

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott, Terrance Augustine, Joseph Brehler, Blake Mulder, Barbara Rogers and Jane Whitacre

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jeremy Whittum, Eric Deibel, Troy Stowell, Morgan Feldpausch, and John Fuentes

The Public Works and Planning Committee met in virtual session May 12, 2021 as permitted by PA 228 of 2020, as amended and the local declaration of emergency approved by Eaton County on April 21, 2021. The members made an announcement of the location from which they are participating remotely as follows:

Commissioner Lautzenheiser, the County Courthouse in Charlotte, MI
Commissioner Mott, their residence in Olivet, Eaton County, MI
Commissioner Augustine, their residence in the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County, MI
Commissioner Brehler, the County Courthouse in Charlotte, MI
Commissioner Mulder, the County Courthouse in Charlotte, MI
Commissioner Rogers, the County Courthouse in Charlotte, MI
Commissioner Whitacre, their residence in Delta Township, Eaton County, MI

Chairperson Lautzenheiser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Whitacre moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Whitacre seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Sue Spagnuolo, Eaton Conservation District, updated the Committee on the District's receipt of a grant for a stream monitoring program.

Deputy Drain Commissioner, Eric Deibel was present to provide the Drain Commissioner's semi-annual update. Three current projects under construction were discussed. It was also reported that two additional construction projects will be commencing later this year. The current drain basin cleaning program and vegetation control spraying program were also reviewed. Discussion held.

Commissioner Mulder discussed the closure of Old Saginaw Hwy for a drain project while MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) also has a current project in the same vicinity resulting in a significant detour in the area.

Troy Stowell, Parks and Recreation Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. It was reported that the Parks Commission clarified its policy prohibiting rock climbing on

the ledges in Fitzgerald Park. Staff is reviewing the policy further with geological experts, related to the environmental impacts of the activity. Discussion held. It was also reported that Tri-County Regional Planning has developed a tri-county non-motorized trail plan.

The monthly reports for the Construction Code Enforcement Department were presented and reviewed. It was also reported that the Department is awaiting final approval from the state to assume jurisdiction of building code enforcement in the City of Charlotte.

Morgan Feldpausch, Resource Recovery Coordinator, was present to provide the monthly report for the Designated Implementing Agency. An update was provided for the materials collected at the May 8, 2021, collection event. Discussion held.

A request to combine the two current part-time positions in the Department to a single full-time Program Assistant position was presented and discussed. The budgetary consideration for the request, eligibility for health insurance benefits, was reviewed. Discussion held. The consensus of the Committee was to recommend the increase as proposed to the Ways and Means Committee for consideration.

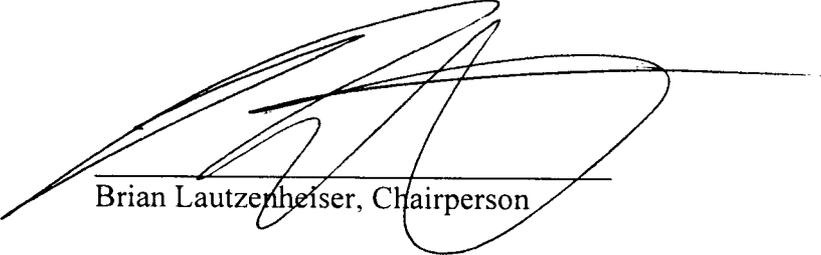
It was also reported that registration for a scrap tire event to be held in June, recently opened and has almost reached capacity. Portions of the event cost (the removal trailer) are covered with grant funds, however staffing costs are not eligible. The Department is considering ordering an additional trailer to meet current registration demand. This would result in increased County cost for labor. The Controller/Administrator supports the Department's recommendation. Discussion held. The consensus of the Committee was to increase capacity for the event.

Claudine Williams, Community Development Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. The County received notice from the County Treasurer that a home with a lien for CDBG Program Income repairs is being foreclosed for delinquent property taxes. The Department intends to submit the notice of intent to its claims to protect the County's interest related to possible excess proceeds from the foreclosure auction. Discussion held. There was no objection from the Committee.

A request the Canadian National (CN) Railway for the County to submit a letter of support to the Federal Government for their proposed merger with Kansas City Railway was presented and discussed. No action taken.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.



Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson