

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Joseph Brehler, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott and Jeanne Pearl-Wright.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jeremy Whittum, Barbara Rogers; Doug Lloyd, Amy Etzel, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie.

The November 28, 2022 special meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mulder discussed the search for a Controller/Administrator to consider utilizing a consultant to conduct a search for candidates. A Request for Proposal for consultants would likely result in the cost for the search being between \$15,000 - \$20,000. Commissioner Mulder discussed a contract with the new administrator to provide protections for the Board related to notice of termination.

Commissioner Augustine discussed placing Deputy Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie in the position on an interim basis in the short or potentially long term.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright discussed other searches with consultants where only final candidates are interviewed by the Board.

Commissioner Mott indicated support for Connie Sobie being considered for the position.

Commissioner Droscha discussed the plan for Connie Sobie with respect to a contract and the purpose. The primary benefit to the County would be to ensure a specific resignation time frame requirement.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser inquired what the purpose of an interim designation would be and how long Connie Sobie would consider for a contract. Ms. Sobie indicated she would be interested in discussing a specific term.

Commissioner Augustine discussed the importance of creating a transition and that being the consideration for interim status.

Commissioner Brehler discussed if the interest is in reaching an agreement with Connie Sobie as the Controller/Administrator, then an interim status would not be necessary. Interim indicates a search would be conducted. Commissioner Brehler expressed the concern with utilizing a consultant in the search being that the individual will provide their determination of the top candidates. Being involved in previous searches there

have been qualified candidates that may not have been recommended by the consultant, but would have been the best fit for the organization.

There was discussion regarding Controller Fuentes providing recommendations for changes within the Controller's Office staffing structure prior to his departure.

There was discussion regarding a sub-committee of Ways and Means conducting an interview with Connie Sobie. If there is not a recommendation for Connie Sobie to be appointed as Controller/Administrator, then conduct a search. Chairman Mulder suggested those member being himself, Commissioner Augustine and Commissioner Mott.

Commissioner Brehler moved for Commissioners Mulder, Mott and Augustine to interview Connie Sobie regarding her interest in the position, experience and qualifications and to make a recommendation to Ways and Means on Friday, December 16, 2022. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder requested committee members submit specific questions to the interview panel.

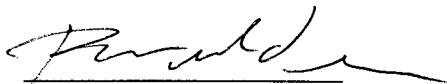
The Committee discussed conducting an exit interview with Controller Fuentes.

Commissioner Rogers indicated her support in the motion by the Committee.

No Public Comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held on Friday, December 16, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room at the County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.


Chairman Blake Mulder