

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Brian Lautzenheiser.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, Frank Holmes; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, and Chad Powers.

The March 15, 2024 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.

Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie requested to remove item 10. 2023/2024 Budget Amendments. Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the February 16, 2024 closed session and regular minutes. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Administrator/Controller Connie Sobie presented a draft version of the fiscal year 2022/23 audit as well as a Resolution to Accept the September 30, 2023 Preliminary Eaton County Audit performed by the Rehmann firm. Ms. Sobie explained the findings included in the audit. Commissioner Augustine requested monthly updates from the Controller's Office to the Ways and Means Committee regarding addressing the findings. Commissioner Brehler moved to table the resolution until the final audit report is available. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update. Mr. Dawson spoke about the open positions in the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecutor's Office. Commissioner Augustine moved to support filling the vacant positions. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The final health insurance report for calendar year 2023 was presented. There was a settlement adjustment pro-rated between the health insurance fund and the retiree's health insurance fund. The report indicates a favorable ending variance of \$551,543 compared to the budget projection but an unfavorable variance of (\$416,389) compared to revenues received. Discussion held.

The Child Care Fund Report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2023/24 was presented. As of September 30, 2023, the fund has an ending fund balance of approximately \$1.4 million. Finance Director Melissa Ballard requested the monies remain in the fund until the staffing costs for the Youth Facility expansion have been considered. The Youth Facility will begin recruiting the additional positions identified in the budget in April or May 2024.

The public improvement update was presented. Facilities Director Chad Powers indicates the Youth Facility expansion is progressing on-time. The JCI project is wrapping up with the exception of some of the chargers for electric vehicles. Sidewalk repair in the complex will begin once the weather is warmer. Mr. Powers is also working on finalizing the Capital Improvement Plan to be included with the 2024/25 budget.

Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend the approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of \$434,544.72 and immediate and electronic claims in the amount of \$9,107,140.73 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

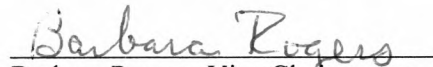
Preliminary Personnel expenditures for the 2024/2025 Budget were presented. Discussion held.

Commissioner Mott discussed the Town Hall meetings that have taken place. Generally, the feedback was positive. Discussion held.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.


Barbara Rogers, Vice Chairperson