

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, and Frank Holmes; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Tim Vandermark, Grace Ramirez, Chad Powers, Dan Skiver, Yvonne Ridge, and Dairus Reynnet.

The November 8, 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 add item 11. a resolution to authorize application for Bank Intercounty State grant funding and remove item 12. Intergovernmental Agreement with Bank Intercounty Drain. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Yvonne Ridge, a nominee for the County Land Bank Board spoke about her qualifications and experience.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented and reviewed the 2024 Apportionment Report. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the 2024 Apportionment Report to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FOIA Specialist Grace Ramirez reported statistical information for on FOIA requests to the committee. Ms. Ramirez discussed the different types of requests she receives. Ms. Ramirez also indicated the most frequent complaint she receives is the lack of ability to pay for FOIA requests online. Chairperson Mulder requested that the Controller's Office try to find a method to alleviate this complaint without placing undue burden on the office as well as to review the fee schedule for FOIA requests.

Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the update. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Discussion was held. Commissioner Brehler made a motion to remove Deputy and Pre-trial Services positions. Seconded by Rogers. Commissioner Brehler withdrew the motion. Commissioner Augustine moved to amend the motion to table the positions until the December 5, 2024 Ways and Means meeting. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided information about Eaton County's insurance renewals and bidding results. Two changes for health care were proposed to add autism coverage and equalize the number of chiropractic visits between the County's two insurance plans. Dan Skiver, from Brown & Brown, gave background information about the drivers behind the County's rate increases this year. Mr. Skiver stated that the County has 60 days after signing a contract to make changes. Discussion was held. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend the adoption of the changes in coverage based on administrative

recommendations on carriers for Health, Vision, Dental, and Medicare Advantage to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder called for a recess at 10:03 a.m.

Commissioner Mulder reconvened the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Continued discussion on developing the County's cost sharing rates for health insurance. Melissa Ballard, Finance Director, presented figures representing the cost distribution methodology for various scenarios for calculating the cost-sharing for the County's health insurance plans, these include using the hard-cap calculation as provided by Brown & Brown, an 80/20 split between employer and employee, or an opt-out of the Public Act 152 hard-cap calculation with an administrative determination of employee rates based on the illustrative rates provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS).

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the BCBS health insurance renewal and to recommend the approval of the resolution opting out of PA152 to the Board of Commissioners with a 5% increase over 2024 employee cost sharing rate, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson presented the 2025 Holiday Schedules. The schedules are separated by union group and classification. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the schedules as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ballard gave an update on the status of the Windsor Township MTT that was brought before the committee in August. The County attended a pre-tribunal with the claimant and Mr. Kern Slueter, Windsor Township Supervisor. The claim was settled at the pre-tribunal meeting.

Ms. Ballard gave an update on the Audit Corrective Action Plan. It was reported that an accounting firm is working closely with Controller's Office staff and audit closing is progressing as anticipated.

The Health Insurance Report for September was presented. The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$249,130) compared to the fund revenues. Administration continues to monitor this fund as fiscal year end closing entries impact and change these projections.

The Child Care Fund Report for September was presented. Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures, the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2024 is \$2,063,595. Discussion held.

The Public Improvement Report was presented. Chad Powers, Facilities Director, gave an update on Public Improvements. A certificate of occupancy was granted to the Youth Facility on November 1, 2024. He also spoke about the two power outages that happened earlier in the week.

The Resolution to Authorize Application for Bank Intercounty State Grand Funding was moved by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sobie presented the list of expiring citizen appointments for the Eaton County Building Authority, the Eaton County Historical Commission, and the Eaton County Land Bank Authority. The current appointees for the Historical Commission and Building Authority have requested to be reappointed. Ms. Sobie reported that there are three applicants for a single vacancy on the Land Bank Authority, however, one of the applicants was not able to be present for the meeting but will be available for the December Ways and Means Committee meeting. Commissioner Augustine moved to approve the applicants for the Historical Commission and the Building Authority. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The appointments for the Land Bank board will be voted on in December.

Miscellaneous. None.

Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of \$1,009,244.20, immediate claims in the amount of \$3,273,240.73, electronic claims in the amount of \$25,713,406.18, and employee payroll in the amount of \$1,958,932.19 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder scheduled a Ways and Means meeting to be held on December 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the fiscal year 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 budgets.

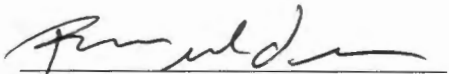
Miscellaneous. None.

Limited Public Comment. Treasurer-Elect Dairus Reynnet spoke about his history and qualifications for the position of Eaton County Treasurer.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

A special meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Thursday, December 5, 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, December 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