

PUBLIC WORKS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Keith Barber, Brian Droscha, Scott Hansen, Frank Holmes, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Jane Whitacre, and Jacob Toomey

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott and Nichole Christensen; Connie Sobie, Claudine Williams, Chris Garrison, Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Brandy Miller, Alex Zegarzewski, Matt Hannahs, and Maleah Rakestraw

The February 5, 2025, regular meeting of the Public Works and Human Services Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Barber.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the amended agenda to change 10.a. to Discussion instead of a Resolution. Commissioner Toomey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the January 8, 2025, minutes. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Matt Hannahs, Engineer-Manager Eaton County Road Commission, presented the commission's semi-annual report. He gave an update on the status of projects by township in regard to the millage. Mr. Hannahs also spoke about the Local Road Heavy Maintenance Program. Discussion was held.

Chris Garrison, Construction Code Director, presented the department's monthly report. Director Garrison reported on the MSHDA Housing Readiness Grant for \$50,000.00 that was awarded. A contract has been signed with Progressive Companies to help rework Eaton County's zoning ordinance. Mr. Garrison has started conversations with The City of Grand Ledge regarding their new waste water plant. They would like to contract with Construction Code to review the plan, permitting, and inspections.

Brandy Miller, Code Enforcement Officer, presented the annual report on the 2024 Eaton County Planning Commission. Ms. Miller also spoke about various townships contacting the Construction Code office regarding possible cuts to the county budget and what that means for current projects. Ms. Miller and Mr. Garrison are working to put together some information regarding charging

townships for county zoning services that are currently provided at no charge. They plan to present this information to Controller Sobie next week. Discussion was held.

Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Resource Recovery Director, presented the department's monthly report. He gave an update on SWOL licensing, stating that there are two haulers the department is waiting on information from to complete the licensing process. Mr. Bogdanov-Hanna also gave an update on the recycling programs that are scheduled for May and August. The department continues to operate the Mobile Recycling Program in Vermontville, Eaton Rapids, and Bellevue/Olivet. Recycling material volumes are increasing each month at the Sunfield Recycling Center. The increased material volumes will require exploration of increasing efficiencies and staff.

Alex Zegarzewski, Parks Director, presented the department's monthly report. Director Zegarzewski reported the parks staff has been working on renovating the Interpretive Center at Lincoln Brick Park and discussed other current and future park events. He also stated that Eaton County will be receiving the 2024-2025 Innovative Park Resources Award for the Pumpkin Chuck event that was held last winter.

Maleah Rakestraw, from Williams and Works, presented the Eaton County Parks Strategic Plan. She gave some background on the process of creating the strategic plan and explained the difference between the master plan and the strategic plan. Ms. Rakestraw then went over the strategic plan in detail. Commissioner Whitacre moved to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Eaton County Parks Strategic Plan. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Claudine Williams, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Development, spoke about the DNR Trust Fund Application and the county's desire to hire a consultant to write the application. Commissioner Droscha moved to go forward with the application process. Commissioner Whitacre seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held.

Ms. Williams presented an update for her department and stated that she would be making quarterly presentations at this meeting. She gave an update on the MBAA grant that provides services for the Veterans Services Department and how those funds have been used. Ms. Williams also spoke about PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) whose intent is to preserve farmland. A property owner can apply for a PDR on their property. Eaton County would then apply for state funding to purchase the development rights on the property. The landowner would still own the property, but there would be an easement on the property restricting development in the future. This means the property could only be used for farming or open space moving forward. Ms. Williams advised that the county does not make the program available this year due to the amount of work that is needed to complete the process. Discussion was held.

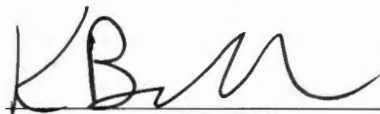
Connie Sobie, Controller/Administrator, presented an update on Eaton County's Medical Examiner Service Agreement. The county put out an RFP for this service and received only one response from Sparrow Hospital. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to accept the Resolution to Appoint County Medical Examiner and Approve Amendment to Medical Examiner Services Agreement. Commissioner Whitacre seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous. Ms. Sobie and Ms. Williams described the process of reporting for the various agencies that receive funds from Eaton County. In the past the agencies have given presentations to the committee with varying degrees of detail. A list of requirements has been prepared so the County will have more detail about how the funds are being spent to benefit residents. Discussion was held.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Chairperson Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Human Services Committee will be held on March 5, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB' followed by a stylized flourish.

Keith Barber, Chairperson