

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023**

**9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Joe Brehler, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Barbara Rogers and Jeanne Pearl-Wright.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Jim Mott and Scott Hansen; Robert Robinson, Captain Chris Kuhlman, Kathy Brooks, Kelley Cunningham, Melanie Achenbach, Chad Powers, Sara Lurie, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie.

The January 13, 2023, regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Chairman Mulder requested to add Deputy Controller Sobie's Office Restructure request to the agenda. Controller Fuentes noted the request for Resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to Watson and Watson Drain: Chris J. Drive Branch Drain Drainage District Bonds to be added under Miscellaneous.

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

No limited public comment.

The 2023 Borrowing Resolution for the 2022 Delinquent Taxes and the Resolution Authorizing the 2022 Administrative Fund designating the Treasurer as the agent for the County as provided in Act 206 were presented (attached). Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the 2023 Borrowing Resolution and the Resolution Authorizing the 2022 Administrative Fund to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

An update of the position vacancies was presented and discussed (attached). Captain Kuhlman provided an update on the Sheriff's Office continued recruitment efforts and the cadet program. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to refill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Controller/Administrator Sobie presented a Controller's Office restructuring proposal to create a Human Resource Director position and an Finance Director position while eliminating the Deputy Controller/Administrator and Senior Accountant positions. Ms. Sobie provided explanation for these restructuring needs.

The November Health Insurance Expenditure report was presented (attached). The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$550,257) compared to the budget projection for both the County and Health Department. The County's portion is an unfavorable variance of (\$462,812). The County's active employees' unfavorable variance is (\$365,271) and the retirees' unfavorable variance is (\$97,542).

Mr. Fuentes provided an update to the Public Improvement project expenses. Physical Plant Director Chad Powers was present to provide project information and progress. A request from the vendor for a 29-day extension of the contract for the Youth Facility and Jail Security System was presented and discussed. The request does not increase the cost of the project. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the request to extend the length of the contract to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Powers provided an update on the Youth Facility expansion through the Raise the Age grant and recommend proceeding with Granger Construction for the project. Commissioner Augustine moved the authorization for the County to continue to work with Granger Construction to finalize the scope for a design build construction contract, contingent upon authorization yet to be received from the State. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Powers presented an update on the solar project. A charging station will be installed in January. He expects the rooftops units to be installed within the next few months. Mr. Fuentes stated we will pursue any potential energy rebates the County may be eligible for through the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act.

Budget amendments were presented and discussed (attached). Sara Lurie, CEI-Community Mental Health, presented the request for funding from the Juvenile Millage for the Integrative Community Youth Outreach Unit (ICYOU). The program is currently funded through State of Michigan ARP funds, which expire on March 31, 2023. This request would provide funds effective April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 and will prevent program disruption while other funding sources are identified. There was discussion regarding future funding of the program through other sources. Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the 2022/23 budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of Resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to Watson and Watson Drain: Chris J. Drive Branch Drain Drainage District Bonds to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the payment of the claims against the County in the amount of \$522,159.48 and immediate claims in the amount of \$9,499,766.58 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment:

The following individuals expressed their appreciation for the work of Mr. Fuentes as the County Controller: Deputy Court Administrator Kathy Brooks on behalf of Judge Cunningham, Corrections Director Melanie Achenbach, 9-1-1 Director Kelley Cunningham, Community Development Director Claudine Williams, Physical Plant Director Chad Powers and Emergency Manager Ryan Wilkinson.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held on February 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room at the County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

  
Chairman Blake Mulder