

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 1:00 PM  
Jack VanHarn Commissioners Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Administration Building, 211 W. Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson, Commissioner Petersen at 1:00 p.m.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Mike Williams, Andrea Krause, Jason Evans, Andy Doezema, Andy Powell, Doug Gietzen, Brandon Olejnik, Elisabeth Waldon.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

The purpose of the meeting was a FY 2022 Budget Work Session to meet with department heads and elected officials on their proposed budgets. Acting Chairperson Petersen explained that the purpose of the meeting today is to hear requests, take them under advisement, ask questions about them, take notes and then at the end of the budget hearings the committee will vote on each of the requests. No requests will be voted on today.

Andrea Krause, Prosecuting Attorney, presented the committee with a request to increase the wages for her Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's. She provided the committee with the last three years of caseload for all case types, as well as the wage of each assistant, along with her recommended increase. She stated that she has a very good team of attorneys in her office, and she wants to be able to pay them a competitive wage to be able to retain them.

Ms. Krause also explained the difference between the office of the Prosecuting Attorney and the Indigent Defense office and her request in the budget that should the Indigent Defense Director receive an additional increase in wages, that the Prosecutor also receive the same percentage of increase. She explained how the work loads are not the same.

Ms. Krause also requested that her part time employee be promoted to full-time. By fulfilling this request, that would put the Prosecutor's Office back to where they were, staffing wise, in 2016.

As her last request, Ms. Krause inquired as to why wage increases do not start in October since health insurance increases take place at the beginning of the fiscal year, thus increasing expenses to employees but their wage increases do not start until after the first of the calendar year. Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, stated that union contracts are based on the calendar year, therefore so are wages.

Sheriff Mike Williams was in attendance to discuss his various budgets and requests. His requests included:

- An additional corrections officer in the jail to alleviate overtime and employee burnout.
- A 4% increase for his administrative staff and an increase for Kevin Everingham due to taking on supervisory responsibilities
- Law Enforcement Fund Equipment – Use of Force Simulator
- Reclassification of one Deputy to a Sergeant to allow for the proper supervision of the Deputies.

Jason Evans and Brandon Olejnik, District Court were in attendance to present their requests.

- A full time Deputy Clerk
- Reclassification of a Deputy Clerk to a Head Clerk, at a rate of \$22 per hour. The Head Clerk would serve as middle management.
- Staffing classification changes for Clerk II/CER
- New office equipment to replace old worn-out equipment

Doug Gietzen, Maintenance Director, presented the board with his requests:

- Reclassifying the part-time Parks worker to a full-time maintenance worker.
- To reclassify Jason Barnes position, to a Field Operations Supervisor, which would remove him from the union and put him in a supervisory position
- A new tractor with a push plow
- A replacement maintenance truck
- A new mower
- A new computer and a laptop
- Installing heat and a restroom in the current pole barn

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, addressed the board regarding the budget books and some of the items she has included in her budget recommendations:

Pg 50 – some fund balances are being used.  
 Pg 60 - Indigent Defense – exorbitant expense  
 She did budget 1% for AFSCME, 2% for nonunion  
 Straight 2% it was an additional \$12,800  
 Health insurance will be coming in with a 0% increase  
 She has a meeting with MERS on July 25<sup>th</sup> to set up that trust if anyone would like to attend that meeting.

Commissioner Kohn asked Brenda Taeter questions regarding revenues.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Beach to adjourn at 2:44 p.m. Motion carried.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kristen Millard, County Clerk

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adam Petersen, Acting Chairman