

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, March 14, 2022, 4:00 PM
Jack VanHarn Commissioners Room, 3rd Floor,
Administration Building, 211 W. Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888
Remote Option: 1-833-201-6754 Conference ID: 456691611#

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson, Commissioner Miller at 4:00 p.m.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Miller, Beach, Johnston, Kohn, Carr, Bresnahan and Petersen. Members absent: Painter and Baker.

Others present: Stephanie Husted, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Elisabeth Waldon, Mark Christensen, Connie Stewart, Liz Braddock, Doug Gietzen, Ryan Dreyer, Andrea Krause, Mike Scott, Eric Smith, Todd Sattler, Brian Harrison, Melissa Springsteen, Michael Kalka.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Mark Christensen, Road Commission, was in attendance to request ARPA Funds to help offset revenue losses in 2020 and 2021. The amount of the request is \$2,585,711.00.

The committee recommends to the full board to allow the Controller to transfer funds to the Road Commission in the amount of \$2,585,711.00 to help offset revenue losses due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021.

Connie Stewart, Montcalm Community College, was in attendance to request ARPA funds to replace the HVAC system in the Smith Building on the Sidney Campus.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to table the request for the Controller to transfer ARPA funds to Montcalm Community College in the amount of \$796,981.00 to assist in replacing the HVAC system in the Smith Building on the Sidney Campus. Motion carried.

Liz Braddock, Health Officer for Mid-Michigan District Health Department, was in attendance to request \$41,000 in ARPA funds to replace the carpeting in the MMDHD Stanton offices.

The committee to recommends to the full board to allow the Controller to transfer \$41,000 in ARPA Funds to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department to cover half the costs of replacing the flooring.

Brian Harrison, AdvisaCare Home Health & Hospice, State Representative Pat Outman, and Melissa Springsteen presented the board with a proposed Resolution in support of urging the State Legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a reimbursement cap for auto accident victims.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Beach to approve and adopt RESOLUTION: 2022-04, Supporting insurance reform for accident victims:

WHEREAS, the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act of 2019 introduced a fee schedule/cap, which took final effect on July 1, 2021, that set percentage limits on how much residential care facilities, home health care providers, and other persons can be paid or reimbursed for providing treatment or care to auto accident victims; and

WHEREAS, the reimbursement rates under the Michigan Auto Insurance Fee Schedule now allows residential care facilities, home health care providers and other persons who lawfully render treatment to receive 200% of Medicare, for what Medicare reimburses, regardless of limitation, 55% of a providers Charge Description Master (CDM) as of January 1, 2019, and/or if the following two obligations are not met, 55% of a providers average charges for which they received payment on January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, despite the statutory obligation described above, Michigan Auto Insurance companies are only paying providers 45% of what they were receiving in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, as a result, home health care providers are being reimbursed between \$14-\$18/hour which is below the cost of employee wages as other entry level positions in different industries (fast food) are paying workers between \$15-\$20/hour.

WHEREAS, the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act applies retroactively including the fee schedule cap, which is fundamentally unfair to individuals who purchased coverage and were injured in motor vehicle accidents before the No-Fault Act was amended in 2019 and now have limited access to care; and

WHEREAS, these fee caps affect the auto accident victims who are receiving long-term care and rehabilitation paid for by the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) through the per-vehicle annual fee that all Michigan drivers were once assessed; and

WHEREAS, the MCCA's 2021 Annual Statement shows its assets are over \$27 billion and its total liabilities are slightly over \$22 billion; and

WHEREAS, some patients who are not able to find long-term catastrophic care services have been forced to leave their own homes; and

WHEREAS, even though lifetime medical benefits are still guaranteed under the 2019 Michigan Auto-Insurance Reform Act, for those injured prior to 2019 and for those who purchase Unlimited Personal Injury Protection (PIP) policies, these benefits are meaningless if patients have very limited or no access services since providers are unable to cover basic labor costs; and

WHEREAS, there are Montcalm County residents, and their families, who are currently benefitting, or would in the future, from services pertaining to their care, recovery and rehabilitation from catastrophic injuries but are already directly affected if the current law is not changed; and

WHEREAS, without action more than 18,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries and other catastrophic injuries in Michigan will have to find another way to receive care and support (Medicaid) because of this major change to the State's No-Fault auto insurance law despite having purchased insurance policies to protect them and their families; and

WHEREAS, this is a humanitarian crisis born from a government-mandated price fix, that only the legislature can undo; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Michigan Legislature to amend the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a sustainable reimbursement cap based on an existing Government payor (Medicaid, Veterans Affairs, etc) for residential care facilities, and home health providers who provide necessary care to auto accident victims in order to uphold these benefits that have been paid for by the survivors who currently are receiving and who will receive long-term care when purchasing an Unlimited PIP Auto Insurance policy paid by the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Clerk is requested to forward copies of the adopted resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the State Senate Majority and

Minority leaders, the State House Speaker and Minority Leader, and the members of the Montcalm County delegation to the Michigan Legislature.

Motion carried.

Michael Kalka, Montcalm County Building Department provided the committee with a proposal that the Building Department begin paying mileage to the trade inspectors.

The committee recommends to the full board to allow the Building Department to pay mileage to the trade inspectors.

Doug Gietzen, Maintenance, provided the committee with a request for ARPA funds to make park improvements.

The committee recommends to the full board to allow the Maintenance Director to petition bids for McCarthy and Krampe parks for installation of wells, drain fields, plumbing, electrical and associated restroom accessories.

Ryan Dreyer, Commission on Aging, was in attendance to request amendments to the Commission on Aging Executive Board By-laws. Mr. Dreyer explained that a paragraph has been added to Article XIII-Amendments to allow for the correction of grammatical, punctuation and correlation to the By-laws without the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The committee recommends to the full board to adopt the proposed amended By-laws of the Montcalm County Commission on Aging Executive Board.

Andrea Krause, Montcalm County Prosecuting Attorney, was in attendance to provide the board with a request for ARPA funds from the Prosecuting Attorney's office to go paperless. The cost would not exceed \$230,750.

The committee recommends to the full board to authorize the Prosecutor to procure a contract with Karpel Solutions, allowing for signatures, and proceed with her Paperless Functionality Project, to be paid from ARPA funds with full board approval.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, requested a transfer of \$5,268,998 in ARPA funds to cover the revenue loss due to COVID-19.

The committee recommends to the full board to authorize the County Controller to allocate an additional \$5,268,998 in ARPA funding as revenue replacement and move it into the General Fund.

The committee recommends to the full board to approve warrant number 03142022 in the amount of \$405,167.87.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with revenue and expenditure reports for a budget review. She stated that she has no real concerns regarding the reports. She did say that everything that was overdue was due to the ARPA Funds.

Under Controller Updates, Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, informed the committee that Consumers Energy is requesting the Board approve an easement for them to be able to use for the moving of the power line to build the new Drain/EMS/Sheriff building out behind the Sheriff's Dept. Chairman Carr signed the easement paperwork.

Ms. Taeter informed the committee that Trevor Wright, Veteran Affairs, would like to get approval to pay volunteers so much money per block of time. Brenda Taeter suggested an elevated scale which would allow them to stray away from per diem. She will have Mr. Wright bring something back before the committee at the next meeting for consideration.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Moved by Commissioner Beach, supported by Commissioner Petersen to adjourn at 6:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Jeremy Miller, Acting Chairman