

**Board Conference Room
June 8, 2023
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 12:21 p.m.

Chairperson Walker led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll was called by Clerk Anderson. Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker.

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; and Mr. Garry McKeen, Benona Township resident.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2023 closed session as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare any conflicts 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. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2023-70 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GENERATOR REQUEST – NO ACTION TAKEN

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by _____, to approve Motion #2023-70, to approve the purchase of a generator, to be paid for from ARPA Funds, by request of Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Management Director.

No action taken at this time.

MOTION #2023-71 – SENIOR RESOURCES OF WEST MICHIGAN 14 FY 2024 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN APPROVAL

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy, to approve the FY 2024 Annual Implementation Plan for the Senior Resources of West Michigan 14 as presented.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-64A – AMENDMENT OF MOTION #2023-64 – SHERIFF SALARY INCREASE AND UNDERSHERIFF WAGE FREEZE

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Beggs, to amend the previously adopted Motion #2023-64 from May 25, 2023, to temporarily freeze the Undersheriff’s wages to clarify that this freeze applies to cost-of-living increases only, unless or until such increase is specifically considered by the Board of Commissioners and that effective the first payroll period possible or after this meeting, the Sheriff will receive a total amount of annual salary of \$92,000/year for 2023 and to authorize Administration to make the necessary calculations to pro-rate this new total through the remaining payroll periods in 2023. In the first payroll of 2024, the then current annual total salary amount will be re-adjusted to pro-rate this amount over the number of payrolls per year.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-72 – COUNTY TREASURER’S OFFICE WORK HOUR INCREASE FOR 6 MONTHS

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs, to approve Motion#2023-72, allowing the County Treasurer’s office to increase work hours, to 40 hours per week, through December 31, 2023 and allow the County Administrator to make the adjustments to the Treasurer’s budget.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-73 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson, to adopt Motion #2023-73, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for June 8, 2023.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| AMBULANCE | \$1,229.80 |
| GIS | -0- |
| FOC | -0- |
| PENTWATER-HART TRAIL | -0- |
| SHELBY TWP COMM PARK | -0- |
| BROWNFIELD | 3,175.10 |
| AUTOMATION R.O.D. | -0- |
| INDIGENT DEFENSE | 7,395.44 |
| LCOT | -0- |
| K9 UNIT | -0- |
| CJT | -0- |
| CDBG | -0- |
| ARPA | -0- |
| VETERANS AFFAIRS | 3,599.99 |
| TECH & INNOVATION | 2,925.67 |
| CAPITAL PROJ/EQUIP REP | 8,971.29 |
| PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT | -0- |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT | 2,634.24 |
| GENERAL FUND | 294,745.49 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$321,501.92 |

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Morse suggested that Motion #2023-71, be amended to include wording that would prioritize the elderly population in Oceana County regardless of their race, sexual orientation, immigration status, etc.

MOTION #2023-71A – AMENDMENT OF MOTION #2023-71 – SENIOR RESOURCES AIP

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Beggs, to amend Motion #2023-71, to include wording: “People should be treated with dignity regardless of their race, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, ethnicity, etc. We also acknowledge, that people also have prejudices against people simply based on their race, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, etc. which we do not condone. Nevertheless, we believe the goal to improve the Accessibility of Services to Michigan’s Communities and People of Color, Immigrants, and LGBTQ+ Individuals is overemphasized in this AIP. The objectives should be solely to help the elderly people in our community.”

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Erickson mentioned that Colfax Township Board has passed a contract with Walkerville Area Fire Department and provided updates regarding Fire Board Services. Mr. Erickson reminded the other Commissioners that the Asparagus Festival will take place this coming weekend.

Public Comment

Mr. Garry McKeen, Benona Township resident, spoke in front of legislature as a representative of the Oceana County Conservation District. There will be \$19.2 billion in funding, allotted to farmers from the National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). However, due to being understaffed in Oceana County, the NRCS is having a hard time helping farmers in our area.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

Mr. Walker, Chairperson

Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance and Administration Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10:55 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Hardy.

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Ms. Marilyn Passmore, Charter Communications Director of Government Affairs; Ms. Chris Conroy, Pentwater Village resident and Broadband Taskforce Member; Ms. Amy Florea, Senior Resources of West Michigan Community Services Director; Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer; and Sheriff Mast.

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2023 Finance and Administration Committee meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Ms. Marilyn Passmore, Charter Communications Director of Government Affairs, provided a presentation for Charter Communications expansion network in Oceana County. Before Covid-19, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had began a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), which allowed for unallocated universal funds to be reverse auctioned. The first auction was to allow for funding to provide broadband to unregistered census blocks. The second auction, which has not taken place yet, will allow for funding to provide broadband to underserved communities. 33 counties in Michigan will be added to Charter Communications' broadband service network.

Mr. Morse inquired if the funding for Charter Communications' expansion was the same as, or different, as the Robin Grant. Ms. Passmore indicated that it is completely different and that the Robin Grant will be in separate protected areas for installation. There will be 45-day review/objection cycles for providers to make sure that areas aren't being provided with a duplication of services. Mr. Morse introduced some members of the Broadband Taskforce to Ms. Passmore and thanked her for her presentation.

Ms. Chris Conroy, Pentwater Township resident and Broadband Taskforce Member, asked Ms. Passmore for the Robin Grant plans to be provided. Ms. Passmore replied that the plans will be available once they have been finalized.

Ms. Amy Florea, Senior Resources of West Michigan Community Services Director, brought forth consideration of a motion regarding Senior Resources of West Michigan's 2024 annual implementation plan.

Mr. Morse voiced his concerns over the implementation plan overcompensating for prejudices. Mr. Beggs denoted that he had the same concerns.

Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer, requested an increase from 35 hours to 40 hours per week for the staff. Due to staff members leaving, the Treasurer's Office has been unable to lessen the

backlog of work. Ms. Phillips noted that she will be asking during budget season to keep her office at a 40-hour work week and that she will be requesting an additional stipend for her position.

Mr. Walker recommended that during budget season, discussion should be addressed regarding all elected officials' salaries.

Mr. Hardy queried about fringe benefits and the increased cost to the county for increased weekly hours.

Ms. Byard did not read the claims for payment, 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 | | | \$ 1,183.34 | to Republic Services for the removal of trash. |
| 260 - Indigent Defense Fund | | | \$ 4,828.00 | to Hayes Law Office, PLC for court appointed attorney fees. |
| 243- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority | | | \$ 3,175.10 | to Fishbeck for services rendered |
| 298 - Technology and Innovation | | | \$ 2,007.50 | to SHI for Machinery and Equipment. |
| 405 - Capital Projects | | | \$ 8,949.00 | to Scheid Plumbing Heating & Cooling for new lavatory replacement material at the Jail. |
| General Fund | | | | |
| 283 - Circuit Court | | | \$ 1,180.00 | to Eric R Fox for court appointed attorney fees. |
| 301 - Sheriff | | | \$ 1,896.64 | to AT&T mobility |
| | | | \$ 8,591.81 | to Wex Bank for fuel. |
| | | | \$ 3,075.24 | to Kiesler's Police Supply for ammunition |
| 351 - Jail | | | \$ 1,402.34 | to Gordon Food Service. |
| 528 - Transfer Station | | | \$ 16,743.60 | to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material. |
| | | | \$ 2,400.00 | to Ferry Township for annual lease payment. |
| 601 - Health Department | | | \$ 5,300.00 | to DHD#10 for monthly lease payment. |
| 649 - Mental Health | | | \$ 10,833.33 | to West Michigan Community Mental Health. |
| 701 - Planning | | | \$ 1,800.00 | to WMSRDC for technical assistance services rendered on the Oceana County Master & Recreation Plans update. |
| ~ Total | | | \$ 71,565.90 | |

Administrator's Report (as provided by Ms. Byard):

An Administrator's Report was not provided at this time.

Department Head Reports

Sheriff Mast indicated that there is a current jail population of 52 inmates. The population has remained steady and all is going well.

Closed Session

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Walker to enter in to closed session for discussion regarding a written legal opinion.

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

Motion carried.

The Finance and Administration Committee meeting recessed at 11:53 a.m.

The Finance and Administration Committee meeting reconvened at 12:19 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk

Courts and Public Safety Committee

The Courts and Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beggs, on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10:03 a.m. in the Board Conference Room.

Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Beggs.

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Dr. Karen Moore, Indigent Defense Coordinator; Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Management Director; Sheriff Mast; Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission Chair; Mr. Greg Bouse, Golden Township resident.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023, Courts and Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Beggs asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were mentioned.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Dr. Karen Moore, Indigent Defense Coordinator, provided an update regarding Indigent Defense. The application for the 2024 Grant Year was submitted before the April 26th deadline. Some indirect costs will be able to be reimbursed. Standard #8, hourly rates, have been elevated by 21% from the original 2018 rates.

Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Management Director, requested discussion and a motion regarding a request for a generator, to be paid for from ARPA Funds, for the Emergency Management Department. The generator would be installed at the County Services Building (CSB) due to it is the backup emergency relations center. The County Services Building is also considered to be an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and can be utilized when Mason-Oceana 911 phone lines, due to a natural disaster/emergency, are overrun with calls; emergency calls can be routed to the GIC.

Mr. Beggs inquired as to what type of event would cause an EOC to be put in to use. Mr. Maloney noted that natural events, such as tornadoes, polar vortexes, hazmat events, etc., would be reasons to utilize the EOC. Mr. Beggs requested clarification that it would be large events/disasters that would trigger an EOC use. Mr. Maloney confirmed that an EOC would be for large natural events/disasters.

Mr. Erickson noted that the EOC is located at an Oceana County satellite building and that the current county seat/jail needs a new generator. He wondered why the EOC location couldn't be moved to the EMS building, next to DHD #10, because it already has a backup generator at that location. Mr. Maloney noted that the EMS building does not have the technology installed that the CSB does and that essentially the EMS building is just a garage.

Mr. Walker suggested that this topic be turned over to the Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee for further due diligence.

Mr. Erickson questioned if Oceana County still had a reciprocal agreement with Newaygo County for inmate housing in case of a natural disaster. Sheriff Mast affirmed that there is an agreement with Newaygo and Mason counties.

Department Head Report

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission Chair, provided an update regarding the Township Parks in Oceana County:

- Cedar Point Park – the beach boardwalk is at 80% completion and the shelter has been started; both projects were gifts to the County via donations.
- Black Lake Park – the campground has been well booked and has already created \$6,100 in revenue due to reservations.
- Crystal Valley Park – has had an issue with vandalism; township residents have been helping keep the park picked up; the township will be filing for the SPARK Grant to help cover the costs of park renovations.
- Gale’s Pond Park and Doolittle Park – will begin hosting their Knee-High Naturalist classes again.
- Mill Pond Park – has a new grass mower.
- Marshville Dam Park – the EGLE permit has been issued and the rest of the renovations will be completed in 2024.

Mr. Maloney provided a brief overview of the Emergency Management Department and the work that has been done for the upcoming Electric Forest Festival. There will be a presentation/meeting on June 15th, hosted at the CSB, regarding the limited access emergency preparedness meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Greg Bouse, Golden Township resident, expressed his displeasure regarding the cell phone tower across from his property and the intermittent humming that is coming from it.

Ms. Chris Conroy, Pentwater Village resident, thanked Mr. McKeen for all of his hard work, especially on the Otto Nature Preserve.

Chairperson Beggs asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk