

WORKING MEETING

February 5, 2019

Convened: 9:00 AM

Present: Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Vrablic, Commissioner Kolcz, Commissioner Norris and Commissioner Hazelbaker

Also Present: Donald Reid of the Daily Reporter, Tim Miner- Emergency Manager, Sheriff Pollack, Undersheriff Eichler, Jim Measel-WTVB, Lona Julien-Friend of the Court, Joe Best-Airport, Mike Kelly-Airport, Register of Deeds-Nancy Hutchins, Val White-Chief Asst. Prosecutor, Zach Rusk-Juvenile Court and Administrator Bud Norman.

Public Comment:

Representatives from the various animal aid groups spoke to the committee about the care of area animals during the recent severe winter weather. They were all disappointed that the Animal Control Officer was not available. They asked that some type of procedure be established for future events.

The Committee changed the order of the agenda and it was approved as amended.

PERSONNEL, PLANS & POLICY

(Commissioner Norris)

Request for Staffing – Prosecutors Office

Chief Asst. Prosecutor Val White submitted a request to immediately hire a temporary contract employee to help with the backlog in the office. She has hired a clerk for the criminal area, but needs extra help to get caught up. The contract position would be for 16 hours per week at \$20 per hour with no benefits. The contract would expire on February 28, 2019. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by to allow the Prosecutor’s Office to immediately hire a temporary contract employee to work 16 hours per week at \$20 per hour with no benefits, with the contract expiring on February 28, 2019.

Request for Staffing – Juvenile Court

Juvenile Court Administrator Zach Rusk submitted a request to immediately fill the Deputy Juvenile Register position that was vacated on February 1, 2019. The position is a SEIU-Level 6 New Hire, with the rate of pay at \$12.92 per hour, with the New Hire Benefit Package. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by to allow Juvenile Court to fill the SEIU-Level 6 Deputy Juvenile Register position, at the new hire rate of \$12.92 per hour, with new hire benefits, effective immediately.

Request for Staffing – Friend of the Court

Lona Julien, Friend of the Court Referee, submitted a request to immediately fill the Bench Warrant Deputy position that was vacated in November. The part-time position is a M1 non-union management position with a pay rate of \$20.11 per hour, maximum of 20 hours per week, with no benefits. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by to allow FOC to fill the part-time Bench Warrant Deputy position at the M1 non-union rate of \$20.77 per hour, maximum of 20 hours per week with no benefits.

MIDC Update

The Administrator stated that everything has been submitted to the State. He was contacted back to clarify some information and said that we should be receiving the contract next week. We will begin the hiring process once the contract is received.

SHERIFF & PUBLIC SAFETY

(Commissioner Kolcz)

Airport Ordinance – Discussion

Joe Best, Airport Manager, spoke to the committee about the Airport Ordinance that was adopted in 1972 and amended in 2002. There have been citizen concerns regarding the ordinance. Part of the ordinance addresses the issue of tree heights that surround the airport and the heights of other structures within a 10 mile radius of the airport. He stated that there are also Federal and State laws that address this issue. He presented a map showing where the 10 mile radius would be in relation to the airport, along with other information. Best noted that if someone wanted to go outside the regulations, they would have to request a permit, following the permitting process that is in place. Coldwater Township Supervisor Don Rogers spoke stating that he has received several calls from township citizens with questions about complying with the local ordinance. Rogers will work with Best to address the township issues.

Secondary Road Patrol Funding Update – Undersheriff

Undersheriff Eichler stated that he has received a letter from the Highway Safety Planning Commission (HSPC). The Sheriff's Department will be receiving \$14,490 that will be added to the Secondary Road Patrol budget. He would like to use approximately \$10,000 for equipment and use the balance to pay for extra road patrol for special events. The expenditures would need to be paid up front and then the amount would be reimbursed from the HSPC money.

Severe Weather Event

Tim Miner spoke about the recent weather closures and the difference between closing for snow vs cold. He stated that different parameters are used to determine the risk to the public and employees. They have discussions with several local entities as well as with surrounding counties to determine closures. He noted that with the recent weather event, several local groups were prepared to help members of the public to be safe and warm. While many people donated food, volunteers were needed. The Emergency Management approach was to have a centralized location and to transport those in need there. Miner suggested that an assessment policy should be looked at.

Tech Grant

The Veterans Affairs office applied for and was awarded a Tech Grant. The money will be used for a monitor at the VA office that will provide information to those needing services. They will also upgrade their computer equipment to give patrons the ability to attend hearings via video conference rather than driving to a location.

Resolution-Establish Lake Board (Kinderhook Township)

The Kinderhook Township Board passed a resolution establishing a lake board for the residents on the Michigan side of Lake George. As part of the resolution a member of the Board of Commissioners would be appointed to the lake board. After a short discussion it was decided that Commissioner Vrablic would be appointed to this board since he represents Kinderhook Township. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by that Commissioner Vrablic is appointed to represent the Board of Commissioners on the Lake George Improvement Board.

Community Development

Joe Borgstrom of Place & Main Advisors gave a presentation to the committee on community development. He was contracted by the Branch County Economic Growth Alliance to put together an economic development & community marketing strategy. He explained the process, which included tours of Bronson, Coldwater, Quincy and Union City. He noted Countywide Issues and Regional Barriers to Growth. Mr. Borgstrom then provided some information on addressing these issues. He will be speaking to the County Planning Commission in June.

Lake George Issue

Rick Weaver of the Lake George Cottagers Association provided an update to the committee. He noted that the Kinderhook Township Board passed a resolution establishing a Lake Board. According to their legal counsel, the next issue that will need to be address is establishing a legal lake level. The current lake level was set by Indiana, as Lake George is located in both states. Once the level is set in Michigan, the two states will work together on improvements. Intergovernmental agreements would be drawn up and any costs would be assessed to the property owners. There were questions about the County road that goes over the top of the dam. These questions will have to be discussed with legal counsel.

Motion by seconded by that authorization is given to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: Bills & Accounts, Tech Grant-Capital Outlay Request

Bills & Accounts

Administrator Norman presented a summary of the Bills and Accounts from 2018 and 2019 (Jail Operations-Board and Care-41%, Attorney Fees-11%, Equipment Repair and Maintenance-10%, Jail Operations-Commissary Supplies-8%, Building Repair & Maintenance-5%,) to make up 75% of the invoices. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$226,601.50

Tech Grant – Capital Outlay Request

The Veterans Affairs office received a grant to purchase computer equipment. The equipment would need to be purchased with funds from capital outlay and then reimbursed from the grant money. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by _____ seconded by _____ to approve the use of Capital Outlay funds the purchase computer equipment, not to exceed \$5000, for the Veterans Affairs office, with the funds being reimbursed from their Tech Grant.

LEGISLATIVE

(Commissioner Gordon)

Resolution-Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (Jackson County)

A copy of a resolution from Jackson County regarding the payment for indigent defense was presented for review. This will be brought back to the Committee at later date to see if they would like to take action.

Public Comment

Anna Kiem representing the Concerned Citizens group briefly commented on the 10 mile radius issue involving the airport and the proposed wind turbines.

Other

It was moved and seconded to go into closed session to discuss the attorney/client privileged letter dated 07/19/2017. Upon roll call vote the Committee went into closed session at 11:10 am.

The Committee returned to open session at 11:38 am and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Commissioner Vrablic Commissioner Kolcz Commissioner Gordon
 Commissioner Hazelbaker Commission Norris