

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022**

**9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Jeremy Whittum and Barbara Rogers; Treasurer Bob Robinson, Jessica Dexter, Sheriff Tom Reich, Undersheriff Jeff Cook, Captain Chris Kuhlman, County Clerk Diana Bosworth, Tim Vandermark, Jeremy Mulvany, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie.

The May 13, 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.

Agenda item #7 was removed and the Treasurer's American Rescue Plan Act agenda item #14 to be moved after item #6. Commissioner Augustine moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2022, Ways and Means Committee meeting. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No limited public comment.

Treasurer Robinson was present to discuss his previous request to fund a foreclosure prevention program with American Rescue Plan funding. Treasurer Robinson discussed a partnership with Capital Area Community Services to provide foreclosure prevention at a reduced allocation from \$250,000 to \$150,000. Jessica Dexter, CACS Financial Counselor, provided a detailed presentation of their services. Treasurer Robinson further discussed the program and the request to utilize the ARP funding. Discussion held. No action taken.

Tim Vandermark presented the 2022 Taxable Valuation Report L-4046 showing taxable values by class (attached). Total taxable value increased 5.47% over 2021. 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 2022 Taxable Valuation Report L-4046 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The positions update was presented for review (attached). Commissioner Augustine moved to refill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. There was discussion regarding the Jail Health Coordinator position and the difficulty in recruiting to fill this vacancy. Captain Kuhlman indicated there have been qualified candidates, but they have since withdrawn from the process or unable to pass through the interview process. Undersheriff Cook addressed a question of contracting with a hospital or other service agencies. There are many counties contracting for medical services with third party companies and the

Sheriff's Office has requested information and evaluated the expected cost increases. Hospitals have not been contacted by the Sheriff's Office regarding providing the services on a contractual basis. The Undersheriff is unaware of any jails utilizing the hospital services, but are willing to consider given the challenges of hiring. Motion carried unanimously.

A request from the Sheriff's Office to provide a step increase within the current classification for the Administrative Services Assistant was presented (attached). The Controller reported that the current policy does not provide him the authority to approve a pay increase outside of the seniority based classification structure. This would need to be approved by the Committee. The Controller indicated it is not recommended such a request be approved for a single employee. Captain Kuhlman discussed the reasons for his request in detail and the concerns surrounding a vacancy occurring if this is not approved and expressed the responsibility of this position. The Controller discussed the precedent approval of this request would set for all other employees progressing within the classification and those at the top of their salary classification. Sheriff Reich spoke about these being extraordinary times and this increase is necessary to retain experienced staff and asked the committee to take this under great consideration. Discussion held regarding the salary and classification study from 2014. The Controller discussed the previous request by the Sheriff's Office for this position to be reclassified to a lower level due to a reduction in the responsibilities within the job description. Discussion held. No action taken.

The March Health Insurance Expenditure report was presented (attached). The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$391,740) compared to the budget projection for both the County and Health Department. The County's portion is an unfavorable variance of (\$352,367). The County's active employees' unfavorable variance is (\$234,854) and the retirees' unfavorable variance is (\$117,513).

An update of the Child Care Fund was presented and discussed (attached). Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2022 is \$321,940. There was discussion regarding the number of children in housing. Youth Facility Director Mulvany provided an update on housing information related to the facility and the difficulty in finding placements within the state.

Mr. Fuentes provided an update to the status of the current Public Improvement projects. An offer of employment has been extended to an applicant for the facilities manager position with an anticipated start date of June 6. The individual is in the process of notifying his employer.

County Clerk Bosworth presented a request for approval of an election security grant through the federal Help America Vote Act to reimburse for the cost to purchase and upgrade technology and network used to support election administration in the amount of \$7,650. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the election security grant to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

An update of the American Rescue Plan requests and allocations was presented reviewed (attached). There was discussion regarding the individual requests and regarding the application of the funds being distributed equitably between categories of requests.

A resolution to write off \$0.26 in 2013-2015 delinquent tax receivables was presented (attached). Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the resolution to write off the 2013-2015

delinquent tax receivables to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the payment of the claims against the County in the amount of \$768,018.49 and immediate claims in the amount of \$11,066,673.99 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mulder recessed the meeting at 10:40 a.m. for a break.

Chairman Mulder reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Mulder provided a fiscal stability update and discussed options for revenue increases to support current operations. There was discussion about a Headlee override, public safety millage, parks millage and a separate tax limitation that would re-establish the maximum operating levy for the County, townships and regional education service agency. A document explaining a separate tax limitation was presented (attached). In discussing a public safety millage, it was noted that Delta Township may be considering a millage for the construction of a Sheriff substation and operating costs. There was discussion about committing larger contributions to the MERS pension system to continue to reduce the unfunded liability. There was discussion regarding the timing of a millage question and discussion on establishing a deadline for the Committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The consensus of the committee was for Mr. Fuentes to further research a tax allocation board.

The 2022/2023 updated revenue and expenditure projections were presented (attached). The current projection includes a reduction of \$1.5 million in expenditures, primarily in requested capital and equipment items. Discussion held regarding the need for the June 17, 2022, budget workshop meeting for departments to discuss their budget requests. The Controller's Office will continue to evaluate budget estimates internally and with departments.

No limited public comment.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held on June 10, 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