

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**

**9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Joseph Brehler.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Jeremy Whittum and Barbara Rogers; Sheriff Tom Reich, Captain Chris Kuhlman, Chief Deputy Adam Morris, Nathan Balderman, John Inghram, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie.

The March 11, 2022, 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 millage renewals to the agenda. Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2022, Ways and Means Committee meeting. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No Limited Public Comment.

Sheriff Reich was present to discuss the Sheriff's Office staffing as presented to the Public Safety Committee this month (attached). The Sheriff introduced Captain Chris Kuhlman to give a presentation on the Sheriff's Office staffing levels in road patrol. Captain Kuhlman discussed the vacancies within road patrol and cited reasons for the turnover are related to seeking higher pay. Captain Kuhlman also addressed the current recruitment efforts and the continued difficulty in recruitment citing pay as the overall factor. Sheriff Reich discussed his concern over staffing levels due to upcoming retirements and the inability for the department to provide twenty-four hour road patrol coverage. Discussion held.

Nathan Balderman, with the audit firm of Rehmann, was present to discuss the results of the audit of County Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2021. Mr. Balderman explained this is not the final draft due to awaiting a finalization of Road Commission audit report. Mr. Balderman explained the County is expected to receive an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements' presentation in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and provided a review of the financial statements and upcoming Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. Mr. Balderman and Mr. Fuentes answered questions from Committee members. Mr. Fuentes indicated the report is required to be filed by March 31, 2022 and is requesting the report to be accepted by the Board of Commissioners upon the issuance of the final report, so it can be submitted to the State of Michigan. Discussion held.

Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend acceptance of the September 30, 2021 Audit Report, contingent upon the issuance of the final report, to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The positions update was presented for review (attached). Commissioner Brehler moved to refill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The January Health Insurance Expenditure report was presented (attached). The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$145,946) compared to the budget projection for both the County and Health Department. The County's portion is an unfavorable variance of (\$156,237). The County's active employees' unfavorable variance is (\$84,762) and the retirees' unfavorable variance is (\$71,745).

Mr. Fuentes provided an update to the Public Improvement project expense (attached) and John Ingraham, Johnson Controls, provided a detail presentation of the public health, energy and infrastructure performance program. Mr. Ingraham discussed the base program plan and the supplemental options to expand the improvements. Mr. Fuentes provided information on the funding structure. Steve Barnett responded to questions related to the chiller replacement and lead time for acquiring equipment. Mr. Ingraham will provide cost savings details and will include in the contract. There was detailed discussion regarding each of the options.

Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the base project to include supplement options one, two and three, as presented, to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mulder recessed the meeting at 11:09 a.m. for a ten minute break

Chairman Mulder reconvened the meeting at 11:24.

Budget amendments were presented and discussed (attached). Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend approval of the 2021/22 budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A renewal agreement for appraisal services was presented and discussed. Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners of the contract for appraisal services, as presented. Discussion held. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A quote for a contract for a five year renewal with Axon Enterprise to provide body-worn cameras for road patrol and corrections, dash cameras, evidence/interview and tasers was presented. Chief Deputy Adam Morris was present to provide a detailed explanation of the contract renewal.

Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend approval of the renewal of the five year contract with Axon to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A list of requests for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding consideration including a request from the Drain Commissioner to fund a drain project, were presented and discussed.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the payment of the claims against the County in the amount of \$477,213.52 and immediate claims in the amount of \$10,619,189.79 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions to submit for a vote of the electorate for renewals of the 911 Millage and Juvenile Millage were presented. Mr. Fuentes provided information regarding each of the millage renewal requests and discussion was held. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the resolutions to submit to a vote of the electorate for the renewals of the 911 Millage and Juvenile Millage to the August election contingent on review of legal counsel to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.


The 2022/2023 preliminary personnel expenditures were presented for review and were discussed. The list of annual position reclassification requests that were initiated by incumbent employees or their department head or elected official. Discussion held.

Chairman Mulder discussed the Committee have discussion regarding consideration of millage alternatives at an upcoming meeting.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held on April 15, 2022, 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