

**Board Conference Room
November 9, 2023
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 11:50 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; Ms. Stacia Erickson, The Oceana Echo correspondent; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Mr. Morse requested a correction in the minutes. The correction was regarding Sheriff Mast and Sheriff Cole's discussion topic on hip pod cast. Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as amended.

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. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson to approve the agenda as presented. Morse – take no action on #2023-121 discussion

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2023-119 – APPOINTMENT TO DHHS BOARD

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Morse to appoint Mr. Dale Danes to the Oceana County Department of Health and Human Services for a three-year term that is effective October 31, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

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

Motion carried.

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

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy to revise Motion #2026-105 changing the date of the 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, from Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. to Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room, Hart, MI.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-120 – ADOPTION OF “HARD CAP” LIMITATIONS FOR 2024 MEDICAL BENEFIT PLAN COVERAGE YEAR

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Beggs to adopt, under PA 152, “hard cap” limitations in Section 3 of the Act (MCL 15.563) for the 2024 Medical benefit plan coverage year for all eligible employees, as identified in Section 2(h) of the Act (MCL 15.562(h)).

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-121 – REINSTATEMENT OF MDHHS APPROPRIATION

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy to reinstate the appropriation to the Oceana County MDHHS for Social Welfare for FY 2024 in the amount of \$8,000.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – no; Mr. Hardy – no; Mr. Beggs – no; Mr. Morse – no; and Mr. Walker – no.

Motion failed.

MOTION #2023-122 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson, to adopt Motion #2023-122, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for November 9, 2023.

AMBULANCE	\$253,745.82
GIS	-0-
FOC	2,194.06
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	338,241.65
BROWNFIELD	1,631.92
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	1,926.60
INDIGENT DEFENSE	14,495.98
LCOT	97.18
K9 UNIT	124.78
CJT	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	13,790.00
VETERANS AFFAIRS	1,919.50
TECH & INNOVATION	7,992.36
CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
FORECLOSURE	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	22,990.43
GENERAL FUND	290,875.30
GRAND TOTAL	\$950,025.58

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner's Reports

Mr. Morse reported that Mr. Vince Greiner is not seeking to be reappointed to the Oceana County Planning Commission and acknowledged his many years of service to the community. He also stated that they are looking for a replacement that would also represent the Road Commission. He noted that he attended the Oceana County Road Commission reception last Thursday where Mr. Mark Timmer provided a presentation. Mr. Morse reported that tonight there will be a gathering with the Oceana County Historical Society at the research station. He also advised that there will be a virtual meeting that he, Mr. Curtis Burdette, and Ms. Tammy Carey will attend with Mr. Jeffrey Donohoe, Jeffrey Donohoe Associates, LLC, the consulting company that wrote the Economic Diversification and Training Study. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the dissatisfaction with the report as well as what was expected.

Mr. Erickson reported that he will be meeting with Mr. James Tiffany at the Crystal Valley Dam to discuss the project. He stated that he attended the Colfax Township meeting. He reported that the new township hall is very nice and the old township hall was torn down recently. He also reported that Newfield Township has a very nice new recycling center. He noted that he has spent some time with the DNR where horses have been the topic of discussion. He reminded that the Shoreline Dune Ride for horses at the Silver Lake Sand Dunes is going on during the month of November. He also mentioned that there has been some discussion regarding the opening of the William D. Field Rail Trail to equines from Montague to Hart.

Mr. Hardy stated that he spoke with the Mayor of the City of Hart. He indicated that the City of Hart has applied for a grant and is working with West Shore Community College and Muskegon Community College to convert the former Village Market (formerly Gales IGA) to a local educational center.

Ms. Byard reminded the board that the next board meeting will not be until December 7 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Chairperson Walker informed the board that he had a meeting with Mr. James Kelly, MSUE Director to express his personal concern regarding the friction that there may be between MSUE and the volunteers on the Oceana County Fair Board and 4H. He also stated that he sincerely hopes that these issues are quickly resolved.

Public Comment

Mr. James Kelly, MSUE Director stated that he is eager to discuss and work on these issues as well.

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.

Amy L. Anderson Oceana Deputy Clerk

Date

Mr. Walker, Chairperson

Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance and Administration Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 11:04 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. Walker and supported by Mr. Erickson to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2023 Finance and Administration Committee meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Morse requested the addition of a conversation regarding the Building Department Fund Report. Chairperson Hardy noted that the discussion would be added prior to the Department Head Reports.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Ms. Byard requested consideration to adopt Hard Caps for the County Insurance.

Ms. Byard requested consideration to revise the public hearing motion for the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget and property tax millage rate to be levied from November 9, 2023 to December 7, 2023.

Ms. Byard requested consideration of the Oceana MDHHS budget request for the Social Welfare FY 2024.

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

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

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
Special Revenue Funds				
210 - Ambulance			\$ 246,620.56	to Life EMS for the quarterly service agreement.
			\$ 2,970.00	to Hesperia Fire Department for MFR costs
			\$ 3,850.00	to Walkerville Fire Department for MFR costs
215 - Friend of the Court			\$ 2,194.06	to Image Soft for professional services and icloud storage

239 - Shelby Twp Community Park	\$ 27,625.00	to Full Throttle Excavating for work on Shelby Township Park
	\$ 102,616.65	to Landscape Architects & Planners for project services. Fully reimbursed via private donations.
	\$ 208,000.00	to Single Phase Electric for work on Shelby Township park
243 - Brownfield Redevelopment	\$ 1,631.92	to Curtis Burdette for travel and lodging
256 - Automation ROD	\$ 1,926.60	to GovOS, Inc for software fees.
260 - Indigent Defense	\$ 5,833.33	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
	\$ 8,029.50	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
286 ARPA	\$ 13,790.00	to Blackmer Construction for work done at Gale's Pond.
293 - Veteran Affairs	\$ 1,477.98	to Consumers Energy for indigent veteran/dependent expense
	\$ 1,713.00	to Fastsigns for decals for Veterans van
298 - Technology and Innovation	\$ 4,630.50	to Solid Design software for software
	\$ 2,394.16	to SHI for Machinery and Equipment.
549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 8,462.05	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 4,522.10	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,247.93	to Sonnie Smith for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.

General Fund		
257 - Equalization	\$ 18,150.00	to V&V Assessing for equalization and assessing services.
262 - Elections	\$ 2,042.13	to Spectrum Printers for election ballots
265 - Courthouse & Grounds	\$ 1,242.50	to Republic Service for trash removal
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 1,849.36	to Jurors for Juror fees.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Hayes Law Office for appropriations for December 2023.
	\$ 4,223.92	to Springstead Law Offices for appropriations for December 2023.
	\$ 2,422.93	to the Mason County Treasurer for fringe benefits
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services.
286 - District Court	\$ 2,450.97	to the Mason County Treasurer for fringe benefits
294 - Probate Court	\$ 1,125.00	to Barkow Law Company for Guardianship fees.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 1,284.10	to Cardmember Services for employee travel and contractual services.
	\$ 6,871.05	to Wex Bank for fuel.
	\$ 1,879.65	to NYE Uniform for Uniforms.
351 - Jail	\$ 3,221.51	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 1,123.07	to Correctional Recovery for medical billing services.
	\$ 1,295.55	to Muskegon Fire Equipment for fire extinguisher inspection
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 5,682.00	to Geocycle for tire disposal
	\$ 53,203.55	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
	\$ 2,026.00	to Beckman Brothers for crushed asphalt

~	Total	\$ 767,152.55
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Administrator’s Report *(as provided by Ms. Byard):*

WEST CENTRAL MICHIGAN COUNTY ALLIANCE

The West Central Michigan County Alliance was held at the Pavilion at Waters Edge in Newaygo County. Senator Rick Outman and Representative Joseph Fox were in attendance and provided a brief report. The Michigan Association of Counties was also in attendance providing updates as well. The next meeting will be held on April 29, 2024 in Oceana County.

VISIT TO ARBRE FARMS

Don Squire with OPC-Arbre Farms invited me to their facility to discuss their wastewater project. They provided a presentation relating to the requirements by EGLE. They asked if we would assist with letters of support or speaking with any lobbyists within our organizations.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT MEETING

A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, November 3rd with surrounding counties to discuss the Materials Management Plan. A proposal has been provided by WMSRDC. We will be discussing that proposal and other avenues for the plan. There will be more to come.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

The annual Halloween Party was held on October 31, 2023, Halloween. We had a great turn out. There were many that participated in the costumes and door decorating. A great time was had by all.

Mr. Morse began a discussion regarding the Building Department report. He noticed the Fund Balance has been increasing over the years and wondered if it would be possible to temporarily reduce the fees to obtain permits on a trial basis. He stated that this may attract additional building projects throughout the county. Upon much discussion, the consensus was that a reduction in fees would not increase the number of building permits sold.

Department Head Reports

There were no department head reports at this time.

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 11:41 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, November 9, 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: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. Jim Herrema, Life EMS Deputy Director of North Operations; Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Manager; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the October 12, 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. Erickson to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Mr. Jim Herrema, Life EMS Deputy Director of North Operations, was present and provided the third quarter report. He pointed out that Life EMS is now offering a Behavioral Health Transport program that started approximately one year ago and is based out of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The vehicle used for this type of transport is a Ford Escape that is set up similar to a police vehicle. This type of transport is for non-violent and/or non-court ordered transports that do not require an EMT or a paramedic. The use of this vehicle allows the ambulance to remain available for medical transports and emergency calls. He also stated that currently there are five vehicles set up for behavioral transports with two more that are in the process of becoming set up as well. He also mentioned that he and Mr. Jeff Stockhill, are members of the West Michigan Regional Protocol Group where they develop medical and treatment protocols. He also reported that the State of Michigan has adopted some of these protocols that this group has developed. He relayed some events that they participated in such as the Silver Lake Apple and BBQ Fest where they were on standby and Ford Motor Company had contacted them and asked Life EMS to be available as standby during a commercial they were filming in Silver Lake in case of an emergency. He noted that a main focus remains to be staffing issues. Life EMS offers a 12-week "Academy" style program and just had 13 graduates from the "Academy" in Fremont. Life EMS would like to once again offer the "Academy" in Hart next spring. Attended career day at West Shore Community College consisting of juniors and seniors to determine the level of interest of a possible "Academy" in the spring. He stated that there did seem to be a valuable interest for the academy.

Mr. Walker stated that he appreciated the program for behavioral transports. He inquired if anyone from Life EMS had attended any Mental Health Board meetings to provide a presentation on behavioral transports?

Department Head Report

Mr. Troy Maloney, Oceana County Emergency Manager, was present to provide an update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He mentioned that the only jurisdictions that have not responded or joined the plan are: Hesperia Village, Weare Township, Newfield Township and Walkerville Village. He reiterated that it is not mandatory that they join.

Mr. Maloney stated that Hart Fire Department is in the final process of receiving their MFR certification. The paperwork has been approved, but are waiting on a state inspection of the rescue vehicle.

Ms. Byard indicated that a letter was received stating that the Hazard Mitigation Plan was to be adopted by September 15, however the plan needs to be reviewed by MSP and FEMA. She also stated that it is not known how long that will take. The plan can either be adopted now or wait until it has been reviewed. Ms. Byard's recommendation was to wait until the review has been completed to adopt.

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 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk

Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee

The Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator, Mr. Jon Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Ms. Christine Jensen, Hart Township resident/applicant for appointment to DHHS Board; Mr. Dale Danes, Shelby Township resident/applicant for appointment to DHHS Board; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Walker and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morse asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were presented.

Moved by Mr. Beggs 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.

Agenda Items

Mr. Morse stated that brief interviews will be conducted for the appointment to the DHHS Board at this time. The appointment will be for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026. Two letters of interest were received, one from Ms. Christine Jensen and one from Mr. Dale Danes. Mr. Morse stated that the interviews would be individually conducted. He began the interviews and encouraged the board members to ask questions they may have.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Chairperson Morse asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk