

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Friday, July 15, 2022, 1:00 PM
Jack VanHarn Commissioners Room, 3rd 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 Beach, Johnston, Kohn, Carr, Baker, Bresnahan and Petersen. Members absent: Commissioners Miller and Painter.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Deb Ballard, Jason Evans and Stephanie Husted.

Public comments were offered. Jason Evans, District Court Attorney Magistrate, addressed the committee regarding other departments that have been of assistance to the District Court. He named the Prosecutor's Office, Central Dispatch, the Sheriff's Office, and Kristen Millard, County Clerk. He stressed the importance of offices working together and wanted to publicly state his appreciation to those that have been helpful to the District Court.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk, and Stephanie Husted, Chief Deputy County Clerk, were in attendance to request the reclassification of two Office Assistant positions in the Circuit Court Clerk's office to Administrative Aide positions. Ms. Millard stressed that while her staff members in those positions are outstanding, she really feels that the positions and the nature of the responsibilities of those positions warrants reclassification. Ms. Husted informed the committee of all of the duties that are performed by employees in those positions and stated that she too feels the positions should be reclassified given the importance of the duties. Ms. Millard also requested the purchase of a stuffer/folder machine to be used for many different functions.

Deb Ballard, Equalization Director, was in attendance to request a reclassification for Nicole Flower from an Assessment Roll Specialist to Address Administrator/Code Officer from \$16.65 to \$19.75 per hour. Ms. Flower has just received her Level II Assessor certification and has taken over all of the addressing responsibilities.

Ms. Ballard asked the committee to increase the Address Fee from \$20 to \$25. This fee is charged when a new address is created. She also suggested increasing the export fee for tax servicing agencies from \$.05 per parcel to \$.08-\$.10 per parcel to help generate more revenue. The increase in the fee could generate \$6,300 – \$10,500 per year to help offset the cost of increasing Ms. Flower's wage.

Commissioner Petersen informed the committee that Mr. Nave was scheduled to be here today but is out of state on a personal matter. He will be rescheduled.

Commissioner Beach stated that one of the things he noticed during different departments presentations was how some department heads stated that employees are too stressed, while others concentrated on duties already being performed by employees that they feel they should be compensated for.

Commissioner Kohn commented that if every request was granted there would be a vast difference between expenses and revenues. He feels that the expenses may be going up faster than tax revenues and cautioned about granting all of the requests.

Brenda Taeter/Controller/Administrator, stated that the County has been lucky the past 3 years with Health Insurance expenses not increasing. They will not increase next year either, but the committee should expect and prepare for an increase each year.

Commissioner Petersen stated that he thinks the requests need to be discussed and gone through. Some type of boundaries must be established because not every request can be granted.

Ms. Taeter suggested that each commissioner take home their budget books and go through the requests and mark which requests they feel should be approved. She shared some of her thoughts on a few of the larger requests as an example for the committee members.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Beach to adjourn at 1:46 p.m. Motion carried.



Kristen Millard, County Clerk



Adam Petersen, Acting Chairman