WORKING MEETING
April 18, 2019

Convened: 9:00 AM

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

Also Present: Donald Reid of the Daily Reporter, Jim Measel-WTVB, Sheriff Pollack, Undersheriff Eichler, County Clerk-Teresa Kubasiak, Treasurer-Ann Vrablic, Scott Walls-Complex Manager, Commission on Aging Director-Amy Duff, Jail Administrator-Fred Blankenship, Equalization Director-Jody Connell, Airport Manager-Joe Best and Administrator Bud Norman.

Agenda was amended to add Airport Runway proposal.

The amended agenda was approved as presented.

PERSONNEL, PLANS & POLICY

Request for Out of State Travel – Sheriff’s Department
Sheriff Pollack is requesting that Undersheriff Eichler, Captain Blankenship and Sergeant Maggart be able to travel to Louisville, KY, for AJA Conference, May 19th-21st. This is being coordinated through Byce & Associates, as part of the new jail project. There is no cost to the County. The Committee recommends:

Motion by seconded by that approval is given to Undersheriff Eichler, Captain Blankenship and Sergeant Maggart to travel to Louisville, KY for the AJA Conference.

Sheriff Pollack is requesting to travel out of state in June to Louisville, KY to the National Sheriff’s Conference. The cost to attend this will be taken from the Jail training fund.

Motion by seconded by that approval is given to the Sheriff to travel out of state in June, to attend the National Sheriff’s Conference.

Out of State Travel Request-Register of Deeds
The Register of Deeds is requesting authorization for to travel to Davenport, Iowa, May 20 – 22, 2019, to attend an educational symposium hosted by Fidlar Technologies. She will also be taking her Chief Deputy and Deputy Register. The only cost to the county would mileage to Kalamazoo. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by that authorization is given for the Register of Deeds, her Chief Deputy and Deputy Register to travel to Davenport, Iowa, to attend the Fidlar Educational Symposium from May 20-22, 2019.

Concerned Citizens Presentation
Pam Reed and Anna Keim spoke to the committee regarding the importance of the County updating their Master Plan. This would not only help with the issues regarding the wind turbines, but with other issues that might arise in the future. She is asking that the Committee support a request from the County Planning Commission for funding to update the Master Plan. A packet of materials was presented to the committee for review.
Undersheriff Report
(March 2019)

Total Arrests: 51
Total Citations: 264 of the 264, Secondary Road: 196
Traffic Accidents: 36 on the Interstate
Total Car/Deer Accidents: 24
Reserve Deputies: 77.50 hours
Posse: 0 hours
Inmate Transport: 42.5 hours (Warrants, Writs, Hospital, etc)
Marine Patrol: 16.00 hours
Overtime: Road patrol –135.50 hours Corrections – 441.50 hours Court-18 hours SRP 4 hours

52 pounds of prescription drugs collected.

Foreclosures – For this year 11– Sales, 35 – prepared $900,155.72

Jail Administrator’s Report
(March 2019)

Average Daily Count for March: 108
Average break down: 89 males/19 females

As of 4/1/19 count is 104 with 19 females & 2 females boarded out to other Counties

Jail Incidents for March: 39

Animal Control Report
(March 2019)

Total Animal Intake: 24 (12 from Hillsdale County) Total Recl. 14 Total Adopted: 1 Total Other/Transfer: 9

Airport Runway

Ben Hoover from Mead and Hunt, the airport’s consulting firm, gave a recap of what Administrator Norman presented at the last work meeting. The county has allocated $45,000 to repave runway 422, but needs an additional $25,000 to cover its share of $70,000. The three options for funding are: 1 – The County would come up with the additional $25,000; 2 – Could borrow $25,000 through the MDOT Airport Loan program. Repayment could be up to 10 years at a minimal interest rate; 3 – Borrow $100,000 through the MDOT Airport Loan program, with $25,000 going toward the local share and $75,000 being put toward helping to cover some of the FFA/MDOT funding gap. This option (3) would increase the County’s chances of receiving the funding. This money could also be paid back from future entitlement funds. The cost to resurface the crosswind runway 422 at the airport is just over 1.2 M. The Airport Board would like to have a decision in the next two weeks, so the project could be started in July. There was a request made by a board member that the County send a letter to MDOT requesting that they loan the County the money interest free, because of MDOT’s lack of organization and preparation. It was moved and seconded that the committee will make a decision as to what option will be chosen, at the next Board meeting.

Motion by seconded by that option ____ is chosen to fund the runway 422 project at the Airport.

Lawn Service Bids-Commission on Aging

COA Director Amy Duff provided a listing of 6 lawn care bids. The COA Board met and recommends Modert’s Lawn Service for the Burnside Center lawn care for 2019. The Committee Recommends:
Motion by             seconded by             that approval is given to COA to contract with Modert’s Lawn Service for the Burnside Center’s lawn care for 2019

Request for Capital Outlay Purchase-Truck-County Complex
Complex Manager, Scott Walls is requesting to replace the 2005 Ford F350 truck. This vehicle is used for snow plowing and carries the salt spreader. The box of the truck is rusted out and is unsafe to stand in. The vehicle is requiring about $3,722 in repairs. Walls obtained three bids: 2019 Chevy 3500 at $40,985; 2019 Dodge 3500 at $37,981 and a 2019 Ford F-350 at $28,533. The Committee recommends:

Motion by             seconded by             that approval is given to purchase the 2019 F-350 truck at a cost of $28,533 to be paid out of Capital Outlay.

Request for Capital Outlay Purchase-Police Vehicle-Sheriff Department
The Undersheriff is requesting to purchase a 2019 Ford SUV to replace the vehicle that was totaled during a traffic stop. The new vehicle has the police package and the cost is $29,995. The insurance company paid approximately $13,000 for the totaled vehicle so the difference of $16,995 would be taken from Capital Outlay. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by             seconded by             that approval is given to the Sheriff’s Department to purchase a 2019 Ford SUV with the police package at a cost of $29,995 with the needed funds to be taken out of Capital Outlay.

Quincy Park Easement-Branch County Parks Department
The Road Commission has approved and is now asking the Board of Commissioners approval to allow Michigan Gas Utilities easement through Quincy Park, including the boat storage area. MGU would like to install a new line. A representative from MGU spoke to the committee about the project and answered any questions. The Committee recommends:

Motion by             seconded by             to approve easement to Michigan Gas Utilities to install a new line through Quincy Park.

Mail Machine-Request for Lease Program-New Equipment
The Administrator is requesting to lease a new mail machine, as the lease is up on the current machine. Two quotes were provided: a quote of $3,746.60 annually was received from Pitney Bowes and a quote of $3,104 annually was received from Neopost. The Committee recommends:

Motion by             seconded by             to approve the 63 month lease quote from Neopost at a cost of $3,104 annually.

Foster Parent Recognition-Month of May
A written request was received from the Judson Center, who is partnering with the State of Michigan in recognizing Foster Care Awareness month in May. They are requesting to put flags on the courthouse lawn to represent the number of children in foster care and the number of foster care homes in Branch County. The Committee recommends:

Motion by             seconded by             that approval is given for the Judson Center to place flags on the Courthouse lawn in recognition of Foster Care Awareness month.

The Committee took a 10 minute recess; they went back in to open session at 10:10 am.
**Jail Update**
The Administrator stated that the Jail Committee is meeting every two weeks. The main topic of discussion has been design. They are going with the Pod design and have made a few changes to the Administration area. Some Jail employees will be attending the American Jail Association conference and will be able to see the equipment that is available. The Administrator would like the Board to visit the jail facility in Tipton, as it is a smaller version of what the Branch County Jail will look like.

The Administrator noted that the RFP for construction services will be going out next week. The Board will choose the construction service at a meeting in May.

**RFP Jail Site –Geotechnical/ RFP Survey**
The Geotechnical portion is complete. Samples have been taken. One test couldn’t be done regarding drainage levels. Results should be available in about two weeks. Once we get them back we will be able to decide building placement. The surveyor was out to set up and will be coming back. The survey will take about a week and a half to complete.

It was asked if the placement of the building would alter the design and if any of the existing buildings are staying? The Administrator stated that placement could possibly affect the design but the Pod area would stay as planned. The pole barn used for storage, the Animal Control building and the building North of Animal Control would stay.

**Recognition of Service – May (2 employees)**
The individuals will be invited to attend a Board meeting to be recognized by the Board of Commissioners.

**Vietnam War Veterans Honored-Flag Raising Ceremony (3/29/19)**
The Administrator wanted to publically thank the DAR for organizing the Vietnam War Veterans flag raising ceremony on March 29th. A short video was shown of the recent ceremony. The ladies from the DAR thanked the committee and stated that will be having another ceremony next March 29th.

**FINANCE**

**Commissioner Vrablic**

Motion by                     seconded by                            that authorization is given to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: Bills & Accounts; Security Audit-Friend of the Court, L-4024 Valuation Report-Equalization Department and 1st Quarter 2019 Investment Report-Treasurer

**Bills & Accounts**
Administrator Norman presented a summary of the Bills and Accounts. (Jail Operations-Health Care-21%, Audit Fees-19% Jail Operations-Board and Care-15%, Computer Contract Services -8% and Attorney Fees-5%) to make up 68% of the invoices. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by                     and seconded by                            to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of $287,170.79

**Security Audit –Friend of the Court**
Friend of the Court Referee Lona Julien presented information about the Cooperative Reimbursement Program through the State. She stated an Independent Security Audit needs to be conducted every three years. There are two parts to the audit. The first part was completed by Julien and IT Director Matt Fosdick. The second part that is due September 31, 2019, is much more extensive. She obtained two quotes, one from Raymond out of Saginaw and the other from MGT Consulting Group.
The MGT quote was the lowest, at $9,730, plus travel expense that are not to exceed $1,200. The state will reimburse 66%, the remainder $3308 with a maximum of $4508, including travel expenses will be paid from Friend of the Court’s budget. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by __________________ seconded by __________________ to approve MGT Consulting Group bid of $9730 to conduct a Independent Security Audit for Friend of the Court and the Prosecutor’s Office, with travel expenses not to exceed $1200, as presented.

**L-4024 Valuation Report—Equalization Department**

The Equalization L4024 Valuation Report was presented to the committee for review. There was a 3.62% increase from last year. The Committee recommends:

Motion by __________________ seconded by __________________ to approve the Equalization L4024 Valuation Report.

**1st Quarter 2019 Investment Report—Treasurer**

The Treasurer provided the 1st Quarter Investment Report for 2019 to the committee to review. The Committee recommends:

Motion by __________________ seconded by __________________ to approve the 1st Quarter Investment Report.

**Surety Bond Resolution**

Road Commission Manager Jay Miller presented a resolution for approval. The resolution authorizes the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool to issue surety or Fidelity insurance coverage to the Branch County Road Commissioners in the amount of $10,000, at no cost to the Road Commission. They have previously had to pay for this coverage. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by __________________ seconded by __________________ to adopt the Fidelity Insurance Acceptance Resolution for the County Road Commissioners, as presented.

Commissioner Vrablic stated that he recently attended the DHS meeting. He noted that the County has two youths in placement. The first has been in placement since 01/05/2018 at a cost of $414.79 per day. The second has been in placement since 05/29/2018 at a cost of $353 per day. Our monthly cost for these two individuals is $11,900. With this and what we pay for other foster care, our budget line will be in a deficit by the end of the year.

**LEGISLATIVE**

(Commissioner Gordon)

None

**Public Comment**

Marilyn Johnson, resident of Union Township, urged the Committee to educate themselves on both sides of the DTE wind turbine issue.

**Other**

It was moved and seconded to go into closed session to discuss the POAM Union Negotiations. Upon roll call vote the Committee went into closed session at 10:42 am.

The Committee returned to open session at 11:08 am.

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 11:08 am.

The Committee returned to open session at 11:23 am and the meeting was adjourned.

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