

**Board Conference Room
October 12, 2023
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 11:30 a.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; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Mr. David Borgeson, Claybanks Township property owner; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2023 budget workshop meeting and the September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare any conflicts of interest on the agenda items. Mr. Beggs declared a conflict of interest with the request for an engine replacement of the K-9 unit as the company he owns has submitted a bid for this job.

Chairperson Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Walker announced that there will be no action taken on the motion regarding the annexation of land to the Village of Shelby.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. David Borgeson, Claybanks Township property owner was present to urge the County Board's assistance with blighted property in this county.

Chairperson Walker stated that Oceana County does not have a countywide zoning ordinance, therefore, the issue cannot be addressed by the County, rather, it should be taken to the township where the blighted property is located.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2023- 103– TWO SEVEN OH! GRANT AGREEMENT EXTENSION

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Morse to approve the grant modification agreement with Two Seven Oh! For the Oceana County Animal Control to extend the grant through November 1, 2023 and allow Chair to sign.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-104 – ANNEXATION OF LAND TO VILLAGE OF SHELBY REVISION

Moved by _____ and supported by _____ to revise resolution #23-09 including Exhibits A and B annexing lands to the Village of Shelby resulting in lands to be included within the corporate limits of the Village of Shelby as requested by the Village of Shelby

No Action taken.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-105 – PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATES

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy to conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget and property tax millage rates to be levied to support the revenue projections and expenditure commitments for fiscal Year 2024, on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room, Hart, MI

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-106 – APPROVAL OF APPORTIONMENT REPORT AND FORM L4402

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Morse to adopt the proposed Resolution #23-11 approving the 2023 Apportionment Report of Oceana County millage rates as calculated and compiled by the Oceana County Equalization Department and authorizing the Oceana County Equalization Director to complete and sign Michigan Department of Treasury form L-4402 to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury in a timely fashion.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-108 – APPROVAL OF ENGINE REPLACEMENT

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the replacement of an engine in a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe not to exceed \$7,300 with the County Administrator to make the budget adjustment.

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

Motioned carried.

Mr. Hardy stated that his recommendation was to award the bid to Mears Service Center. The remaining board members concurred.

MOTION #2023-107 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Motion #2023-107, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for October 12, 2023.

AMBULANCE	\$23,136.84
GIS	-0-
FOC	-0-
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	-0-

SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	-0-
BROWNFIELD	-0-
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	2,094.30
INDIGENT DEFENSE	24,684.99
LCOT	-0-
K9 UNIT	-0-
CJT	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	4,043.52
VETERANS AFFAIRS	5,846.38
TECH & INNOVATION	5,726.57
CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
FORECLOSURE	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	13,854.93
GENERAL FUND	564,569.55
GRAND TOTAL	\$643,957.08

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

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Borgeson reiterated his concern with blighted properties in Oceana County and offered suggestions that the County could possibly collaborate with the townships to address the issues with blighted properties. Chairman Walker stated that the County Treasurer is very active with the Land Bank and has received grant money to clean up blighted properties. There may be options to receive some assistance through the Land Bank, but certain conditions must be met in order to qualify.

Mr. Morse offered that the Michigan Township Association (MTA) is an organization that meets every other month and one of their main topics of discussion is blighted property.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Beggs stated that he has had a lot of interest and questions raised as a result of the County Board of Commissioners’ opposition to the statewide septic code. He also stated that there is now a push to pull the local control of solar and wind farms and to have that regulated by a State of Michigan public entity.

Mr. Hardy reported that last week at the 911 personnel meeting, they have been looking at ways to attract and retain employees.

Mr. Morse reported that the Developer Day had very good attendance and that it will become an annual event.

Mr. Erickson reported that he attended various township meetings and mentioned that the townships have some of the same concerns as what the County has. He also mentioned that the Oceana County Fair Board will be hosting riders and horses for the Shoreline Ride for the month of November. The DNR will be in Oceana County for their quarterly meeting at the Hart Community Center where they will be exploring the possibility of opening up the William D. Field Memorial Trail to horses from Hart to Montague.

Mr. Morse interjected that at the Oceana GOP meeting on Tuesday, Sheriff Mast spoke about his experience and stated that the presentation was very informative and eye opening.

Clerk Anderson stated that she is in the process of interviews for the vacant position in her office.

Administrator Byard stated that Curtis Burdette mentioned that they would like to have another Developer Day next year. He also suggested that the commissioners could be at the locations in the respective districts to meet up with the people on the bus and talk about their areas.

Chairman Walker reported that Valley City Metals is in the process of requesting the Industrial Facilities Tax exemption. Mr. Morse stated that he was not familiar with what the Industrial Facilities Tax exemption was and asked for clarification. Mr. Hardy provided some clarification for Mr. Morse.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 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, October 12, 2023, at 10:49 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; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the September 28, 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

Administrator Byard brought forth consideration to adopt a revision to the Annexation Resolution #23-09. After some discussion, Mr. Walker suggested that no action be taken.

Administrator Byard requested consideration of a motion to set the public hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget and property tax millage rate to be levied.

Mr. Edward VanderVries requested consideration of adoption of Resolution #23-11 approving the 2023 Apportionment Report of millage rates as presented by the Equalization Director.

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			\$ 3,410.00	to Ferry Township Fire Department
			\$ 7,590.00	to Pentwater Fire Department
			\$ 6,820.00	to Shelby/Benona Fire Department
			\$ 4,356.10	to MMRMA for quarter liability insurance.
256 - Automation Fund R.O.D.			\$ 2,094.30	to GovOS, Inc for software fees.
260 - Indigent Defense			\$ 5,588.00	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 7,495.00	to Hayes Law Office, PLC for court appointed attorney fees.

	\$ 7,112.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
286 ARPA	\$ 3,353.56	to River's Ace for Grant Twp Fire Dept.
298 - Technology and Innovation	\$ 3,080.00	to ESRI for annual software maintenance contract.
	\$ 1,513.00	to Trace3 for Dell BOM.
549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 4,785.55	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,736.90	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,050.00	to Shoreline Inspection Service LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
General Fund		
208 - Insurance	\$ 44,588.90	to MMRMA for quarter liability insurance.
228 - Data Processing	\$ 1,900.00	to GovOS, Inc for software fees.
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 3,129.60	To Jurors for Juror Fees.
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Hayes Law Office for appropriations for November 2023.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Springstead Law Offices for appropriations for October 2023.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 1,192.25	to AT&T mobility
	\$ 8,596.16	to Wex Bank for fuel.
351 - Jail	\$ 1,297.68	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 13,854.48	to Advanced Correctional Healthcare for on-site medical services per contract.
	\$ 4,198.82	to City of Hart for utilities
	\$ 1,994.06	to Charm-Tex for clothing and bedding.
601 - Health Department	\$ 42,788.75	to DHD#10 for 2023 appropriation.
649 - Mental Health	\$ 10,833.33	to West Michigan Community Mental Health.
710 - MSU Extension	\$ 35,532.25	to MSUE Business Office for the 4th qtr assessment fee per agreement.
728 - Economic & Community Dev.	\$ 4,480.00	to Michigan State University for OCEA clerical support.
~ Total	\$ 246,118.53	

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

BUDGET

We have been finalizing items that were discussed during the budget meeting. Information will be forwarded to provide answers to questions raised.

MAC CONFERENCE

The MAC Conference provided a wealth of information.

A workplace strategist presented about the multi-generational workplace discussing the motivations, difference and communication styles for the different generations and how to get them to work collaboratively.

A legislative update was provided by Deena Bosworth. There are continued discussions relating to a revenue sharing trust fund that would allow our revenue sharing to continue for years to come. Currently there is an increase of 7% with some ongoing funding and some one-time allocations. The trust fund would carve out a portion of the State sales tax for statutory revenue sharing and secure dedication of that revenue for revenue sharing only. House Bills 4605-06 has been presented for the purpose of a public safety trust fund. There is more to come on these bills. There is still discussion relating to the Veterans Tax Exemption. The bills would replace the funds that were taken from counties when the tax exemption was implemented. They aren't in favor of the way that it was presented and are looking for other avenues to get those funds back in the hands of the counties. There was a task force that worked on Juvenile Justice Reform completing and assessment in July 2022 with 32 recommendations coming from that assessment. As a result, the Child Care reimbursement was increased to 75% for community-based services to allow counties to implement research and evidence-based practices. They will continue to work to ensure funding for current and future MIDC standard to maintain a grant disbursement model.

There was continued discussion on the Materials Management Planning. Our local Administrators discussed these changes and we will be meeting again in November for further planning discussions.

A session was held on Reimagining Local Government: How AI Technology is Transforming the County Operations Landscape. When I read this intro, I thought this session had more to do with AI in general. However, this information was presented by NACO and had more to do with one specific AI tool that governments are starting to utilize. There is a program called ChatGPT and it is being utilized by many for writing just about anything. You type in a question and it can be as broad as you want it to be and it will respond back with all of that information. If you ask for a list, that is what it provides. Counties are starting to utilize this tool for job descriptions, reports and anything else you might think of. NACO is putting together an exploratory committee to put together a toolkit and guide for utilizing this program.

Additional Administrator's Report Items

West Central Michigan County Alliance Meeting is being held on October 30. As of November 1 all bonds should be paid in full. Staff is reviewing the RFP for county auditors. A decision needs to be made regarding any wage increases to employees and elected officials. A workshop for Thursday, October 19 at 9:00 will be held to discuss the wages.

Department Head Reports

There were no department head reports at this time.

Public Comment

James Kelly brought forth a response to audio from the Special Finance and Administrative meeting that was held on September 26, 2023.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.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, October 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Mr. Daniel Yost, Grant Township Fire Chief and Training Chairperson for Oceana County Firefighters Association; Mr. Ryan Schiller, Oceana County Undersheriff; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes of the September 14, 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. Morse and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Yost reported some of the ARPA funds that were granted were used for building a fire/police training facility. He provided a photograph of the current state and explained the plans for the finished site. He was hopeful that it will be in full use next year. He also pointed out that most of the materials/labor were donated.

Agenda Items

Administrator Byard requested consideration to approve the Grant Modification Agreement with Two Seven Oh, Inc. to be extended through the end of October, 2023.

Undersheriff Ryan Schiller requested consideration of an engine replacement for a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe. He explained that replacement of the engine in comparison to obtaining a vehicle replacement would be the best fiscally wise decision.

Department Head Report

Mr. Troy Maloney, Emergency Manager, wanted to express his thanks for the efforts on behalf of the Hazardous Waste Mitigation Plan. Mr. Stephen Carlson, WMSRDC-needs to document there is interest and due to the grant, he has to ask the questions.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission, reported that ARPA money has been spent on the Gales Pond east walk replacement. This project should be completed next week. He also reported that the commission members are in the process of reviewing the comments regarding the 5-year plan. He offered his thanks to many in the community for responding as well as the Conservation District and The Oceana ECHO, and Stephen Carlson who provided the QR code to the public. There have been 121 responses. The responses varied and he pointed out that among them there was a desire for more walking trails and to have more information regarding what is available. He also stated that there were numerous positive comments as well. The 5-year plan should be finalized in late January or early February and will be brought before the County Commissioners. Mr. McKeen reported that the Crystal Valley Spark grant was not accepted thru the DNR. He also noted that the recreation groups from Hart, Pentwater, Walkerville and Shelby have met several times over the past several years, however, only Hart, Pentwater and Walkerville have indicated they would like to participate.

Undersheriff Schiller gave an update on staffing levels. He reported that the department is down three full time positions. He mentioned that there are two individuals who will be attending the academy in January and there are a few others interested. He did report that the corrections department is currently fully staffed.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Beggs asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk