

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, Frank Holmes, and Tim Barnes; Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie, Finance Director Melissa Ballard, Human Resources Director Ben Dawson, Equalization Director Tim Vandermark, Community Development Director Claudine Williams, County Treasurer Bob Robinson, Sunfield Township Supervisor Selena Duits, Sunfield Township Treasurer Stacie McNees, Benefits Specialist Andrea Cherwinski, Emergency Management Coordinator, Physical Plant Director Chad Powers, and County Clerk Diana Bosworth.

The May 12, 2023 regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie requested to add a resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to Trumbull Drain Drainage District, a resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to Dillon Drain Drainage District, and a resolution to Support Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's Proposed \$177 Million FY 2024 Budget to Ensure Full Implementation of Proposal 2 and Address Historic Disinvestment in Election Administration under Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the April 14, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented the 2023 Taxable Valuation Report L-4046 showing taxable values by class. Total taxable value increased 6.51% over 2022. The County is not subject to a Headlee rollback. Discussion held. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the values as set forth in the 2023 Taxable Valuation Report L-4046 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sobie brought to the attention of the Committee a potential conflict of interest with an approved contract for assessing services. Discussion held. No action taken.

Mr. Vandermark presented a resolution for the partial termination of a farmland development rights agreement. Discussion held. Commissioner Droscha recommended the resolution be amended to correctly identify the township impacted. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as amended. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

County Treasurer Bob Robinson presented the 2023 Treasurer's Annual Report and provided an overview of the report highlighting investment performance. Additionally, Treasurer Robinson spoke regarding pending litigation matters for Foreclosing Governmental Unit Funds. Discussion held.

Treasurer Robinson spoke regarding a Michigan Tax Tribunal between Sunfield Township and TimberCreek Ranch. Sunfield Township Supervisor Selena Duits and Sunfield Township Treasurer Stacie McNees addressed the Committee regarding the township's concerns regarding the specifics surrounding the case. The township is requesting assistance with the legal fees associated with the Tribunal. Committee members requested additional information regarding this case before making any determination regarding funding assistance.

Chairperson Mulder recessed the meeting at 10:27 a.m. for a break.

Chairperson Mulder reconvened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Human Resources Director Ben Dawson provided a Human Resources update. Discussion was held regarding the implementation of changes for the human resources software, updates to County policies, guidelines and help-aid development, as well as other important changes being implemented at the County.

Mr. Dawson presented the positions update. Commissioner Brehler moved to refill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Benefits Specialist Andrea Cherwinski presented an update regarding the Employee Wellness Fair held April 20, 2023 as well as an update on the Employee Assistance Plan offered to Eaton County employees and members of their household.

Mr. Dawson presented a request for a Communications Director to be added to amend the County's General Fund budget and position allocation listing. Discussion held. Commissioner Augustine moved this request to the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan Wilkinson presented a request for an Emergency Management Specialist to be added to amend the County's General Fund budget and position allocation listing. Discussion held. Commissioner Brehler moved this request to the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Melissa Ballard presented the quarterly financial report for fiscal year 2022/23. Discussion held.

Ms. Ballard also presented the health insurance report for calendar year 2023. The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$489,236) compared to revenues received. Discussion was held regarding transferring funds from current year budgeted health insurance for vacant positions to the health insurance fund in order to maintain funding. The consensus of the Committee is to move forward with transferring funds as necessary to maintain fund balance through an analysis to be presented at the June Committee meeting.

An update of the Child Care Fund was presented and discussed. Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures, the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2023 is \$808,776.

Physical Plant Director Chad Powers provided an update regarding the solar project, electric vehicle charging stations, Jail and Youth Facility security upgrade, Youth Facility expansion project, the Placemaking plan, and the Health Department renovations. Mr. Powers clarified how the electric vehicle

charging stations will operate, be tied to the current County infrastructure, and generate revenue to offset the electric consumption for charging vehicles. Discussion held.

Ms. Sobie presented 2022/23 budget amendments. Discussion held. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend the budget amendments as presented to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sobie presented two resolutions to pledge the full faith and credit to Trumbull Drain Drainage District and to Dillon Drain Drainage District. Commissioner Brehler moved the approval of both resolutions to the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to support Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's proposed \$177 million FY 2024 budget to ensure full implementation of proposal 2 and address historic disinvestment in election administration. Clerk Diana Bosworth was provided Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend this resolution to the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Discussion Held. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend the approval of the payment of claims against the County totaling \$9,353,249.21 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.


The 2023/2024 revenue and expenditure projections were presented and discussed (attached). The scheduled June 23, 2023 Ways and Means Committee budget workshop meeting will provide additional updates and provide departments an opportunity to present budget requests. The Controller's Office will continue to evaluate budget estimates internally and with departments.

There was discussion regarding the County's financial obligation for Eaton Health and Rehabilitative Services. The consensus of the Committee was to seek a legal opinion regarding funding operations, bond payments and pension liability.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 12:32 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways & Means Committee will be held on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.


Blake Mulder, Chairperson