WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairperson Brian Droscha, Tim Barnes, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, and Keith Barber.
ALSO PRESENT:	Commissioners Jim Mott, Jane Whitacre, Nicole Christensen; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Nathan Nighbert, Chad Powers, and Heather Stefin.

The January 10, 2025 meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Droscha.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Chairperson Droscha moved to amend the agenda, adding the Technology Services Director Department Report and adding an item for ASU Renewal under Human Resources Director Report. Commissioner Haskel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

A Delinquent Tax Borrowing Resolution was presented by Controller Sobie. Commissioner Barnes moved to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tim Vandermark, Director of Equalization, reported on the Remonumentation Grant and discussion was held. Commissioner Barnes moved to recommend approval of authorizing agreements with remonumentation surveyors for 2025 and moved to recommend approval of appointing a County Remonumentation Representative and contract to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Haskel seconded both. Motion carried unanimously.

Eric Daley, Director of Technology Services, greeted new commissioners and provided a department update. This included applying for and using grants to enhance training and preparation. Mr. Daley also spoke about the relationship between remonumentation and GIS services. Mr. Daley stated that the new Delta substation should be ready for occupation in the first week of February. Also, the Friend of the Court is scheduled to have an IT audit performed. This is done every three years and can take over two years to complete. Nathan Nighbert, Deputy Director of Technology Services, introduced himself and spoke about the 911 millage that is used to update all of the law enforcement vehicles in the county, including the cities.

Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update and provided background of this process for new commissioners. Positions in elected offices should remain included in the report to be filled until the establishment of the next fiscal year's budget given that the funds are already allocated through the budgetary process through September 30, 2025. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to fill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson also discussed the MERS Service Credit Purchase. A service credit purchase is a payment made to increase the amount of service credit an individual has when they retire. An employee with the

Sheriff's department had asked to have MERS calculate what the cost would be to purchase five years of service credit. Administration made a recommendation to not allow the purchase of service credit. There was a discussion. Commissioner Haskell moved that the county does not accept any requests for a service credit purchase. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Eaton County has received a three-year proposal from The ASU Group for Risk Management Services. This proposal locks in the rate for three years. The only change from the previous contract is the cancellation of claim meetings. This service is still available for an extra fee. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to accept the proposal. Commissioner Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller/Administrator Sobie provided updates on behalf of Finance Director Melissa Ballard on the Audit Corrective Action Plan. It was reported that the accounting firm of Maner Costerisan is working closely with Controller's Office staff to improve processes and procedures. The audit is progressing as anticipated.

The Health Insurance Report for fiscal year 2023/24 was presented. The 2023/24 fiscal year end report indicates a favorable variance of $143,464 compared to the fund revenues. All journal entries for the finalization of the fiscal year have been recorded. However, the fund balance for the first quarter of the new fiscal year was ($110,246.00).

The Public Improvement Report was presented. Chad Powers, Facilities Director, gave the update. He spoke about trying to manage facilities with significant pressure on funding. He also spoke about the status of a new work order system, the evidence room expansion, and managing the door access at the new Delta substation.

The 2024/2025 budget amendments were presented and discussed. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $842,052.09, immediate claims in the amount of $2,913,491.18, electronic claims in the amount of $8,091,357.71, and employee payroll in the amount of $2,486,521.86 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Mott requested that Logan Bailey, Communications Director, give an update on our communications.

Miscellaneous. None.

Limited Public Comment. None

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

Brian Droscha, Chairperson