WORKING MEETING
March 16, 2018

Convened: 9:00 AM

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

Also Present: Donald Reid of the Daily Reporter, Sheriff Pollack, Jim Measel-WTVB, Amy Duff-COA, Nancy Hutchins-ROD, Ann Vrablic-Treasurer, Scott Walls-Complex Manager, Mike Hard-Drain Commissioner, Judge Kashian, Dr. Troy Davis, Pat Albright, Dave McMillan, Fred Blankenship-Jail Administrator and Administrator Bud Norman.

The agenda was amended adding the Probate Court Referee under P3 as an item of Action. The agenda was approved as amended.

PERSONNEL, PLANS & POLICY (Commissioner Norris)

COAM Grievance (#17-396)
COAM Union Representative, Wayne Beerbower, spoke to the committee regarding COAM grievance # 17-396 filed by Det. Dan Nichols. The grievance references a violation of Sec. 18.1 – H of the contract, which references that the employer has the ability to change insurance benefits, etc., but that all employees must be treated identically. The Union believes there is a violation because those who smoke must pay a higher insurance premium. They also believe that the change should have been negotiated. The Union stated that the change in benefits should have been presented as a savings for non-smokers, rather than a penalty for smokers. There are approximately 16 people that are affected by the premium increase.

Dan Nichols spoke about the time frame that he was given to make a decision, only having 9 days from when the information was received. He also stated that even if he quits, he will not be able to get the lesser rate until the open enrollment period in November of this year. He must pay approximately $70 per month more than a non-smoker.

The committee asked if the COAM contract was signed. The Union Representative said that both parties have ratified the contract, which makes it in effect. The Administrator said it was not signed.

The Committee has 10 days to respond to the grievance. The Union said they are willing to give an extension to the committee due to scheduling conflicts. The Administrator needs to request an extension in writing.

Probate Court Referee
Judge Kashian announced Attorney Zackary Rusk will be taking over the Probate Court Referee position that was vacated after the retirement of John Howard. He will begin on April 2, 2018. The position will be a non-union, M8 - 1 year level in the amount of $71,812, plus an additional $3,000 to be on call and in charge of the day treatment program. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by and seconded by to approve the hire rate for the Probate Referee position to be the 1 year level, M8 non-union position of $71,812, with the New Hire Benefit Package.
Undersheriff Report (February 2018)
Total Arrests: 32
Total Citations: 187 of the 187, Secondary Road: 39
Traffic Accidents: 19 on the Interstate
Total Car/Deer Accidents: 11
Inmate Transport: 59 hours
Fatal Accidents: 1
Reserve Deputies: 208 hours
Overtime:
  Road patrol – 79 hours
  Corrections – 103.5 hours
  Court-14.5 hours
47 pounds of prescription drugs collected.
1 Meth Lab.
Foreclosures – For this year 10 – Sales, 49 – prepared $676,873.10

Jail Administrator’s Report (February 2018)
Average Daily Count for February: 134
Average breakdown: 111 males/23 females
As of 3/2/18 count is 129 with 20 females & 13 females boarded out to other Counties
Jail Incidents for February: 56

Animal Control Report (February 2018)
Total Animal Intake: 7 (4 from Hillsdale County) Total Reclaim: 6 Total Adopted: 0 Total Other/Transfer: 1

Safety Committee Report
The Safety Committee met on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 10:00am. Administrator Norman provided the Safety Committee with copies of the 3rd Quarter 2017 Job Related Injuries which resulted in 3 entries from July. The 4th Quarter Job Related Injuries was also provided which had one injury from August. Active Shooter Training is currently being scheduled by Frank Barker and Tim Miner with Departments. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 10:00am.

Airport Manager – Update
Commissioner Kolcz said there were 12 applications received for the Airport Manager position. 3 of those applicants have been called for interviews. The interviews will take place with the Administrator and current Airport Manager.

Millage Request
Pat Albright wanted to clarify some confusing issues that have come up regarding the Millage. The committee was formed as a citizens committee with no authority. They made a recommendation based on what would be good for the taxpayers. Not every issue was looked at. Those that are in charge of 911 and Circuit Court Probation would not change; the only thing that would change for these departments would be the roof they would share with the Sheriff’s Department.

911 asked for additional time to gather information so they can provide a further recommendation to the Committee. It was asked that this combined Public Safety Facility be tabled until the General Election in November. Further discussion took place as to what departments could be housed with the Jail, rather than the two that were suggested. The taxpayers are going to want to know what they are voting on. The ballot language was suggested to be turned into the County Clerk’s office on May 8th, one week prior to the May 15th deadline for the August primary. The Committee asked to see sample ballot language and will table until March 29, 2018 Work Meeting.
Recent Event Update
Drain Commissioner Mike Hard gave an update; it has been more than 20 days since the rain event. The water levels still are still above summer levels on most lakes, which is a foot above winter levels. Many roads had been washed out and they are still getting calls of different issues that have developed from this event. The county’s appropriation that is assessed each year through the Department of Public Works will likely be higher in 2019. Normally, the yearly appropriation assessment is $30,000 to $40,000.

Marijuana Grant Funds for Equipment Purchase-Sheriff
Sheriff Pollack said they have been approved for the Marijuana Grant again this year. It will be the same as last year. The Sheriff's Department purchases the equipment, the County up front the costs and the invoices are turned into the grant funding agent for reimbursement. This year the department received $14,695 in grant money, last year $14,944 was received.

Commission on Aging Renovation Issues-Update
Amy Duff spoke on the COA renovation issues. The Architect Construction Manager for the COA project who asked for more time to respond to the Commissioner's letter, that response was going to be brought later today. Transducers were installed on March 8th. Carrier is scheduled to be at COA on Monday, March 19, to start all four units. She said they are making little progress. Ms. Duff was asked to come to the board meeting next Friday, to report any updates.

FINANCE

Bills & Accounts
Administrator Norman presented a summary of the Bills and Accounts (Jail Operations-Board and Care-32%, Computer Services Contract-24%, Jail Operations-Commissary Supplies-16%, Building Repair & Maintenance-9% and Legal Fees-4%) to make up 89% of the invoices. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by and seconded by to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of $97,624.64.

Lucas County Autopsy Contract for 2018
Dr. Troy Davis spoke on the Lucas County Autopsy Contract for 2018; the service did increase for 2018. Commissioner Vrablic commented on an autopsy bill that was received last month that was completed by Spectrum Health which included the toxicology cost, with Lucas County these are separate fees. This makes Spectrum Health a little bit cheaper than Lucas County. Dr. Davis has no issues with either facility. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by and seconded by for the approval to not renew the Autopsy Contract with Lucas County.

Juror Compensation Rate Increases-Circuit Court
Circuit Court Administrator Pam Gilchrest submitted a request for approval. Governor Snyder amended MCL 600.1344 to increase the minimum rates that courts and funding units must pay for mileage reimbursement and juror compensation, effective April 1, 2018. Currently the mileage reimbursement meets the requirement, the juror compensation does not. A juror is paid $12.50 for the first half day and $25.00 for a full day; subsequent days are $20.00 for the half day and $40.00 for a full day. The new required rates effective April 1, 2018 will be:
$15.00 for the first half day and $30.00 for a full day; subsequent days, $22.50 for the half day and $45.00 for a full day. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by to approve the per diem reimbursement at the statutory minimum rates pursuant to MCL 600.1344, effective April 1, 2018, as presented.

Resolution- Parks Grant
The Parks Department is asking for approval from the Committee to support the submission of an application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the construction of a new restroom facility at Memorial Park, in the amount of $135,000. This is a 50% match therefore, the financial obligation of the Parks Department will be $135,000, making the total project cost $270,000. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by seconded by that approval is given for the submission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Resolution for the construction of a restroom facility at Memorial Park.

Opioid Presentation
Attorney David Mittleman from Church Wyble PC and Paul Novak with Weitz and Luxenberg gave a presentation on the opioid crisis. There has been a 61% increase in prescriptions since 2009 in Branch County. There have been 16 Branch County deaths due to opioid overdoses between 2004 and 2015. Only 3 of those deaths occurred between 2004 and 2009, 13 of those deaths occurred between 2010 and 2015.

These attorneys make up 5 law firms throughout Michigan that are connected to the Sam Bernstein law office that handle lawsuits that are filed on behalf of individual municipalities against drug companies, distributors and pharmacies. They currently represent 5 cities and 40 counties, to recover unnecessary expenses that have been created by this epidemic. There are no costs unless they make a recovery. Those fees are 30% after the costs have been deducted. They will review each case and only take a case if they feel they can make a recovery.

LEGISLATIVE (Commissioner Gordon)

911 Consultant Contract
The agreement was provided to the Committee for their review for the 911 Radio System Consulting Services. 911 Director Kurt Spaulding said they have money in their budget to cover this service. The Committee recommends:

Motion by seconded by to approve the 911 agreement for Radio System Consulting Services in the amount of $59,965.

There was a brief recess at 10:48am. The meeting resumed at 10:59am to discuss the COAM grievance.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:39am.

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