Garry McKeen, Golden Township resident; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2022 regular board meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Jim Draper, Newfield Township resident, commented on the equipment purchase for the Sheriff's Department.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1 – REQUEST FOR CHANGE TO MICHIGAN'S NO-FAULT INSURANCE**

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Ms. Meyette to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act of 2019 introduced a fee cap, which took final effect on July 1, 2021; this cap set percentage limits on how much residential care facilities, home health care providers, and other persons can be reimbursed for providing treatment/care to auto accident victims; and

WHEREAS these reimbursement caps are 55% of the reimbursement rates that Home Care Providers were collecting in 2019;

WHEREAS, 55% of a Home Health Care provider's 2019 collections, is an unsustainable reimbursement cap to continue caring for catastrophically injured individuals following an auto accident; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Michigan Legislature to amend the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a sustainable fee cap (i.e. Michigan's Workman's Compensation Fee Cap for Ancillary Services) for Home Health Care providers, in order to uphold these benefits that have been paid for by the survivors who are currently receiving and who will receive in-home, long-term care, when purchasing an Unlimited PIP Auto Insurance policy, paid by the Michigan Castastrophic Claims Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oceana County Clerk is requested to forward copies of the adopted resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the State Senate Majority and Minority leaders, the State House Speaker and Minority Leader, the members of the Oceana County delegation to the Michigan Legislature, and the other 82 counties of Michigan as Commissioner Correspondence.

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

Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF UTILITY AND TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDY**

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners ("Board") has recently taken steps to ask voters to consider a new additional millage for the purpose of constructing, equipping, furnishing, financing, and operating a new county jail and Sheriff's Department offices ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Craig Mast ("Sheriff") and members of his staff are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division ("USDA") to provide a low interest loan to fund the Project, supported by a new additional millage if approved by voters, and has submitted preliminary, but required, documentation to the USDA regarding the Project; and

WHEREAS, the USDA also requires that utility and topographical studies be completed for the proposed property in which the Project would be constructed and by completing the studies now will accelerate any future USDA loan agreement; and

WHEREAS, historically these studies can take up to three months to complete and interest rates are subject to periodic increases, thus for every month in which the studies are delayed, Oceana County will be unable to lock in the lowest possible rate with the USDA; and

WHEREAS, by completing the studies early and submitting them to the USDA, the studies have the potential to save taxpayers up to \$300,000 in interest charges over the life of the loan; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to complete the two studies is up to \$40,000 and the Oceana County Administrator ("Administrator") is recommending that the source of funds to pay for

the studies could come from either the General Fund's (#101) unassigned fund balance or the Public Improvement Fund (#445) and will be determined by the Administrator following adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with a resolution regarding reimbursements that was adopted by the Board on May 26, 2022, the cost of the studies is an eligible expenditure that can be reimbursed to Oceana County if voters approve the new additional millage and the USDA approves a low interest loan to fund the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Sheriff and Administrator to identify and select a qualified consultant to complete the studies and, following completion, to submit the results to the USDA as part of the agency's loan application requirements.

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

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 3 – BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Administrator ("Administrator") has requested a fiscal year 2022 budget amendment for the purchase of a new laptop, bluetooth headset, scanner and lift desk in the amount of \$3,669.82 resulting from aged equipment and a new County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Administrator ("Administrator") is recommending approval of the budget amendment with additional funds coming from the General Fund's contingency account (101-256-995.000).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Administrator to amend the fiscal year 2022 budget Technology and Innovation Fund in the amount of \$3,699.82 for the purchase of a new laptop, bluetooth headset, scanner and lift desk for the County Administrator to come from the General Fund's contingency account.

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

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 4 – APPROVAL FOR ARPA FUNDS TO PURCHASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Ms. Meyette to appropriate \$71,972.00 to the Oceana County Sheriff's Department for the purchase of 17 laptops and 20 docking stations for installation in patrol cars and \$18,693.00 for the purchase of seven (7) Tactical Team bulletproof vests from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Furthermore, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to appropriate the ARPA funds for the purchases as described above.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5 – APPROVAL OF CHILD CARE FUND BUDGET FOR 2022-2023**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Oceana County Child Care Budget in the amount of \$614,582 and to authorize the Chairperson of the Board and County Administrator to sign the budget document. The fiscal year 2022/2023 Child Care Budget represents an increase of \$16,663 when compared to the prior year budget.

The county's fiscal year 2022/2023 net share of the Child Care Budget is \$337,291 which represents an increase of \$8,331 from the prior year budget.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 - PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for July 14, 2022 in the tentative amounts as follows:

<b>AMBULANCE</b>	<b>\$1,411.03</b>
<b>GIS</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>FOC</b>	<b>4,412.07</b>
<b>PENTWATER-HART TRAIL</b>	<b>28,308.28</b>
<b>SHELBY TWP COMM PARK</b>	<b>30,396.50</b>
<b>AUTOMATION R.O.D.</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE</b>	<b>15,967.19</b>
<b>K9 UNIT</b>	<b>1,115.00</b>
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG</b>	<b>416.89</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>36,776.75</b>
<b>VETERAN AFFAIRS</b>	<b>11,997.44</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY &amp; INNOVATION</b>	<b>19,906.97</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>1,796.00</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>135,881.10</b>
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>36,426.23</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>657,863.76</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 980,879.21</b>

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

Motion carried.

**Commissioners Reports**

Mr. Erickson reported that the Medical Care Facility had a net gain and income of \$18,000 for the past month. He also inquired if a report will be provided soon by Life EMS. Mr. Walker responded that should be at the next meeting. He also requested that the data regarding the Electric Forest be included in the report.

Mr. Christians reported that the dredging of Pentwater Channel should be finished at the end of this week. He also mentioned that the Crystal Valley Dam Study has been released.

Mr. Morse commented that he was very pleased with the spotlight on Oceana County by WMSRDC.

Mr. Hardy reported that there will be an ARPA meeting on July 20. There has been great participation by the committee members.

Ms. Meyette thanked Michael and Peggy Cook for their work on the proposal for new jail project.

Mr. Walker stated that the discussion was very good today and thanked the Board.

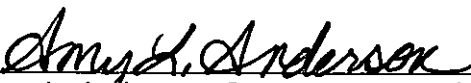
**Public Comment**

Mr. Jim Draper, Newfield Township resident, commented that he agreed a new jail is needed, but questioned how much money has been saved up for this project.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Golden Township resident, presented a tag line for Oceana County – the center for all things good. He also stated that the jail is really an economic development for the County and a great opportunity for the county.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, commented on the threat complaint that was filed against her.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

  
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Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

## **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, July 14, 2022, at 11:59 a.m.

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

Also present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Undersheriff Ryan Schiller; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2022 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardy asked if there were any additions to the agenda at this time.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

Ms. Byard requested consideration of a proposed resolution to approve a budget adjustment to allow for the purchase of equipment for the County Administrator.

Undersheriff Schiller requested consideration of a resolution to approve the request for ARPA Funds to the Sheriff's Department for the purchase of equipment to include upgraded laptops, docking stations and tactical vests.

Mr. Walker stated that he would prefer that the equipment purchase be staggered instead of all at the same time. He is also concerned that the vehicles would not be accessible for an extended period of time for installation. He also stated that he understands the need for the purchases.

Ms. Byard requested consideration of a proposed resolution to approve the Child Care Fund Budget for the 2022-2023 budget year.

Mr. Morse provided an update on broadband options for the County. He mentioned that last Thursday, there was a meeting with Ms. Byard, Mr. Maynard, Ms. Conroy and a representative from Nokia Bell Labs to discuss options to provide fiber optic internet to all homes and businesses in Oceana County.

Ms. Byard 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
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>				
238 - Pentwater Hart Trail Fund			\$ 6,475.54	to Fleis & Vandenbrink for professional services. Costs covered by a grant.
			\$ 21,832.74	to reimburse the City of Hart for payment of invoice to Fleis & Vandenbrink. Costs covered by a grant.
239 - Shelby Twp Community Park Fund			\$ 4,932.50	to Kennari Consulting for professional services. Fully reimbursed via private donations.
			\$ 25,000.00	to Landscape Architects & Planners for project services. Fully reimbursed via private donations.
260 - Indigent Defense Fund			\$ 2,794.00	to MKG Law Office, PLLC for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 5,416.67	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
267 - K9 Unit			\$ 1,115.00	to Hero Industries for purchase of K9 Hero Plush Dogs
286 - American Rescue Plan Fund			\$ 24,000.00	to Byce & Associates, Inc for jail study.
			\$ 12,776.75	to Spicer Engineering Group for Crystal Valley Dam project.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund			\$ 16,255.24	to BIS for final payment for new technology in the board room.
			\$ 2,653.30	to SHI International for computer equipment.
445 - Public Improvement Fund			\$ 1,628.00	to Mika Myers, PLC for professional services.
518- Foreclosure Fund			\$ 1,000.00	to Prince & Monton, PLC for attorney fees.
			\$ 1,878.99	to Title Check LLC for parcel administration.

549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 11,521.65	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 10,595.80	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 7,585.80	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
<b>General Fund</b>		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 1,625.00	to Joanne Clark for the employee appreciation picnic.
	\$ 5,754.75	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security for July and June OT.
172 - County Administration	\$ 3,031.11	to TASC for June and July COBRA payments.
248 - General Services	\$ 8,409.43	to the District Health Dept #10 for MMOOG.
253 - County Treasurer	\$ 1,563.00	to Greenstone Insurance Co for short term surety tax bond insurance.
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 1,000.00	to Heacock Reporting for contracted court services.
289 - Friend of the Court	\$ 2,405.00	to MGT of America for FY 2022 CRP Billing Services.
296 - Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,500.00	to MGT of America for FY 2022 CRP Billing Services.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 5,469.56	to Kiesler's Police Supply for the purchase of ammunition.
	\$ 2,018.00	to Kustom Signals for a replacement radar unit.
	\$ 2,172.85	to Mason County Sheriff Office for SWAT training.
	\$ 2,232.47	to Norm's Sport & Marine & Suba for annual maintenance on dive team gear.
331 - Marine Law	\$ 1,500.00	to Pentwater Village for 2022 Municipal Marina Annual Fee.



351 - Jail	\$ 4,529.14	to Gordon Food Service.
430 - Animal Control	\$ 1,914.57	to Oceana Veterinary Clinic for various services.
442 - Drain Commissioner	\$ 2,000.00	to Solid Design Software Solution for year end backdating of data
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 2,663.50	to C M Rubber Recycling for recycling of tires.
710 - MSU Extension	<b>\$ 28,246.25</b>	to MSUE Business Office for the 2nd qtr assessment fee per agreement.
<b>~ Total</b>		
<b>\$ 235,496.61</b>		

**Administrator's Report (as written by Ms. Byard)**

**Health Department**

Met with Kevin Hughes with the District Health Department 10 to provide me with insight to his department as well as information about the other counties in the district. We also discussed the need for some upgrades to the building that is owned by the county. That information has been forwarded to maintenance to provided additional information.

**Employee Appreciation Luncheon**

A special thank you to Stacey Becker and Trisha Marsh for putting the employee luncheon together and thank you to those who attended.

**County Audit**

The County Audit has been completed and submitted to the state.

**Broadband**

A zoom meeting was held on Thursday, July 7, 2022 to review information pertaining to broadband and the possibility of applying for grants for the project. Commissioner Morse will be providing an update at the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting.

**ARPA Funds**

The National Association of Counties has provided an overview of the final rule pertaining to the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund. The complete document can be found on the NACO website for review.

### **Economic Alliance**

I had a meeting with Ron Maynard, Executive Director, Oceana County Economic Alliance to complete the remaining documents to be submitted for the Brownfield Redevelopment Grant.

### **Dogwood Community Development**

Met with Kittie Tuinstra with Dogwood Community Development to discuss the current projects, projects they have completed and what their organization does for the community.

### **MAC Policy Summit**

There is a MAC Policy Summit scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2022 for the purpose of presentations relating to workforce housing, understanding the political landscape, Michigan's trail network and maximizing infrastructure dollars. The summit is being held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lansing but you also have the ability to attend via zoom. The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a cost of \$50.00 per person.

### **Budget Calendar**

The budget calendar has been prepared but we will need to decide on the two meeting dates for conducting the annual budget workshop with the Finance Committee. One should be scheduled the end of September and one the beginning of October, if needed.

### **Grant Opportunity – Courthouse**

We have been made aware of a grant opportunity for the County Courthouse. The grant is a 10% match for up to \$100,000. Brian is working on gathering quotes for courthouse upgrades to allow us to apply. The request to apply will be coming before the board once we have the quotes ready.

### **WMSRDC Meeting**

We had a meeting with WMSRDC to review the projects taking place in Oceana County. They included a spotlight story on Oceana County in their newsletter with a list of those projects. (See Attached) They will be preparing a survey to be attached to the county website along with QR codes to be printed and displayed at the County's fair booth to gather information relating to Countywide Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan.

### **Meeting with Rob Splane, Hart City Manager**

I met with Rob Splane, Hart City Manager to discuss a possible property owned by both entities. There is property owned by the County near soccer fields owned by the City that they would be interested in discussing a land swap for property that they own near a water tower for the purpose of building a new jail. There is also a utility easement on that property. We discussed the ability for a land swap contingent upon approval of the millage.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Hardy adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk

## **LAW AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Law and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beggs, in the Board Conference Room of the Oceana County Courthouse on Thursday July 14, 2022, at 10:41 a.m.

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

Also present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Undersheriff Ryan Schiller; Mr. George Sadler, Weare Township resident; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2022 Law and Safety Committee minutes as corrected.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

Undersheriff Schiller requested consideration of a proposed resolution for a utility and topographical study in accordance with USDA.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. George Sadler, Weare Township resident, stated that he is being harassed regarding his residency and requested assistance from the County Board. He also stated that he is in support of a new jail facility, however, did not feel that the amount being requested is necessary.

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, shared her concerns regarding a threat complaint that was filed against her.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Beggs adjourned the Law and Safety Committee meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Health & Human Services and Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting was called to order in the Board Conference Room at the Oceana County Building by Chairperson Erickson on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Also present were: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. Brian Harrison, Advisacare; Dr. Lisa Williams, West Michigan Community Mental Health (WMCMH); Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Committee; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald - Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2022 meeting as presented.

Voice Vote. Motion carried.

Chairman Erickson asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda.

Chairman Erickson asked for a voice vote for approval of the amended agenda.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Brian Harrison, Advisacare Health Care, was present to encourage that passage and adoption of the resolution regarding the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act today.

Dr. Lisa Williams, WMCMH, was present to provide the annual report for WMCMH. Dr. Williams highlighted various items which included the Strategic Plan and Goals, expenses and sources of funding, services provided, care model and staff members.

Ms. Byard requested consideration of a proposed resolution requesting a change to Michigan's No-Fault Insurance.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks and Recreation Committee was present to provide an update on the progress of some of the projects they are working on. He also noted that he took part in a zoom call last week with Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) and John Baird, Grant Coordinator for Great Lakes Fishery Trust. He stated that Oceana County Parks and Recreation Committee will be asking for \$125,000 from CRA which if granted, would be used to build a fishing dock and observation post at Marshville Dam Creek.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Erickson adjourned the Health & Human Services and Parks & Recreation Committee meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk