

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, July 27, 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 Painter, Beach, Johnston, Carr, Baker, Bresnahan and Petersen. Members absent: Commissioners Miller and Kohn.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Todd Sattler, Matt Neve, Andrea Krause, Andy Powell, Lisa Petersen, Mike Williams, Lori Wilson and 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.

Todd Sattler, Drain Commissioner, was in attendance to ask to reclassify one of his Drain Maintenance employees to a Drain Crew Group Leader, which would be a supervisory position.

Matt Nave, Indigent Defense, was in attendance to discuss his budget requests. Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, addressed the conference travel requests that collectively are over \$37,000. Mr. Nave stated that there are 3 conferences per year that 12 attorneys are mandated to attend per statute. This would be for registration, meals and travel.

Discussion took place on the wage increase request for the Public Defense Administrator to the amount of \$105,518.40. Mr. Nave stressed that he feels there should be parity between the Prosecutor and the Indigent Defense Administrator because they both play important and similar roles.

When asked if he has equal responsibilities of the Prosecutor he stated that there are things the Prosecutors don't do such as misdemeanor sentencings and City of Greenville cases. He stated that the roles are similar. When asked if he would be insulted if he would not be given this wage increase, he stated that no, he personally wouldn't be offended but he would be offended on behalf of Indigent Defense as a department.

The Committee reviewed the fees schedule and the recommended increases. They will be included in the budget resolution.

The Committee went thru each General Fund request. The amount of money that is available to cover all request is \$225,640.

Discussion took place regarding the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Millage fund balance and whether that millage could be used to hire staff at the jail. Sheriff Williams was in attendance and stated that the millage is specifically for deputies and the equipment necessary to put those deputies on the road. He stated that corrections officers need to be paid for out of the General Fund.

Commissioner Petersen stated that the wording of the millage was for law enforcement and many things fall under the umbrella of law enforcement. He stated that the general public couldn't care less on how that millage money is spent as long as it is used for anything that falls under the Sheriff. Therefore it is Sheriff Williams choice to not use the Law Enforcement Millage for corrections officers.

Ms. Taeter informed the board that this request would help offset the overtime expenses and employee burnout. She stated that the jail is always over the budgeted amount of overtime.

Discussion took place on reclassification requests, employee wage increases and equipment purchases.

Discussion took place on commissioner wages for 2023 since the number of commissioners will be reduced to 7 from 9. Discussion took place on dividing the wages budgeted for the 2 commissioner positions that were eliminated between the remaining 7 commissioners, which would be approximately \$3,000 each and adding that to the remaining 7 commissioners wages. Commissioner Carr stated that the position of commissioner is a full time job, therefore insurance should be offered and available. It was tentatively decided that health insurance will be offered to county commissioners.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Johnston commented that he would like the window behind the entry doors to the board room possibly tinted. It's difficult to see who is entering the commissioners room due to the sun glare.

Moved by Commissioner Painter, supported by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn at 3:33 p.m. Motion carried.



Kristen Millard, County Clerk



Adam Petersen, Acting Chairman