

PUBLIC WORKS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Whitacre

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott and Nichole Christensen; Connie Sobie, Claudine Williams, Chris Garrison, Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Brandy Miller, Chad Powers, Colette Scrimger, and Martha Richard

The March 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 Barber announced that committee members need to turn on their microphones when they speak so the video can pick up the sound. He also stated that sidebar conversations will not be tolerated.

Commissioner Droscha moved to amend and approve the agenda to add items 7.b. and 9.d. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Toomey moved to approve the February 5, 2025, minutes. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Ryan Miller, owner of RD Miller Land Surveying, spoke of his concern regarding the elimination of the Planning and Zoning department. Rachel Cuschieri-Murray, from the Eaton Conservation District, gave an update on what the Conservation District is doing.

Martha Richard, CEO of Eaton County Health & Rehabilitation Services, provided a semi-annual report including information about funding and the status of ECHRS. Discussion was held.

Collette Scrimger, Health Officer of the Barry Eaton District Health Department, provided a semi-annual report which also included the Department's five-year strategic plan.

Chris Garrison, Construction Codes & Planning and Zoning Director, presented the department's monthly report. Director Garrison presented a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Grand Ledge for Construction Code Services, specifically for the city water treatment plant project. Director Garrison explained this is a project based agreement only for this purpose.

Construction Codes would be responsible for the plan reviewing, permitting, and inspecting. Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the MOU. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Brandy Miller, Planning and Zoning Administrator, spoke about the potential elimination of county planning and zoning as a cost-saving measure. The following Township representatives spoke in support of developing a cost-sharing plan with the county to keep this service and to prevent its elimination:

- Larry Mead – Roxand Township Supervisor
- Scott Wilson – Eaton Rapids Township Supervisor
- Becky Austin – Village of Vermontville Clerk
- Drema Emerson – City of Olivet Deputy Clerk
- Helene Larson – Brookfield Township Treasurer
- Dave Roberts – Eaton Township Supervisor
- Don Chase – Bellevue Township Supervisor
- Brett Ramey – Kalamo Township Supervisor
- Selena Duits – Sunfield Township Supervisor
- Gary Goris – Village of Vermontville President

Discussion was held. Commissioner Barber moved that the Department develop a plan and fee structure with a recommendation to be presented and discussed at the April PWHS. Commissioner Toomey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Resource Recovery Director, presented the department's monthly report. Upcoming department events and various projects were presented. Director Bogdanov-Hanna reported the first Materials Management Plan meeting was held on February 11th. Modification of the summer intern position was discussed. Discussion was held. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the position be moved from intern to part-time, per the job description provided, and within the existing allocated financial budget. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Powers, Facilities Director, presented the Parks and Recreation Department monthly report. An update on current events and future events/projects was given. Director Powers stated the seasonal positions for parks have been posted. Director Powers also presented a request to add two positions to the Parks Department, a Groundskeeper Foreman and a Camp Manager. Discussion was held. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the additional positions as presented and with the changes to the current classification of Groundskeeper Foreman. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Claudine Williams, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Development, presented a request to apply for a grant to purchase 49 acres of property adjacent to Lincoln Brick Park in Oneida Township. Discussion was held. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend approval a Resolution to Authorize an Application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Program for an Acquisition Grant for the Lincoln Brick Park Expansion to the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Williams provided an update on the Veteran Services MVAA CVSF Grant for FY24/25. The MVAA has assessed the current grant cycle and announced a recalculation of the grant. The Eaton County grant has been reduced/recalculated by \$43,830. The original grant award of \$115,428.00 has now been reduced to \$71,598. Director Williams stated based on historical use of this grant, she does not anticipate any issues complying with the recalculation.

Discussion was held in reference to future department reporting. Commissioner Barber moved that the Construction Code Department will be amended to report every other month moving forward. Commissioner Droscha seconded. The motion carried unanimously. It was stated that if action items are on the agenda involving the department, it will report regardless of the every other month schedule.

Limited Public Comment. Timothy Catron spoke in support of continuing planning and zoning services provided by Eaton County.

Chairperson Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Human Services Committee will be held on April 2, 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 'KBull', is written above a horizontal line.

Keith Barber, Chairperson