

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, January 10, 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: 781559541#

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

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Miller, Painter, Beach, Johnston, Carr, Baker, Bresnahan and Petersen. Members absent: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Eric Smith, Ryan Dreyer, Doug Geitzen, Tesha Peterman, Deb Ballard, Sherma Horrocks, Steve Bigelow, Joe Hansen, Todd Sattler, Helen Kennedy, Patty Rockafellow, Sharon McInnis, Olivia Bloomstrom, Jeremy Kwekel, Jessica Kwekel and Elisabeth Waldon.

Public comments were offered. Olivia Bloomstrom, Montcalm Township, introduced herself to the board as the new Montcalm Alliance Executive Director.

Jeremy Kwekel, Cato Township, addressed the board regarding some news article in the Daily News regarding Chairman Carr and some occurrence that happened at a Cato Township meeting.

Discussion took place on re-establishing the County Library Board. Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the committee with the names of 6 individuals interested in serving on the committee. Commissioner Beach distributed a list of Roles and Responsibilities to be discussed and considered.

Patty Rockafellow, White Pine Library, addressed the board and stated that the library directors meet monthly to discuss issues and she does not necessarily feel the need to have a County Library Board appointed.

Sharon McInnis, Reynolds Township Library, addressed the board and suggested that instead of re-establishing the County Library Board that the library directors get together and put a report together once per year and present it to the board.

County Clerk, Kristen Millard, read MCL 397.33 entitled County Library board; duties; membership, appointment, term; contracts for service which states:

In any county where there is no public library, or in any county within the boundaries of which there are municipalities which have not established public library service or which do not maintain public libraries, the county board of supervisors shall appoint a county library board to receive the per capita portion of penal fine moneys to be allocated for such areas. The county library board shall consist of 5 members appointed by the county board of supervisors for terms of 5 years each, except that the first members shall be appointed for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years respectively. The board may contract with a qualified public library, within or without the county, to provide public library service for all residents of the county without legal access to a public library.

Since Montcalm County does have public libraries, the board did not take any action on re-establishing the County Library Board at this time.

Eric Smith, Emergency Services, requested that MCES non-union employees be granted a membership in Healthcare Plus, which is the county's ambulance subscription program. Discussion took place on whether this subscription should be offered to all county employees and not just rescue and MCES employees. Mr. Smith stated that he would need numbers and ages of employees provided to him and then he can come back to the committee with the costs associated with offering it to all county employees. No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Smith provided the board with a request to adjust the ambulance services revenue budget by an additional \$400,000 due to new state legislation which increases Medicaid reimbursement rates to match Medicare rates for ambulance services. Additionally, he is also requesting a 20% wage increase for all ambulance and emergency services staff, except for himself. He is proposing a 7% increase for himself. He stated that he feels this is very important in order to retain current staff as the Montcalm County wages are less than that of Life EMS.

Commissioner Petersen questioned a 20% across the board increase for supervisors and paramedics. Chairman Carr stated that he feels that all of the employees are worthy of these increases. He is supportive of the concept but feels the logistics need to be worked out first. He believes it would be more prudent to get the union side figured out first. He believes negotiations need to be opened up and ironed out prior to approving any increases.

Mr. Smith stated that a letter would be required from the board asking to re-open the contract and begin negotiations. The consensus of the board was to direct the Controller to contact the IAEP and ask that the contract be re-opened and begin negotiations.

Eric Smith, Emergency Services, presented the committee with a request for an additional Billing and Accounts Manager I instead of hiring an EMS Education position due to the high volume of calls and the deadlines for billing insurance companies.

The committee recommends to the full board to allow EMS to post an opening for a Billing and Accounts Manager I.

Mr. Smith provided the board with a detailed EMS and Emergency Management update.

Ryan Dreyer, Commission on Aging Director, provided the board with a request to place the Commission on Aging millage renewal on the August 2, 2022, Primary Election ballot.

The committee recommends to the full board that the Commission on Aging Millage Renewal in the amount of .45 mills to fund Commission on Aging be placed on the August 2, 2022, ballot:

This millage will allow the County of Montcalm, Michigan to continue to levy the previous voted constitutional tax rate limitation on general ad valorem taxes of 0.45 mills to provide funds for the Montcalm County Commission on Aging for Senior Citizen Services.

Shall the Constitutional tax rate limitation on general ad valorem taxes within the County of Montcalm, Michigan, be 0.45 mills (\$0.45 per \$1,000.00) on the taxable value of such property, subject to reduction as provided by law, for a period of four (4) years, 2023 through 2026, both inclusive, to provide funds for the Commission on Aging for Senior Services within the County of Montcalm, Michigan (such levy is estimated to provide revenues of approximately \$931,910 in 2023 and is a renewal of a previously authorized millage in the amount of 0.45 mills)?

To the extent required by law, a portion of this millage will be captured and retained by the Village of Edmore Downtown Development Authority, the Crystal Township Downton Development Authority, the Village of Howard City Downtown Development Authority, the Village of Lakeview Downtown Development Authority and the City of Greenville Downtown Development Authority.

Michelle Becker, Controller’s Office, provided the board with a recommendation from the Commission on Aging Executive Board to appoint Chuck Hazekamp to serve a 1-year term on the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. This will replace the appointment of David Lobert, which was an error.

The committee recommends to the full board to appoint Chuck Hazekamp to serve a 1-year term on the AAAM Board with the appointment to expire on December 31, 2022.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, asked the committee to review the rental rates for the Montcalm County Parks. She informed the board that Maintenance Director feels the rate of \$300 per day for the large pavilions at Krampe and McCarthy Parks is too high and he recommends reducing that rate to \$150 per day with or without electricity

The committee recommends to the full board to approve the 2022 Camp Ford Lincoln and Krampe and McCarthy park rates as listed below:

Camp Ford Lincoln:

<u>Weekly Rate</u>	<u>Weekend Rate</u>	<u>Weekday Rate (Per Day)*</u>
Mon. 3 p.m. - Mon. 10 a.m.	Fri. 3 p.m. – Mon. 10 a.m.	1 st day 3 p.m. - 10 a.m. next day
\$1,500.00	\$825.00	\$300.00
\$1050.00 non-profit org.**	\$600.00 non-profit org.**	\$225.00 non-profit org.**

Krampe Park: Large Pavilion = \$150 per day w/ electricity

**McCarthy Park: Large Pavilion = \$150 per day w/ electricity
Small Pavilion = \$75 per day (no electricity)**

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with a request from the ARPA Committee to purchase materials now to replace the roof on the old part of the Court Complex. Mr. Gietzen explained how the pricing works and why it is important to order the materials now.

The committee recommends to the full board to authorize the Maintenance Director to place the order for the Tremco roofing materials in the amount of \$231,713.27 to be paid from ARPA funds.

The committee recommends to the full board to approve warrant number 01102022 in the amount of \$788,281.93.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, provided the board with the budget review documents. Ms. Taeter stated that she doesn’t have any areas of concern at this point. There are a few budget adjustments but anything ARPA related will have to be adjusted.

Under Controller Updates, Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, informed the committee that CASA did send a thank you to the Board of Commissioners for the ARPA funds.

Ms. Taeter also informed the board that in accordance with the board's rules, any contract over \$25,000 - \$30,000 should be reviewed. The county's payroll contract falls within that range, therefore she did ask for proposals and a proposal was received from Paychex and for a 3 year deal the county will save about \$14,000 per year. The consensus of the board was to switch to Paychex for payroll processing by April 1, 2022.

Public comments were offered. Richele Lentz, Montcalm Township, addressed the board regarding ARPA funds and county libraries. She also asked if there was anything the county could do regarding repeated audit finding between the township clerk and treasurer.

Joe Hansen, Sidney Township, addressed the committee regarding the board's responsibilities with wind turbines and conflicting officials on township boards. He stated that is very frustrating and it would be nice if the county board could help resolve this issue.

Jessica Kwekel, Cato Township, addressed the committee regarding conflicted township officials.

Commissioner Petersen stated that he sympathizes with both the anti and pro wind individuals. He stated that if it was possible to put the issue to a vote that he believes every board member here would vote to place it on the ballot.

Clerk Millard stated that she has been informed that the question of whether there shall or shall not be wind turbines is not something that can be placed on a ballot. A referendum to overturn an ordinance can be placed on the ballot but an advisory question cannot.

Jeremy Kwekel, Cato Township, addressed the board regarding the discussion regarding a legal opinion on advisory questions.

Moved by Commissioner Beach, supported by Commissioner Petersen to adjourn at 5:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Chris Johnston, Acting Chairman