

Board Conference Room
December 1, 2022
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker at 11:40 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 Chief Deputy Clerk. Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Christians, Mr. Morse, Mr. Beggs, Ms. Meyette, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Hardy.

Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk, were also present.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the November 10, 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.

Chairperson Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were mentioned.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There was no public comment at this time.

MOTION #2022-31 – LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Ms. Meyette to adopt Motion #2022-31, approving a Letter of Understanding between the Oceana County Sheriff, Oceana County Board of Commissioners, and the Police Officers Association of Michigan, as pertaining to lateral transfers and salary placement relating to prior experience.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2022-32 – HONORING HART HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Motion #2022-32, moved by Mr. Morse and supported by _____ to adopt Resolution #22-79:

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners wishes to recognize the outstanding performance by the student athletes and coaches of Hart High School's Boys Cross Country team during the 2022 season; and

WHEREAS, Hart High School's Boys Cross Country team won their first State Championship, thus completing an outstanding season of success; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners to recognize and congratulate Coach Terry Tatro and his staff of assistant coaches and the athletes of the Boys Cross Country Team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Hart High School's Boys Cross Country team on winning the Division 3 State Championship.

No action taken at this time.

MOTION 2022-33 – MERS SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT

Moved by Mr. Christians and supported by _____ to adopt Motion #2022-33, approving the submission of a supplemental payment to Michigan Employee Retirement System for unfunded pension liability in the amount of \$200,000.

No action taken at this time.

MOTION 2022-34 – FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Motion #2022-34, approving budget amendment #2022-01, in the amount of \$76,355, for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for several funds.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION 2022-35 – TRANSFER STATION FEE INCREASES

Motion #2022-35, moved by Ms. Meyette and supported by Mr. Morse, approving an increase of the Transfer Station fees for box springs and mattresses from \$7.00 to \$20.00 each.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION 2022-36 – REVISED 2022 APPORTIONMENT REPORT

Motion # 2022-36, moved by Mr. Christians and supported by Mr. Beggs approving the contract between Oceana County and Jeffrey Donohoe Associates, LLC for Workforce Development services and allow chair to sign.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION 2022-37 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Christians, to adopt Motion #2022-37, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for December 1, 2022 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE	\$3,050.06
GIS	-0-
FOC	4,476.56
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	1,949.81
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	-0-
BROWNFIELD	1,460.85
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	2,164.50
INDIGENT DEFENSE	32,226.08
VICTIM'S SERVICES	-0-
LOCT FUND	-0-
K9 UNIT	323.02
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	34,755.00
VETERAN AFFAIRS	11,656.69
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION	15,530.05
CAPITAL PROJ-EQUIP REPLAC	2,514.00
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND	-0-
FORECLOSURE	6,359.05
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	19,867.64
GENERAL FUND	625,528.77
GRAND TOTAL	\$761,862.08

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

Motion carried.

Commissioners' Reports

Mr. Morse announced that he and Mr. Hardy have been collaborating on an update of the Board of Commissioners Rules and Procedures and the first draft has been completed. He reported that Mr. Ron Maynard, executive director of the Oceana County Economic Allowance,

resigned. There will be an interview for a replacement on December 1, 2022, at 3 p.m. Mr. Morse encouraged board members to take two available surveys that are available on the county website, one for the updated Master Plan, if unable to attend the meeting, and one for Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Christians relayed that he and Mr. Morse attended the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) meeting and learned that there must be two commissioners seated on the WMSRDC board per their bylaws. He noted that it may be a challenge in 2023 with the change from seven to five county commissioners. He indicated that WMSRDC is now involved in the county-wide broadband program, they have done some award-winning work on the renovation of Muskegon Lake, they're involved in some GIS mapping and are assisting with Master Plan updates. Mr. Christians commended Erin Kuhn, executive director, and her staff for the amazing work they are doing in all five counties. He reiterated that a monthly newsletter from Oceana County would be beneficial to the local jurisdictions and suggested disseminating the information to township supervisors.

Mr. Walker stated that board minutes are already being sent to township supervisors.

Ms. Byard added that a county newsletter is planned and will be created through the administrator's office.

Mr. Erickson passed on that he and Mr. Walker met with the Oceana County Medical Care Facility (OCMCF) administrator and the chairman of the OCMCF board regarding the continuing staffing issue. He reported that the current census of residents there indicated that 80 beds were full. They are currently in contract negotiations. He noted that the Department of Health and Human Services is also experiencing low staff issues. He provided a detailed account of the current activities being conducted through the District 10 Health Department. Mr. Erickson stated that there will be a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting that afternoon and remarked that Mr. Garry McKeen has done a wonderful job through the Parks & Recreation Commission and has taken a strong interest in the Crystal Valley Dam project. He reported that the Crystal Township residents are still eager to keep their dam. Crystal Township is also struggling with their township transfer station.

Mr. Walker reported that there will be a meeting with Life EMS and the Medical Control Board next week at the County Services Building to go over the contract. He provided information on the steps required for our partnership with American Classic Dumpsters. He indicated that he and Brian Schlaack, maintenance supervisor, have made some progress on the bidding to correct the water issue involving the county building courtyard, the bidding process in the acquisition of a new chiller, and the bidding process for a new synthetic roof and heating unit for the District 10 Health Department.

Ms. Byard indicated the roof project for the Health Department had already been designated as an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds project.

Mr. Christians reported that Mason-Oceana 911 is currently working on improving their encryption capabilities for law enforcement transmissions and will be replacing all four dispatch consoles. He stated that he listened to a very informative presentation from Mike Overley from MERS DC. He suggested that the board invite him and perhaps Erin Kuhn from WMSRDC to do presentations in the future.

Mr. Walker informed the Board that an issue had arisen with the County attorney. A department head had been communicating with the attorney directly instead of involving the Board. He asked Ms. Byard to send a communication to the attorney addressing the issue and

indicating there would be no further billable hours with him until the issue had been resolved. It has been six weeks and he has not responded.

Ms. Byard stated that she had previously worked with a legal group that only does county government law and their billable rate is much more economical.

Mr. Walker asked that if anyone knew of additional attorneys that the Board might consider that they provide the information to Ms. Byard so the Board can request proposals.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Melanie A. Coon
Melanie A. Coon, Oceana County Deputy Clerk

12-28-2022
Date

Robert Walker
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 Commissioner Morse, on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 10:38 a.m.

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

Also present: Ms. Tracy Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff; Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission and Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission; Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2022 meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairperson Morse asked if there were any additions to the agenda at this time.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Mr. Walker inquired if the coach and assistant coaches had been contacted regarding the resolution to honor the Hart High School Boys' Cross Country team. Ms. Byard replied they had not. Mr. Walker requested to move the resolution to honor the Hart High School Boys Cross Country Team to the next board meeting so they could attend. No action was taken on this resolution.

Ms. Byard brought forth consideration of a motion to provide a supplemental payment to Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS) for unfunded pension liability.

Mr. Walker asked for a budget status report to consider making this payment. Ms. Byard was unable to obtain that immediately. Mr. Morse moved to next agenda item.

Ms. Byard suggested consideration of a motion amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for several funds.

Mr. Morse asked for an explanation of the \$18,000 increase in the Jail – Prisoners Board budget.

Sheriff Mast responded that the Prisoners Board includes the cost of food for the prisoners. The cost of food has gone up considerably. He indicated the jail cook scours ads to find deals on food.

Mr. Erickson asked for an example of the current menu for prisoners.

Mr. Mast replied that prisoners get a hot breakfast three days per week, a hot lunch each day and a cold boxed dinner each day. The hot breakfast consists of foods such as eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, oatmeal, etc. The hot lunches can include a bowl of soup and grilled cheese sandwich, tacos, etc.

Mr. Walker asked if the increase for the Jail – Outpatient Care budget was for overall increased cost or just the result of a few prisoners.

Sheriff Mast replied that there have been a handful of prisoners with substantial healthcare costs. He reported that the contract they have with Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc., which provides for an on-site nurse, has drastically decreased the need to transport prisoners to the hospital via ambulance.

Mr. Erickson requested an update on the law enforcement coverage in Hesperia.

Sheriff Mast responded that there had not been any new developments and that Village of Hesperia still does not have a police chief. He indicated that hiring a new chief at the wage the village would like to pay may hinder their hiring process. Sheriff Mast indicated that the Oceana County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police are sharing the call load. Newaygo County has assigned a school resource officer to Hesperia Community Schools and is taking care of truancy calls for Oceana and Newaygo Counties. The addition of that officer has helped considerably.

Mr. Beggs confirmed that Hesperia is receiving the same coverage as the entire county.

Ms. Byard explained that the \$16,650 budget amendment for District Court involved the On Call pay received by District Court employees that work weekends. There was not a line item created for the On Call pay when the county switched to the new chart of accounts.

Mr. Morse asked if the line item has been created for the 2023 budget. Ms. Byard replied that it has been added to the next FY budget.

Mr. Beggs inquired if Ms. Byard was able to provide a budget status report now. To which Ms. Byard responded that she had the information available; current budget status is approximately \$207,000. The requested unfunded pension liability contribution was \$200,000.

It was the consensus of the board to table the Resolution 2022-33 until FY 2023.

Ms. Byard put forward consideration of a motion to increase the Transfer Station's rate for box springs and mattresses from \$7 to \$20. She reported that she and Mr. Walker had spoken to American Classic and they suggested the county increase this rate. The current rate collected is not offsetting the cost to destroy the items.

Mr. Walker provided a detailed account of the actions taken to date concerning the County Transfer Station and the upcoming partnership with American Classic Dumpsters. He explained that the partnership could really help the county reach their goal of having the Transfer Station operate at net zero. The inclusion of recycling services was very appealing to the Ferry Township Clerk Board.

Mr. Beggs asked if the county's lease agreement with Ferry Township was for all 48 acres of the parcel the Transfer Station utilizes. Mr. Walker replied that it includes approximately 11 acres. Mr. Beggs commented that the value of the Transfer Station is great in regards to

offering an outlet for residents to dispose of waste. He indicated he is in favor of keeping the Transfer Station as long as the operating costs can be as close to net zero as possible.

Ms. Byard proffered consideration for a motion to approve the revised apportionment report as submitted by Equalization.

Mr. Beggs asked what revision needed to be made. Ms. Byard indicated she would email Mr. VanderVries to find that out. Mr. VanderVries replied that the only change was the addition of the Newfield Township Fire Millage that passed November 8, 2022.

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
Special Revenue Funds				
210 - Ambulance Fund			\$ 2,371.00	to Mike Blackmer Electric, Inc for parking lot lights
238 - Pentwater Hart Trail Fund			\$ 1,017.50	to Fleis & Vandenbrink for professional services. Costs covered by a grant.
243 - Brownfield Authority			\$ 1,460.85	to Ron Maynard for travel reimbursement
256 - Automation Fund			\$ 2,164.50	to GovOS for software fees
260 - Indigent Defense Fund			\$ 5,625.00	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
			\$ 8,769.59	to Hayes Law Office for court appointed attorney fees
			\$ 4,658.00	to MKG Law Office, LLC for court appointed attorney fees
			\$ 10,589.58	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees
286 - American Rescue Plan Fund			\$ 33,800.00	to Dogwood Community Development
			\$ 52,156.00	to Strategic Sourcing for Sheriffs office laptops
292 - Child Care			\$ 2,580.99	to The Fountain Hill Center for out-of-home placement
			\$ 7,750.00	to Ottawa County Juvenile Detention
298 - Technology and Innovation Fund			\$ 7,492.00	to Trace3 for Dell Services
			\$ 5,886.10	to SHI for Maintenance and Support fees

405 - Capital Projects	\$ 2,514.00	to Mike Blackmer Electric, Inc for parking lot lights
549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 1,869.20	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 5,268.45	to Richard Story for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 5,140.40	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 5,300.00	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security for October and October OT.
	\$ 2,325.24	to Smith, Haughey, Rice and Roegge for legal services.
172 - County Administration	\$ 2,782.69	to TASC for October and November payment
	\$ 1,991.11	to TASC for January 2023 payment
223 - County Auditing	\$ 8,000.00	to MGT Consulting Group
245 - Remonumentation	\$ 5,040.00	to Noah Penn, Points West Land Surveying for contracted surveyor services.
262 - Elections	\$ 11,830.52	to Spectrum Printers for Ballots and Freight
	\$ 2,524.00	to Oceana Herald Journal for general election notices
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 2,750.00	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services
	\$ 3,086.15	to State of Michigan for JIS fees.
	\$ 4,015.59	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees
286 - District Court	\$ 2,867.26	to Mason County Treasurer for fringe benefits
301 - Sheriff	\$ 10,866.98	to Enterprise for fleet vehicle management.

	\$ 1,537.63	to AT&T Mobility
	\$ 1,992.00	to Kiesler Police Supply for various supplies
	\$ 1,860.00	to Lexis Nexis Claims Solutions for citation maintenance / support
	\$ 1,315.19	to NYE Uniform
351 - Jail	\$ 3,686.61	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 2,944.27	to Correctional Recovery for medical billing services.
	\$ 14,107.00	to Advanced Correctional Healthcare for on-site medical services per contract.
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 18,172.75	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
648 - Medical Examiner	\$ 1,036.25	to Mid Michigan Medical Examiner Group for administrative services.
	\$ 6,765.00	to WMU Homer Stryker M.D. for Autopsies
~ Total	\$ 271,144.40	

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

FY 2022 Budget

An adjustment is being submitted to correct some of the line items within the FY2022. Unfortunately, an increase needed to be made within the Transfer Station budget to cover increases for the cost of additional loads and a dumpster. There is also a request for increasing the cost of accepting box springs and mattresses for this reason. This is just a portion of the increased costs.

Transfer Station

Chairman Walker, Commissioner Morse and myself had the opportunity to meet with Ferry Township and American Waste about the Transfer Station. We will also be planning a site visit to discuss changes and the functionality of the site. More information will be forthcoming.

MAC Health and Human Services

Alan Bolter, Associate Director of the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan presented to the Committee stating that there are Mental Health Bills that have been submitted. The initial bills were to privatize mental health but MAC have working to oppose the bills for all counties. Alan mentioned they are looking into one statewide PIHP but we are still waiting to see how that will affect the smaller counties. This will most likely cause issue for local control.

Legislative Update

As previously stated, these are some of the items that have been working through the House and Senate.

- Creation of a revenue sharing trust fund and increase to county revenue sharing.
- Back filling losses associated with the disabled veteran's property tax exemption.
- Remote participation via the Open Meetings Act.
- Restoration to collect fees for criminal defendants to help fund courts.
- Blocking privatization of the mental health system.
- Appropriations of remaining ARP funds for infrastructure.
- Securing reimbursement for the expansion of the personal property tax exemption.

Due to the change in the House and Senate moving to Democratic control after the first of the year, there will be three days of lame duck sessions. MAC stated that these will most likely be non-controversial sessions containing farewell speeches.

Broadband

A meeting is being held on Monday, November 28, 2022 pertaining to broadband and an opportunity to meet and discuss this with Charter.

Ms. Byard added that she attended the Michigan Township Association meeting in Colfax Township. Mr. Mark Timmer, Managing Director of the Oceana County Road Commission, provided a presentation on the roads and how the funding works for that. She introduced herself to the attendees and provided information on current projects the county has been working on and answered several questions. She also informed the townships that her door was always open if they have things they would like to discuss with her.

Ms. Byard reported that John Warner, Oceana County Deputy Drain Commissioner, submitted a grant for repairs to the Crystal Valley Dam. She indicated that we may not get the grant because it is not a high hazard dam.

Mr. Walker informed the board members that the grant had to be submitted by December 5, 2022, so he made the decision to sign it before the next board meeting.

Ms. Byard stated that Mr. Curt Lohman, Oceana County Airport Manager, informed her that there is a piece of property adjacent to the airport that has several trees that are causing some obstruction. He has been in contact with the landowner to get those trees cut down or topped off to eliminate the obstruction. The cost will probably be taken care of through federal funding.

Ms. Byard reported that she completed the required paperwork for the County Incentive Program through the State of Michigan to allow Oceana County to receive State revenue sharing.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission, related that there would be a Planning Commission that night at the Oceana County Services Building at 6:00 p.m. It would

be for the public review for the 5-year master plan for the county. He encouraged the board members to attend.

Mr. McKeen, Parks & Recreation Commission, provided a detailed report on the progress of the Stony Creek Project. Two grants have recently been awarded in the amount of \$740,000 bringing the total available for the project to \$2.3 million, which should completely fund the project. He attended a meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 with the engineering group and West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the plan is to start the project in Summer 2023.

Mr. McKeen attended an information meeting on November 21, 2022, to consider combining area recreation groups into a county group to pool resources. There was a survey on social media for this idea, but there were not enough respondents to get an accurate picture of what is best for our communities.

Mr. Walker commended Mr. McKeen for all the work he does for Oceana County.

Mr. McKeen appreciated the compliment. He expressed that being part of a community that he loves inspires him to be part of projects that he enjoys and seeing the success of the projects is rewarding. He believes the people of Oceana County are working together to make things better for the next generation and future generations.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Morse adjourned the Finance and Equalization Committee meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully,

Melanie A. Coon
Oceana County Chief Deputy 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, December 1, 2022, at 10:03 a.m.

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

Also present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk; Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff; Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Manager and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana’s Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2022 Law and Safety Committee minutes as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairman Beggs inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Sheriff Mast brought forth consideration of a motion to approve the Letter of Understanding between the Oceana County Sheriff’s Department, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners, and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM).

Sheriff Mast provided a synopsis of the Corrections Officer position and the challenges associated with it which lead to retention issues. He then provided an example of a situation that benefited greatly from the proposed lateral move listed in the Letter of Understanding. Sheriff Mast reported that the POAM became aware of the lateral move agreement and they requested a meeting after the filing of a grievance. The Letter of Understanding is the resolution to their grievance.

Mr. Beggs expressed support of the lateral transfer motion. He agreed that it can be very beneficial to be able to bring in an employee that has a lot of previous experience and certifications that allow them to move right in to a position without all the extra training. He asked if the Letter of Understanding also covered Road Patrol employees.

Mr. Walker conveyed displeasure with the process that the Letter of Understanding motion came to the Board. He indicated that the Letter of Understanding was very well written and he understood the need for it; however, the Board of Commissioners should have been involved fully prior to authorization. The POAM contract is between the Union and the Board of Commissioners. He only became aware of the issue when a grievance was filed by POAM. He indicated he will vote no on the approval of the motion simply for that reason.

Mr. Christians stated that he supported the Letter of Understanding and acknowledged that the process of approval may not have been completed in accordance with the contract. He felt the motion should be acted upon now to hopefully mitigate the current staffing shortage.

Mr. Beggs indicated that he may not be fully informed on all the details or motives for this motion but he did not see any malicious intent for the process in regards to the request. He understood Mr. Walker's concerns, however. He reiterated his support for the motion.

Mr. Erickson asked Sheriff Mast for an update on current staffing numbers in Corrections and Road Patrol.

Sheriff Mast explained that he recently lost an employee due to rate of pay and distance of travel. He reported that Road Patrol is in a low staffing position and may be supplemented with the current Bailiff. Bailiff duties would then be assigned to Lieutenants or even himself.

Mr. Beggs stated that if attraction and retention continue to impede our staffing numbers, perhaps the contract could be reopened. He relayed that in his personal experience he has learned that law enforcement employee availability is an ongoing issue nationwide. Some departments have even started offering to pay for the employee to work through paid training to become a law enforcement officer. He has also been told that some other local law enforcement agencies are paying considerably more per hour.

Sheriff Mast noted that Mason-Oceana 911 is having the same staffing issues. They have had to change their hiring practice within the last year to retain new employees.

Mr. Walker expressed that he isn't opposed to developing some hiring packages that may increase interest in Corrections or Road Patrol. He felt Sheriff Mast should develop some ideas and present them to the Board.

Mr. Morse inquired if the Letter of Understanding would put us in compliance with POAM.

Sheriff Mast responded that it will.

Ms. Meyette commented that she was surprised that lateral moves weren't already in effect.

Sheriff Mast replied that hiring has never been as challenging as it is currently. He used to get 10 or 12 resumes every time a position was posted, but currently, if he gets one resume that is exceptional.

Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Manager, expressed that he recently completed the 4th quarter reporting for the Emergency Management Performance Grant and that should result in a reimbursement check to the County. He also stated he received approval for a grant to renew the CodeRED Emergency Alert System as well as a regional grant that will pay for Rescue Task Force (RTF) bags that he hopes will be placed in every patrol care and fire truck in the county.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Beggs adjourned the Law and Safety Committee meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully,

Melanie A. Coon
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk