

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Brian Droscha, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, and Keith Barber.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, Jane Whitacre, and Nicole Christensen; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Logan Bailey, Dairus Reynnet, Diana Bosworth, Amy Etzel, Chad Powers, Kelley Cunningham, and Doug Lloyd.

The March 28, 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.

Commissioner Barber moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie presented the budget projections for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 based on currently available projected expenses and revenues along with adjustments based on historical data. The information presented does not include departmental proposals as this information is due from offices on Friday March 28th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Based on current projections, without increases to revenues or decreases to expenses, the County faces a fund balance deficit by Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Legally, the County must adopt a balanced budget by September 30th of every year and the adopted budget must not put the municipality in a fund deficit.

Controller Sobie presented personnel reductions for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 that would sustain a balanced budget. These reductions include the elimination of all County Road Patrol, all Animal Control, and several positions within the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, resulting in an elimination of seventy-six (76) positions. Controller Sobie also presented personnel reductions impacting all offices within the County. These reductions represent the elimination of thirty-two (32) additional positions.

Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson discussed the impacts of these eliminations on the County's long-term liabilities for retirement and retiree's health insurance.

Discussion held.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 10:27 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha requested department heads and elected officials in attendance speak on the impact of these reductions on their operations.

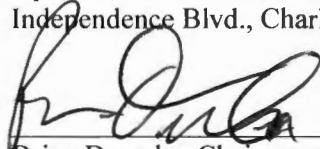
The following individuals spoke:

- Treasurer Dairus Reynnet
- County Clerk Diana Bosworth
- Trial Court Administrator Amy Etzel
- Facilities Director Chad Powers
- Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson
- Central Dispatch Director Kelley Cunningham
- Prosecuting Attorney Doug Lloyd

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, April 11, 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