

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Joe Brehler, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, and Barbara Rogers.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, TJ Youngquist; Ben Dawson, Tim Vandermark, Chad Powers, Bob Robinson, Amanda Pollard, Kelley Cunningham, Melissa Ballard, and Connie Sobie.

The December 15, 2023 meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the November 9, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented and reviewed the 2023 Equalization Studies with the Committee. Following is a summary of the study: Agricultural up 7.35%, Commercial up 4.45%, Industrial up 5.3%, Residential up 10.6% and Developmental up 8.21% for a total average of Real Property of 8.96%.

PA 116 Farmland and Open Space Preservation Application Resolution was moved by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously.

County Treasurer Bob Robinson gave the Investment Report and also announced his plans to retire at the end of 2024.

Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update. Commissioner Brehler questioned the relevance of the CBT Program since it has been closed for two years. Amanda Pollard, Juvenile Court Director, stated the program is vital but has been faced with staffing and wage challenges. Commissioner Brehler moved to authorize the filling of all open positions. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Excess Workers Compensation insurance one year renewal by Midwest Employers Casualty was presented. Commissioner Augustine moved to approve the renewal proposal with Midwest Employers Casualty for one year, as presented. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to continue the Controller Flexibility Related to Personnel Policy Manual through 2024 was moved by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Connie Sobie, Controller/Administrator, and Ben Dawson, Human Resources Director, presented information on increasing the weekly short-term disability by 2%. Commissioner Augustine moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Controller's Office has received formal requests from both the Sheriff Command (COAM) and the Sheriff Non-Supervisory (POAM) bargaining units to enter into early bargaining. The Controller's Office is requesting the Ways and Means Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioner's to authorize contract negotiations immediately. Commissioner Augustine moved to approve. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Melissa Ballard, Finance Director, gave the health insurance report. She also stated they are in the process of preparing for the audit and also working with the new software, Debtbooks. The Child Care Fund Report was presented. It was noted the report is favorable and as such requested the fund be left as is.

Chad Powers, Facilities Director, presented an update on the progress of the Juvenile Facility expansion and other projects. Capital spending projects over the next five years are also being looked at. A request was made for seven projects to be carried forward to the next fiscal budget as provided in the budget amendments.

Chairperson Mulder recessed the meeting for a brief break at 10:15 a.m.

Chairperson Mulder reconvened the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

A Resolution to Approve the Interim Agreement for the Operation of the Youth Facility, as introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee was moved by Commissioner Brehler and seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Connie Sobie, Controller/Administrator presented the 2023/2024 Budget Amendments. Commissioner Augustine moved the approval of the Budget Amendments as provided/presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Ballard presented a County Revenue Sharing Update explaining the details of the update which require a separate budget amendment. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Resolution To Approve Intergovernmental Agreement For Police Services – Windsor Charter Township through December 2024 was presented. Commissioner Droscha moved to approve. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to recommend the approval of the claims against the County to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

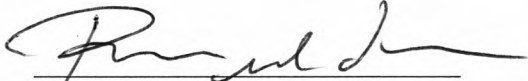
Limited Public Comment: Scott Brooks stated he appreciates the support of the Ways and Means Committee for approving the purchase of a Portable Network Data Device.

Commissioner Droscha moved to enter into closed session at 10:35 AM to discuss Collective Bargaining with Legal Counsel. Commissioner Augustine seconded. A roll call vote was taken: 7 yes and 0 no.

Commissioner Droscha moved to end closed session Motion to end closed meeting was moved by Commissioner Droscha and seconded by Commissioner Rogers at 11:38 AM.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 11:39 AM.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held in January 2024, at a date and time to be determined by the Board of Commissioners at its Organizational Meeting scheduled for January 2, 2024.


Blake Mulder, Chairperson