

The Annual meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker at 11:43 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 County Administrator. Present: Mr. Walker, Mr. Christians, Mr. Morse, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Ms. Meyette.

Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. Garry McKeen, Parks and Recreation, Ms. Gail Merten, Ms. Darlene McCastle, Ms. Francine Greyson, Mr. Jim Draper, Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff, Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer, Mr. John Terzano, Dogwood Community Development, and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2022, 2022 regular board 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. Walker requested to add a motion to approve 2022-11 to allow the Land Bank Authority to apply for a blight elimination grant.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Morse to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote 7 - 0. Motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no public comments at this time.

Motion 2022-05

Motion 2022-05 moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Christians to approve the appropriation of \$33,800.00, from ARPA Funds, to the Dogwood Community Development for the purpose of a housing needs assessment.

Discussion was held as it relates to the presentation. Mr. Erickson stated that the presentation was beneficial and she used the term drill down into each one of these communities and that's what they want to be a part of. Mr. Hardy informed the group that the ARPA Committee unanimously approved for this to be moved to the board. Mr. Christians concurred and stated that the information was all encompassing to allow the board to make

a decision. Mr. Walker stated that she made it data based. He doesn't like the cost but she did her due diligence. Mr. Erickson also stated that the assessment will be all encompassing. Mr. Walker stated that there was a great comment by Mr. McKeen to have this placed on our website once it is complete.

Roll Call Vote 7- 0. Motion Carried.

Motion 2022-08

Motion 2022-08 moved by Mr. Christians and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the L-4029 as prepared by the County's Equalization Director setting the 2022 Tax Millage rate.

Roll Call Vote 7- 0. Motion Carried.

Motion 2022-09

Motion 2022-09 moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve the contract with Recycle (RRS) for the purpose of grant support and completion of the Materials Management Grant in the amount of \$8,000.00.

Roll Call Vote 7- 0. Motion Carried.

Motion 2022-11

Motion 2022-11 moved by Mr. Walker and supported by Mr. Morse allowing the Land Bank Authority to apply for a Blight Elimination grant if they have an acceptable program.

Roll Call Vote 7- 0. Motion Carried.

Motion 2022-10

Motion 2022-10 moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Christians to approve the accounts payable and release of funds for September 22, 2022 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE	\$694.26
GIS	-0-
FOC	55,721.81
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	-0-
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE	24,917.64
VICTIM'S SERVICES	-0-
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	\$28,133.24
VETERAN AFFAIRS	5,492.26
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION	8,805.09
CAPITAL PROJ-EQUIP REPLAC	4,025
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND	703.00
FORECLOSURE	3,283.99
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	22,057.97

GENERAL FUND

266,029.14

GRAND TOTAL

\$ 419,863.40

Roll Call Vote 7- 0. Motion Carried.

Commissioners' Reports

Mr. Morse attended the MAC Conference in Port Huron. He felt the networking was extremely beneficial. He had the opportunity to speak with others that are dealing with the same issues we have and to network with other Commissioners. He will be meeting with a company called ZenCity to discuss how they could assist with community engagement. There was an energy panel and he also attended a Parks and Recreation discussion.

Mr. Christians stated that he attended the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) meeting. There was a lot of discussion pertaining to their budget and they work hard to stay in the black. They currently have 10 employees and were discussing a 6% COLA increase. They had several absent from the meeting due to the MAC Conference. He also informed the Commissioners of a Broadband Public Forum that will be held on October 4, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the West Michigan Research Station. All are invited to attend.

Mr. Erickson shared a copy of this weeks Herald Journal with a large article about the fair, the National Asparagus festival and an interesting article about Art Prize and Powers Clothing. He attended the FIT program and has been a member of that since he was invited. He stated it's a good look into Hart and what tourists see when they come to town. The Apple crop is in full swing right now as well as carrots and beans. Mr. Erickson stated that Agriculture is huge in our area and thinks the assessment will be great for us.

Mr. Hardy stated that the ARPA Committee will be meeting tomorrow and there are questions that have been shared with our Auditors to make sure we comply. He attended the 911 Board meeting yesterday. Radio encryption will be discussed in the future and will be asking the finance committee of the 911 Board to look into this. The cost would be roughly \$55,000. They will be meeting in October. Stations will also need revised at the 911 desks.

Ms. Meyeette attended the Newfield Township meeting and the Fire Chief, Bob Eichenberg, brought in new equipment that had been purchased from allocated funds from the Township. It was a CPR machine that is automatic that frees up two men and it is battery operated with a battery extraction tool. They have 13 Firemen and 10 First Responders. They also have a cadet program for those ages 16-18. They had two entered into the program but one dropped out because of schooling but the other one is the Fire Chief's daughter and she has been in the program since it's inception. She will have the opportunity to continue by going through the training.

Mr. Walker informed Commissioners to have the Crystal Valley Dam back on the agenda for the first meeting in November as we have a deadline of the first of the year. He asked Mr. Hardy to inform the ARPA Committee that we will be asking for the housing assessment to be placed on the website as that will be a direct relationship. He attended the Land Bank Authority meeting on Tuesday. They had bids on two parcels of property and one was a small lot at Silver Lake. There were two that bid on it with the same amount and the Treasurer was asked to approach them about rebidding it. They did rebid it. It's a lot with no water front property and was bid at \$83,000. The other property was on in Ferry Township and realtor suggested placing some funds toward it to do some upgrades.

Reports from Department Heads

Sheriff Mast stated that he was asked along with Sheriff Cole of Mason County to attend the National Association of County Sheriff's in Washington this last week to listen and learn about the fentanyl epidemic and how it is coming in through our open borders and how it is affecting us up here. It's been day to day with some B&E's they are investing and some crashes. They are currently at 52 in the jail but are managing. They had a Deputy that will be taking a position in Mason County. He stated that it's difficult to keep up with the pensions.

Commissioner Walker thanked Sheriff Mast for going to the national conference and see nothing but good for him attending.

Sheriff Mast was asked about the person who was responsible for the B&E in Mears. He approached the Prosecutor about releasing information on the suspect to catch him. They had someone call in stating that they thought they saw him in the Bass Lake Area through Dispatch. Mason County Deputies were sent there to catch him.

Garry McKeen, Parks and Recreation, stated that they will have several 6th graders out a Gales Pond tomorrow with roughly 128 in the morning and about the same in the afternoon. It is a program put on by the Conservation District. He will be doing the forestry walk. He will also have 20 7th grade girls from the Hart Rec Club at Doolittle Park to paint picnic tables. Stony Creek is 66% of the Engineering Program. There is another public meeting on October 20th at 6:00 p.m. at Benona Township Hall. Many of the same people will be there and this will be the final plan being submitted to NOAA and go out for bid in December or January. October 13th, at your next meeting, Brian Majka, GES Consultants, will be providing and update on the Stony Creek Project. He will also be providing some insight on Crystal Valley.

Public Comment

Ms. Francine Greyson, Blodgett Lake in Hesperia, announced that they got internet, Tru Stream and it's like getting electricity. She asked Mr. Hardy about the \$24,000 for the Indigent Defense Fund. Mr. Hardy replied that the fund is for those who cannot afford an attorney and that money comes from the State.

Mr. John Terzano, Dogwood Community Development, thanking the board for the housing needs assessment and assuring the Commissioners that this is their report.

Mr. Jim Draper, Hesperia, stating that there has been a lot of contention surrounding Mr. Erickson's address. He's been approached by many people but from what he's seen he will start looking into this and he asked for information proving that he lives there. He stated that he is working with a litigation attorney.

Ms. Darlene McCastle, Hesperia, on July 26th she received an orange post card and wasn't sure where it came from. It states that since the redistricting of our county that Paul Erickson changed his address to 7619 E. Jefferson so he would not be in direct competition with an incumbent Commissioner in District 3. He changed his address to put him in District 4. Darlene stated that she went to that address and it belongs to a Mr. Jonassen and was told that he lives at a cabin out back there. She pointed out that the grass hadn't been mowed. She said there is a Michigan State Police investigation going on. She asked Mr. Erickson to resign.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Tracy L. Byard County Administrator

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, September 22, 2022, at 10:37 a.m.

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

Also present: Ms. Tracy Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. James Kelly, MSU Extension Director; Ms. Suzie Knoll, Executive Director Oceana Conservation District, Ms. Kittie Tuinstra, Executive Director, Dogwood Community Development, Mr. Garry McKeen, Parks and Recreation, Ms. Gail Merten, Ms. Darlene McCastle, Ms. Francine Greyson, Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff, Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer, Mr. John Terzano, Dogwood Community Development, and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2022 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardy asked if there were any additions to the agenda at this time. Mr. Walker stated that he would like to add allowing the Land Bank to apply for a grant.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Dogwood Community Development – Housing Assessment

Ms. Kittie Tuinstra, Executive Director of the Dogwood Community Development - A proposal was submitted for ARPA Funds for a housing need assessment for the entire county. The needs have been identified for a number of years. They have been hearing from employers that they are not retaining talent because there is not enough housing. Housing is economic development. When there isn't enough variety of housing it causes a bottle neck. With the assessment, it would determine what we have and what is needed. An assessment hasn't been done in 15 years. They reached out to other counties to see who had assessments done. They were able to come up with three vendors to provide this information. Bowen National Research was the company that they decided to obtain for this assessment. The assessment would be county wide overall with three corridors. Here would be the lakeshore corridor. On down the middle of the county, the most populated area of the county, and finally the eastern part of the counties. By doing so, they will be able to determine what is needed in each corridor. There will also be an opportunity to determine additional data for specific areas if communities want to buy in for their area. This data will be available to anyone once complete. The assessment would take roughly five to six months. Mr. Hardy asked if any other communities were to obtain additional assessments for there are, would those be available to other. Ms. Tuinstra stated that would be the decision of those organizations. Mr.

Walker asked that no ranking in individual areas be included in this assessment. Mr. Christians commended having Ms. Tuinstra and her experience. He also asked, if the funds were approved, when would they be able to start. Mr. John Terzano, Dogwood Community Development, stated that they should be able to start the first quarter of 2023. Dogwood has reached out to all the local jurisdictions. Peterson Farms will be doing an add on to the assessment for farm worker housing. Ms. Meyette asked how this could impact business and industry within the county. Ms. Tuinstra stated if we can provide housing options, it will allow for attracting and retaining.

Tax Sale Proceeds Report

Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer, provided a foreclosing governmental unit report of real property foreclosure sales. Ms. Phillips reviewed the process relating to forfeiture and foreclosure along with the process for tax payers to receive proceeds from the property that they lost. They now have a right to those proceeds. This is a new report that is required to be provided to the county board of commissioners as well as the state treasurer identifying any remaining balance and any contingent costs of title, environmental remediation or other legal claims relating to foreclosed property. Mr. Walker informed the Commissioners that Ms. Phillips was previously borrowing funds to pay the delinquent taxes because some funds were going into the general fund. They are now going into a fund to pay delinquent taxes without the need to borrow.

L-4029 Form Setting the Tax Millage Rate

Ms. Tracy Byard, County Administrator, asked the board to approve the L-4029 Form as submitted and prepared by Ed VanderVries, CEO V&V Assessing. Mr. Beggs asked if any of the items on that form have been changed. She stated that the Medical Care Facility amount had changed as it reflects that actual amount need to pay the debt payment.

Ms. Byard requested consideration of motion 2022-08 for approval of the L-4029 form setting the 2022 tax millage rate.

Land Bank Grant

Mr. Walker stated that they had a Land Bank Authority meeting and there is an opportunity to apply for a \$200,000 grant. Ms. Phillips, County Treasurer reported that the Michigan Association of Land Banks have funds allocated in the State budget for the purpose of blight. These are funds that the local land banks can apply for if they have a property available. Mr. Beggs read a portion of the FAQ that reassures they cannot use that on property without the approval of the property owner. Ms. Meyette questioned who would administer the grant. Ms. Phillips stated that she needs to read into it further but she cannot apply for the funds without a project in mind.

Ms. Byard did not read the payment of claims, but the following was provided:

Oceana County Administrator

REVIEW OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT (\geq \$1,000 and Other Noteworthy Expenditures)

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
Special Revenue Funds				
215 - Friend of the Court Fund			\$ 1,683.00	to Huntington National Bank for document scanner.
			\$ 51,470.58	to Image Soft for professional services and training.
260 - Indigent Defense Fund			\$ 10,817.60	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 10,833.33	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
286 - American Rescue Plan Fund			\$ 27,220.74	to Kofile for onsite imaging of record of deeds.
292 - Child Care Fund			\$ 1,699.20	to Fountain Hill Center for out-of-home placement.
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund			\$ 2,281.54	to Huntington National Bank for equipment.
			\$ 3,305.61	to SHI International for computer equipment and software.
405 - Capital Projects			\$ 4,025.00	to EPS for video installation security system.

549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 7,492.95	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 5,519.35	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 4,286.45	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 5,701.25	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security for September and August OT.
245 - Remonumentation	\$ 5,040.00	to Noah Penn, Points West Land Surveying for contracted surveyor services.
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 1,993.00	to Business Information Systems for equipment service.
289 - Friend of the Court	\$ 2,412.00	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	\$ 21,334.68	to Enterprise for fleet vehicle management.
351 - Jail	\$ 2,995.48	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 1,365.15	to EPS for security system.
701 - Planning	\$ 3,600.00	to WMSRDC for technical assistance services rendered on the Oceana County Master & Recreation Plans update.
~ Total		\$ 176,576.91

Administrator's Report

Administrator Byard informed the Commissioners that they had been meeting with insurance agents to gather information on insurance that would save the county money and reduce the cost to the employees. Information on that will be forthcoming.

They have also been preparing information for the upcoming budget meetings.

An email had been sent to the County Commissioners about the upcoming West Central Michigan County Alliance meeting coming up on Monday, October 3, 2022 and who would be attending. Notice will be sent to Manistee County.

Department Head Report

None

Public Comment

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission, with reference to the Housing Development assessment by Dogwood Community Development, we are in the process of preparing a five-year plan with the Planning Commission and wondered if it would be feasible to include that study in the plan? There will be a lot of data in that study and it would be available to anyone in the County.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Hardy adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 11:32 p.m.

Respectfully,

Tracy L. Byard
Oceana County Administrator

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Also present: Ms. Tracy Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. James Kelly, MSU Extension Director; Ms. Suzie Knoll, Executive Director Oceana Conservation District, Ms. Kittie Tuinstra, Executive Director, Dogwood Community Development, Mr. Garry McKeen Parks and Recreation, Ms. Gail Merten, Ms. Francine Greyson, Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff, Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022, Planning & Environmental Services Committee as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Morse asked that the Strategic Planning document be added to the agenda on a monthly basis to continue moving forward with that document.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Erickson to approve the agenda as presented with the Strategic Planning addition.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Conservation District Annual Report

Ms. Suzie Knoll, Executive Director, Conservation District, provided an annual report. They currently have five staff with three of those being grant funded. Those grant funded positions cover the MAEAP Grant, working with farmers to minimize environmental impacts, USDA Cost-Share Programs, working with farmers for conservation restoration practices and Forestry Assistance, helping private landowners better manager their forests. They continue to work toward reforestation and sold 28,500 trees and shrubs and with habitat restoration planting 18 acres of pollinator habitat and 2 acres of dune habitat. Education and outreach programs were held over the past year with 700 people attending those events in 2022. They have held children's programs that have been well attended. The Knee-High Naturalist Program had 17 families enrolled in the spring and currently have 12 enrolled for the fall session. There were three summer camps for 72 children at the pond, forest and a farm. They gave 240 white pine seedlings to every 3rd grader in Oceana County. Stewardship activities are held as well as recycling programs. Their priorities for 2023 are to develop a 5-year strategic plan, hire one new staff member to develop and coordinate stewardship and habitat restoration activities and develop the 40-acre parcel into the Stoney Creek Nature

Preservation. Mr. Walker stated that MSU Extension will no longer be doing soil samples and asked Ms. Knoll if it would be possible for the Conservation District to take on this responsibility. Ms. Knoll stated that she would look into it.

Material Management Grant RRS Proposal

Ms. Tracy Byard, County Administrator, stated that Steve Bruch had applied for a Materials Management Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to allow for improvement to our solid waste. She asked that a contract be approved with Recycle RSS to develop a funding mechanism, preparation of cost development for proposed improvements and community engagement.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Morse asked Administrator Byard if any quotes had been obtained for mailing a newsletter and e-newsletter and cost for mailings as well as QR codes. Quotes have not been obtained but will be forthcoming. Mr. Morse then asked if there is anything else when looking at the goals and speaking with community members that we should look at next so we continue to move forward. Mr. Beggs mentioned the strengthening of Community Services around the county and since hiring the Emergency Manager, Troy Maloney, they are seeing an improvement with team work across the county with Fire Departments and Law Enforcement along with some of the improvements we have made with equipment for our Sheriff's Department as it is making them more effective. He stated that we are moving in the right direction with this.

Reports from Department Heads

None

Public comment

Mr. James Kelly, MSU Extension Director voiced his appreciation for the Conservation District. They are a great resource for the MSU Extension. An invitation was then distributed inviting everyone to the First Impressions Tourism (FIT) Assessment to be held on October 26, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the West Michigan Research Station. This is an MEDC Grant. This is Hart in the eyes of a tourist. With regards to the soil testing piece, an announcement was made about the cancelation of that service. That lab was run by the University, not by the MSU Extension. Once they heard about the cancelation they started working for a solution. They will be working with a third party but will have the ability to enter that data into their system. The soil testing will continue. Mr. Paul Erickson stated he had the opportunity to be involved in the FIT program.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Morse adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully,

Tracy L. Byard
Oceana County Administrator