

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, Scott Hansen, Brandon Haskell; Connie Sobie, Janice Cunningham, Amy Etzel, Jeremy Mulvany, Diana Bosworth, Richard Wagner, Tom Reich, Chris Kuhlman, Rob Block, Ross Tyrell, Kelley Cunningham, Brandy Miller, Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Tim Havis, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Chad Powers, Claudine Williams, Logan Bailey, Melissa Ballard, Ben Dawson, and Doug Lloyd.

The July 26, 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.

No limited public comment.

Controller / Administrator Connie Sobie opened the meeting with a brief description of its purpose, which is to inform the public about Eaton County's various departments and the services they provide. She then gave a history of the county's budget. Ms. Sobie discussed the challenges departments have faced due to more than 20 years' worth of "continuation budgets" which dissuaded improvements and innovation. She highlighted county-wide struggles with hiring and retention as well as improvements to existing infrastructure.

Chairperson Mulder invited staff to present to the committee about the services their departments offer, as well as the services they would like to provide with additional resources available. Departments were also requested to address the struggles they face and the impact that Eaton County's budget is having on hiring and retention.

Presentations were in the following order:

Janice Cunningham – Chief Judge, Trial Courts
Amy Etzel – Trial Court Administrator
Jeremy Mulvany – Youth Services Director
Diana Bosworth – County Clerk & Register of Deeds
Richard Wagner – Drain Commissioner
Tom Reich – Sheriff
Chris Kuhlman – Administrative Services Captain
Rob Block – Field Services Captain
Ross Tyrell – Corrections Captain
Kelley Cunningham – Central Dispatch Director

Connie Sobie spoke on behalf of Ryan Wilkerson, Emergency Services Manager

Chairperson Mulder recessed the meeting starting at 10:49 a.m.

Chairperson Mulder reconvened the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Brandy Miller, Zoning Administrator & Code Enforcement Officer spoke on behalf of Chris Garrison – Construction Code Director

Jared Bogdanov-Hanna – Environmental Sustainability Director

Tim Havis – Public Defender

Tim Vandermark – Equalization Director

Eric Daley – Technology Services Director

Chad Powers – Facilities Director

Claudine Williams and Chad Powers – Interim Parks and Recreation Directors

Commissioner Jim Mott thanked all of the speakers for the information presented. He spoke about the need for the public to be aware of the budget shortfalls and the consequences of not receiving funding.

Claudine Williams – Intergovernmental Affairs and Development Director

Logan Bailey – Communications Director

Melissa Ballard – Finance Director

Ben Dawson – Deputy Administrator / Human Resources Director

Connie Sobie – Controller / Administrator

Doug Lloyd – Prosecuting Attorney

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways & Means Committee will be held on Friday, August 16 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