

WORKING MEETING

July 19, 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, Sean Watson-WTVB, Nancy Hutchins-ROD, Undersheriff Eichler, Veteran Affairs-Charles Scott, Ann Vrablic-Treasurer, Kelli Talbot-Chief Deputy Treasurer, DTE Energy Regional Manager, Michael Sage, Several Branch County residents from Sherwood, Matteson, Batavia and Union townships and Administrator Bud Norman.

Agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Steve McManamey, who represents the Branch County Sheriff's Deputies Union and Detective- Sergeant Nichols, who is the President of the Command Officers Association, both presented monetary donations to the Jail Millage Committee to show their support of the Jail Millage. They do this knowing that the Commissioners pledged that any money saved on Jail Maintenance will help bring back more road deputies.

Pam Reed who is a spokesperson for the concerned citizens of Branch County spoke on conflicting information regarding the impact that improperly sited wind turbines can have on rural, agricultural and lake side communities. Documentation was given to the committee members on media reports and newspaper articles from Huron County. Wind turbines would lower property values and change the nature of their rural community.

PERSONNEL, PLANS & POLICY **(Commissioner Norris)**

September 20, 2018 Work Meeting-Reschedule

The committee agreed to change the date of the Work Meeting on September 20th, to September 14th @ 9am.

Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to change the September 20th work meeting to Friday, September 14th at 9am.

Request for a Personnel Change-Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff is requesting to move the recently hired part-time employee too full-time, due to a recent retirement. He will have two part time positions open, in which he will again try to fill.

DTE Energy-Wind Turbine Presentation

DTE Energy Regional Manager, Michael Sage presented to the Committee on the entire process the utility has to go through to build a wind park. DTE officials are currently acquiring easements and conducting various studies in the proposed project areas in Sherwood, Matteson, Union and Batavia townships. Currently they have 180 people signed up with a little over 31,000 acres of the 60,000 acres in the four townships. Only 14-18% of

leased land can be used. They estimated to build 50-70 wind turbines in those areas, depending on interest. The County has no control of the project, the control lies with the townships on zoning ordinances to govern the impact of wind turbines.

SHERIFF & PUBLIC SAFETY **(Commissioner Kolcz)**

Undersheriff Report **(June 2018)**

Total Arrests: 43
Total Citations: 168 of the 168, Secondary Road: 105
Traffic Accidents: 26 3 on the Interstate
Total Car/Deer Accidents : 23
Inmate Transport 55.5 hours
Fatal Accidents: 0
Reserve Deputies: 335.25 hours
Posse: 0 hours
Marine Patrol: 425.75 hours
Overtime: Road patrol –166.50 hours Corrections – 154 hours Court-29 hours
29 pounds of prescription drugs collected. 0- Meth Lab.
Foreclosures – For this year 30 – Sales, 129 – prepared \$1,857,558.45

Jail Administrator’s Report **(June 2018)**

Average Daily Count for June: 122
Average break down: 109 males/13 females
As of 7/9/18 count is 113 with 19 females & 6 females boarded out to other Counties
Jail Incidents for June: 63

Animal Control Report **(June 2018)**

Total Animal Intake: 18 (8 from Hillsdale County) **Total Reclaim: 12** **Totals Adopted: 0** **Total Other/Transfer: 6**

Marine Patrol Report **(June 2018)**

Total Warnings: 104 Total Citations: 2
Boater Safety Classes- 118 students attended
Liveries Inspection: 32 Boats, 7 Liveries

HOUSE **(Commissioner Hazelbaker)**

Request to Sell Donated Camper-Veteran’s Affairs

Charles Scott is requesting to sell the camper that was donated last year and being used at Messenger Lake. He has since pulled the camper from Messenger due to continued issues. Haylett’s RV charges a \$90 listing fee and receive 10% once the camper has been sold. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ that approval is given to Veteran Affairs to sell the donated camper and monies received will be deposited into Veteran Affairs account.

FINANCE

Commissioner Vrablic)

Bills & Accounts

Administrator Norman presented a summary of the Bills and Accounts (Jail Operations Health Care-37% Printed Forms & Bindings-18%, Jail Operations-Board and Care-12%, Membership and Dues-5% and Attorney Fees--5%) to make up 77% of the invoices. The Committee Recommends:

Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$233,560.46.

The Committee went into recess at 10:18 am, returned at 10:25 am.

Within Budget Line Item Transfer Request-Sheriff

The Sheriff is requesting to transfer \$11,200 out of his wage line item and transferring into his law equipment line. The monies will be used for uniforms and additional weapons for the new employees and to have on reserve. It was requested that the \$11,200 be separated. The amount for the Uniforms should be deposited into that line item and the amount for weapons the monies are transferred into the Law Equipment line item.

Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ that approval is given to the Sheriff to spend no more than \$11,200 out of his General Salaries line item, to purchase uniforms and equipment. Line item transfers will be based on amount spent on Uniforms to be transferred into that line item and amount spent on equipment will be transferred into the Law Equipment line.

2017 Audit Review

Aaron Stevens from Stevens, Kirinovic & Tucker presented the 2017 Audit Report. He spoke about audit standards and stated that his firm did not audit CHC or the Road Commission; however they did refer to the other auditor’s reports for those components. The County received a fair opinion, based on their audit and the reports of other auditors. Mr. Stevens stated that the General Fund balance as of 12/31/2018 was \$1,982,046 with \$1,696,280 of that amount being unassigned and \$49,869 being assigned. The county’s Fund Balance is at 12.4%. It is recommended that the Fund Balance be at 17%. Total revenues for 2017 were \$12,480.026; this is an increase of less than 9% over 2016 revenues. 2017 expenditures were \$12,453,532; this is an increase of 20%, from the previous year. 48% of the county’s revenue came from taxes. A copy of the audit report is available in the Clerk’s Office.

LEGISLATIVE

(Commissioner Gordon)

None

Public Comment: Kathryn Barnes, who has been a Branch County resident since 1973, owns 15 acres that is a wildlife sanctuary is a concerned citizen spoke on her feelings on the wind turbines. She provided each Committee member with a DVD on the wind issues. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/SaveRuralCommunities/ or www.big-wind.homestead.com

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.

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