

**PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023  
9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Barbara Rogers, Brian Lautzenheiser, Scott Hansen, Terrance Augustine, Joseph Brehler, Blake Mulder and Trevor Youngquist

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioner Jim Mott, Claudine Williams, Morgan Feldpausch, Travis Keeton, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie

The January 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Rogers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller/Administrator Fuentes reviewed the monthly reports for the Construction Code Enforcement Department. Discussion held regarding the financial reports for Construction Code provided in previous years with a request to review at future meetings.

Community Development Director, Claudine Williams, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. Ms. Williams highlighted the housing activities and projects completed using program income and deadlines for expending the funds. Ms. Williams indicated the funds are for emergency use only and noted there is an application for roof repair in process and preparation from another homeowner to apply for work on the foundation of the home. Ms. Williams provided an update on the Board of Appeals hearing regarding an application for review of an administrative decision in reference to staff issuing a permit for a building in Sunfield Township. The Board of Appeals upheld the decision based on ordinance guidelines being followed by staff. Ms. Williams indicated the appellant is required to apply to Circuit Court to appeal within thirty days of the Board of Appeals denial.

Ms. Williams discussed COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) which provided assistance for rent, utilities and internet services. The program was administered from March 2021 through September 2022 to all Eaton County residents. The program served 2,503 households for approximately \$11 million. The breakdown of funding provided was approximately \$9 million for rent, \$1 million for utilities and \$145,000 for internet services. Discussion held regarding the cost of rent and availability of housing.

Ms. Williams discussed other funding that is more restrictive and requires an eviction notice. There are currently waiting lists on other voucher programs including Mainstream Voucher program which can only be applied for online at Housing Services of Mid-Michigan.

Ms. Williams provided information on the Veteran's Grant progress.

Resource Recovery Coordinator, Morgan Feldpausch, was present to provide the monthly update on behalf of the Designated Implementing Agency. Ms. Feldpausch also discussed the Solid Waste Ordinance Licensing forms and the recent Judgment of Default for Lebron Trash Hauling.

Ms. Feldpausch also stated as part of the department's ongoing program evaluation project and Michigan Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant project, Resource Recycling System has worked with the department to develop a feedback survey for local municipal representatives. The survey was sent on 1/7/2023 and will remain open for responses through 1/27/2023.

Mr. Fuentes announced that Ms. Feldpausch has submitted her resignation and has accepted another opportunity in Ingham County. Commissioner Brehler and Chairman Rogers thanked her for her efforts for Eaton County and congratulate her on her new position.

She also reported the 2022-2023 Solid Waste Alternative Grant first quarter reports were sent to program participants on 12/19/2022. Completed reports are due on 1/31/2023.

Ms. Feldpausch thanked the commissioner for their support. Committee members expressed their appreciation for the progress Ms. Feldpausch has made for Eaton County and for her dedicated work and congratulated her on her new position.

Parks Director, Travis Keeton, was present to provide the Department's monthly update. Director Keeton reported new donation boxes are present at the Park to take the place of the self-pay boxes which are no longer needed. Mr. Keeton noted the intent for donations is to sponsor youths for summer camp through the Friends of Eaton County Parks. Discussion was held. It was decided the boxes should be taken down until there is proper signage explaining there is no longer a gate fee and the donation is to a non-profit for youth camp sponsorships. Discussion was also held in reference to notification to the public there is no longer a gate fee due to the new parks millage.

Mr. Keeton reported the County was not successful with their last DNR Trust Fund Grant for a fishing pier. Discussion was held in reference to scoring. Mr. Keeton stated he is looking into other possibilities to construct the fishing pier.

Chairperson Mott appointed Commissioners Augustine, Droscha, and Lautzenheiser to a Parks Workgroup to development a plan and priorities for County Parks to be presented to Public Works and Planning for review.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held February 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room located at the Eaton County Courthouse, 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813

  
Barbara Rogers, Chairperson