

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, and Frank Holmes; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Jeff Cook, Claudine Williams, Amy Etzel, Logan Bailey, El Sidel, and Chad Powers.

The July 12, 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.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the June 14, 2024 closed session and regular minutes. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Deputy Administrator / Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update and reported on current open positions. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to fill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson presented the 2023 Municipal Employees Retirement Systems (MERS) Actuarial Valuation. It was reported that the funded ratio decreased from 62% to 61% and the unfunded accrued liability was calculated to be approximately \$75.3 million. Mr. Dawson indicated administration actively petitioning state and federal representatives regarding pension valuations and the long-term effects of funding requirements for pensions. Marne Daggett, a representative from MERS, has been asked to present at the August 16th, 2024 Ways and Means Committee. Discussion held.

Mr. Dawson presented the 2023 Retiree's Health Valuation. It was reported that the funded ratio increased from 32.3% in 2022 to 71.7% due to the County's change to a Medicare Advantage plan that began on 7/1/2024. The unfunded accrued liability was calculated to be approximately \$7.6 million. Discussion held.

A resolution to certify the officer and employee delegate for the MERS 2024 annual meeting was presented. It was reported that Nolan Brown was elected as the officer delegate. Commissioner Jeanne Pearl-Wright agreed to attend as the officer delegate and Andrea Cherwinski will attend as the officer alternate. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to certify Nolan Brown as the Employee Delegate, Jeanne Pearl-Wright as the Officer Delegate, Jennifer Hankins as the Employee Alternate, and Andrea Cherwinski as the Officer Alternate for the MERS annual meeting to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A Special Reclassification Request from the Treasurer's Office was presented. Treasurer Robinson requested a consultant review of the Foreclosure Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer position. Commissioner Brehler motioned to submit the requested position to the County's consultant. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson updated the committee regarding upcoming labor negotiations. The remaining labor contracts, Central Dispatch Supervisors, Central Dispatch Non-Supervisors, Maintenance, and Animal Control, expire on September 30, 2024.

Finance Director Melissa Ballard updated the committee on the status of the Audit Corrective Action Plan. The fiscal year-end projection provided an opportunity to review all accounts, budgets, and make necessary corrections.

The Health Insurance Report for May was presented. Current month health insurance claims were \$920,476. The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$546,556) compared to fund revenues. Administration continues to monitor this fund in order to ensure an appropriate fund balance for the County's fiscal year end. Discussion held.

The Child Care Fund Report for April was presented. Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures, the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2024 is \$1,748,051. Discussion held.

Ms. Ballard presented the fiscal year-end projection report for September 30, 2024. Based on these calculations, administration is projecting an ending fund balance for the County's General Fund of approximately \$7.6 million. This would be an increase of the fund balance as of approximately \$770,000. Discussion held.

Facilities Director Chad Powers presented the Public Improvement Fund Update. Mr. Powers discussed the Public Improvement fund project funding mechanisms and the decision-making process. Mr. Powers updated the committee regarding the status of the Courthouse Carpeting project, Central Dispatch Remodel, Construction Code Remodel, and the Youth Facility projects are on schedule. Discussion held.

A Resolution to Approve County Clerk Early Voting Grant Reimbursement was presented. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2023/2024 budget amendments were presented and discussed. Undersheriff Jeff Cook and Chief Deputy El Sidel spoke regarding medical costs for the jail. The Sheriff's department is actively seeking to recuperate costs from fraudulent claims related to these medical costs. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Connie Sobie presented the committee appointments that will be expiring on 12/31/2024. Commissioner Droscha indicated that Bryan Myrkle, an appointee of the Eaton County Land Bank Authority, has left the area. Ms. Sobie is communicating with the Treasurer's Office regarding this development.

No Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of \$1,275,336.49, immediate claims in the amount of \$2,987,478.04 and electronic claims in the amount of \$9,840,271.89 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder called for a break at 10:34 a.m.

Commissioner Mulder resumed the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

The 2024/2025 updated revenue and expenditure projections were presented. Ms. Sobie and Ms. Ballard discussed the changes from the prior month. The current budget proposal includes a 5% salary scale adjustment for non-represented employees and includes the salary increase per the represented employee's collective bargaining agreements. Discussion held.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

A special budget meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, July 26th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, August 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.


Blake Mulder, Chairperson