

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Jane Whitacre

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jeremy Whittum; Donna Webb, Claudine Williams, Troy Stowell, Morgan Feldpausch, Gene Bryan and John Fuentes

The July 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Lautzenheiser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried by unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no limited public comment.

Donna Webb, EATRAN General Manager, was present to provide the agency's semi-annual update. It was reported that ridership is slowly increasing however still remains at lower levels than prior to the start of the pandemic. Currently demand is being met without part-time routes and without the connector route service. It was reported that the agency will be returning to full service levels on October 1, 2021. It was also reported that the agency is operating under the federal face covering requirement, as a public transit agency, currently in effect through September 13, 2021. Discussion held.

There was also discussion regarding the ongoing discussions related to regional collaboration and cross boundary services. It was reported that the three county agencies working with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission are seeking to retain a consultant to develop recommendations for regional collaboration. It was also reported that the agencies are working collectively to create a mobility manager position. Discussion held.

Troy Stowell, Parks and Recreation Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. An update on current scheduled events was provided. There was discussion about consideration to establish or contract for a kayak rental program at Crandall Park. There was also

discussion regarding a DNR Trust grant application being developed for development at Crandall Park.

Gene Bryan, Construction Code Enforcement Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly update. The monthly permit, inspection and housing start reports were presented and reviewed. There was also discussion regarding increasing the visibility of the satisfaction survey to increase utilization. It was also reported that it is becoming difficult to secure inspectors to provide contractual short-term coverage. These inspectors are only utilized to maintain continuity of service during vacation coverage or in the event of an unexpected extended leave or vacancy. Mr. Bryan is requesting that the contractual hourly rate be increased to \$35/hour. The current rate of \$25/hour has not been adjusted in several years. Discussion held.

Commissioner Augustine moved to increase the contractual inspector rate to \$35/hour. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Morgan Feldpausch, Resource Recovery Coordinator, was present to provide the monthly report for the Designated Implementing Agency. An update on recent and upcoming collection events was provided. It was also reported that the final application for funding through the Rural Electronics Collection grant was completed. As a result of the final application total amount the previous approval by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners is requested to be amended to increase the maximum grant. Discussion held.

Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend approval of a resolution to approve an amendment to the Rural Recycling Collection Agency grant application to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

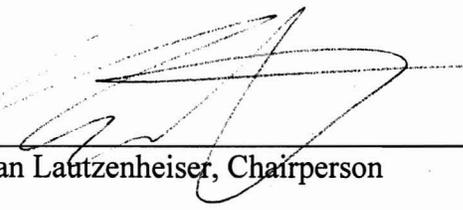
Claudine Williams, Community Development Director, was present to provide the Department's monthly report. It was reported that the County is eligible to receive up to \$109,886 in grant funding from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to enhance county veteran services operations. The funding will be requested to continue funding the part-time veteran services assistant position and enhance services to veterans. Discussion held.

Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of a resolution to approve the application for the Michigan Veterans Services grant to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was reported that the Parks Commission had received the written resignation of one of its members, Kathy Webber, who is re-locating out of the county and is therefore no longer eligible to serve. A public service announcement for the availability to fill this vacancy has been posted to the County website. Information received from interested individuals will be provided to the Committee for consideration at its next regular meeting.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.



Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson