

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 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, Melissa Ballard, Kern Slucter, Marne Daggett, Amy Etzel, El Sidel, Chad Powers, Doug Lloyd, Kelly Cunningham, Bob Robinson, and Tim Vandermark.

The August 16, 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 Droscha moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the July 12, 2024 closed session and regular minutes. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

A request was presented by Kern Slucter, Windsor Charter Township Supervisor, for the County to participate with the Township in a tax appeal through the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Mr. Slucter requested that the County pay a portion of the legal fees as a percentage of potential financial impact. He requested the Township pay 27% of the legal fees and the County pay the remaining 73%, up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The County's contribution would be capped at fourteen thousand six hundred dollars (\$14,600) based on the percentage formula indicated above.

Treasurer Bob Robinson and Equalization Director Tim Vandermark explained the tax appeal process through the Michigan Tax Tribunal as well as the consequences to the County. Commissioner Augustine requested a formalized process be created for other municipalities to request financial support from the County for tax appeals through the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Commissioner Augustine moved to participate with Windsor Charter Township in the tax appeal process as requested by Windsor Charter Township and to recommend a budget amendment to the Board of Commissioner to pay a portion of the legal fees. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Marne Daggett, Lead Regional Manager for Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS), gave a presentation about the County's 2023 valuation. Discussion held.

A resolution to receive advice from the County Treasurer as to a surplus which can be transferred from the Eaton County 100% Tax Payment Fund (Delinquent Tax Payment Fund, MCL - Section 211.87b) to the Eaton County General Fund was presented. Mr. Robinson was requested to create a policy regarding the calculation of a surplus for the 100% Tax Payment Fund as well as the process governing a transfer of the surplus funds each year. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the resolution to receive advice from the County Treasurer as to a surplus which can be transferred from the Eaton County 100%

tax payment fund to the Eaton County General Fund to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Finance Director Melissa Ballard gave an update on the Audit Corrective Action Plan.

The Health Insurance Report for June was presented. Current month health insurance claims were \$772,059. The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$284,673) compared to fund revenues. The 1st quarter settlement amount has been included in the report which reduced the unfavorable variance from the prior month. 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 May was presented. Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures, the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2024 is \$1,714,247. Discussion held.

Commissioner Mulder called for a brief recess at 10:19 a.m.

Commissioner Mulder resumed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Facilities Director Chad Powers presented the public Improvement Fund Update. Mr. Powers updated the committee regarding the status of the Youth Facility Expansion Project, the Construction Code Remodel, and the 911 Dispatch Center Remodel. Discussion held.

The 2023/2024 budget amendments were presented and discussed. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the approval of the budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous – Commissioner Droscha proposed a Resolution to Recognize Patriot Legacy Day on September 21, 2024, in Honor of John and Sally Wall. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of \$504,675.44, immediate claims in the amount of \$2,599,603.29 and electronic claims in the amount of \$6,034,798.08 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Bob Robinson was granted an opportunity to present additional information regarding a reclassification request for a position in his office. Based on standing Board Policy, the position description and reclassification information were sent to an independent consultant for evaluation; however it was determined by the consultant that a change to the position grade was not warranted under the current Non-Union Salary Classification model. Treasurer Robinson presented market salary information for comparable positions from other counties. Mr. Dawson spoke to committee members about the reclassification process in place, which is not a salary market analysis process, but an analysis of the changes to a position in comparison to other positions in the County. Discussion held.

Commissioner Brehler moved to raise the Treasurer's Office position's pay approximately \$10,000, moving it to a Grade 8 Step 6. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Discussion held. Motion clarified and amended to Grade 8 Step 5 without a restriction on future annual step increases. Discussion held. Nays - Commissioners Mulder and Rogers. Motion carried.

The 2024/2025 updated revenue and expenditure projections were presented and reviewed. 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 increases per the represented employee's collective bargaining agreements. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to present the proposed budget, with the inclusion of additional revenue based on the Treasurer's Declaration of Surplus, to the Public Hearing scheduled for September 10, 2024. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to include the position changes recommended by the County's consultant in the 2024/2025 budget for the Public Hearing scheduled for September 10, 2024. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment: Prosecutor Doug Lloyd spoke about the November ballot proposal and attending meetings with the public regarding the Tax Limitation Proposal. He expressed his displeasure with the Ways and Means Committee members regarding how the Treasurer's employee reclassification request was addressed. Bob Robinson spoke about the 100% Tax Payment Fund and its purpose. Amy Etzel, Trial Court Administrator, spoke about the Treasurer's reclassification request and expressed her disappointment regarding how the committee handled it. Tom Reich, Eaton County Sheriff, expressed his displeasure regarding how the Treasurer's reclassification request was handled and about the importance of County unity. Kelly Cunningham, 911 Director, expressed her displeasure regarding how the Treasurer's reclassification request was handled. Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy El Sidel spoke about his displeasure regarding how the Treasurer's reclassification request was handled.

Commissioner Brehler moved to enter closed session under Section 15.268 Sec 8.(c) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss labor relations negotiations. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Roll call vote: Augustine – yes, Brehler – yes, Droscha – yes, Lautzenheiser – yes, Pearl-Wright – yes, Rogers – yes, Mulder – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mulder called for a brief recess at 12:30 p.m. before the closed meeting.

Commissioner Mulder resumed the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

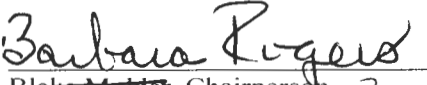
Closed session began at 12:38 p.m.

The Committee resumed the open meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Commissioner Brehler moved to approve the tentative agreements for the Animal Control Union Group, the Maintenance and Custodial Union Group and the Central Dispatch Non-Supervisory Union Group to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, September 13, 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
Vice Barbara Rogers