

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, August 8, 2022, 4:00 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 Bresnahan at 4:00 p.m.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Eric Smith, Deb Ballard, John Hoppough, Darin Dood, Todd Lincoln, Sheila Smith, John Anderson, William Drews, Terry Legg, Jason Evans, Brandon Olejnik, Mike Williams, G.R. Pete Frye, Julie Stafford, Lisa Petersen, Helen Kennedy, Mary Ellen Wiles, Ann Miller and Elisabeth Waldon.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Commissioner Bresnahan explained to all in attendance that the presentations being made today for ARPA funding will be heard but not voted on today. Each commissioner has a Rubic on their desk to score each request on, and after all of the ARPA requests are heard over the next couple of months, then the Commissioners will discuss and vote on them.

Terry Legg, United Way was in attendance to request \$200,000 in ARPA money to fund 211. An equal request has been made to Ionia County for an additional \$200,000. Ms. Legg stated that 211 is the State of Michigan's COVID Crisis Line handling all inquiries from Montcalm County for anything related to COVID.

John Andersen, Belvidere Township Supervisor, and Sheila Smith, Belvidere Township Clerk, were in attendance to request \$200,000 to upgrade the First Lake Park, which would include remodeling the bathhouse, upgrading the electrical grid and upgrading the roads in the park. These funds would also upgrade the playground equipment in the First Lake Park and in the Roadside Park near the Veteran's Memorial. Additionally, they would like to upgrade their ball field and construct a new tennis/pickleball court and basketball court. Mr. Andersen acknowledged that the County Board has a lot of requests and while the request they are submitting is for \$200,000 they realistically would be happy to get \$100,000. Sheila Smith addressed the committee and stated that she would be thankful for any amount of money towards their projects. When asked how much the township allocates to the First Lake Park per year, Mr. Andersen explained that they try to allocate \$20,000 per year but that does fluctuate based on the repairs that are needed.

William Drews, Pine Township Supervisor, was in attendance to request ARPA funding for the new water well at Farnsworth Park; resurfacing the driveway at the park; and improving the ball diamond at the Township Hall property for a total of \$57,150. Mr. Drews stated that there is currently a hand pump there but the water is not considered to be potable. The new well would still be a hand pump but the water will be potable.

Mr. Drews stated that the first \$50,000 that was given to the township is going toward a new pavilion, incidentals and new signage. He also stated new tables and chairs are needed in the township hall and the offices need to be upgraded, as well as the parking lot.

Darin Dood, Village of Lakeview, was in attendance to request \$200,000 in ARPA funding to put a path around Tamarack Lake in Lakeview. Mr. Dood informed the board that the Village of Lakeview is working collaboratively with Cato Township on the path. Mr. Dood informed the committee that he has applied for several grants which were denied. Without any additional funding Mr. Dood stated it would take the Village and Township at least 5 years to finish the project.

Jason Evans, District Court Attorney Magistrate, and Brandon Olejnik, Magistrate/Administrator, were in attendance to request permission to hire a new employee as a Criminal/LEIN Clerk II, at the top of the scale at \$20 per hour. The request for a LEIN clerk is in the 2023 Budget, however given an applicants experience, Mr. Evans would like to move forward with filling this position immediately, and at the top of the scale. Mr. Evans stated that since submitting his request to the Committee, he has spoken to the applicant and she is willing to start at the 6 month step instead of the top of the pay scale. Roll call vote to recommend to the full board to allow District Court to hire Jennifer Nester prior the new fiscal year (10-01-22) as a Criminal/LEIN Clerk II at the 6 month step at \$17.15 per hour. Ayes: Commissioners Baker, Johnston, Kohn, Painter and Bresnahan. Nays: Commissioners Beach, Miller, Petersen and Carr. Motion carried.

The committee recommends to the full board to allow District Court to hire Jennifer Nester, prior to the new fiscal year (10-01-22), as a Criminal/LEIN Clerk II at the 6 month step at \$17.15 per hour.

Mr. Evans also informed the committee that Mary Ellen Wiles, a 37-year veteran Probation Officer, will be retiring on September 23, 2022. Mr. Evans stressed the importance of being able to hire Ms. Wiles' replacement 4 weeks prior to her leaving so training can take place with the new Probation Officer.

The committee recommends to the full board to hire a new probation officer with a start date of 9-5-22, which will overlap the current position by three weeks, to allow for adequate training.

The committee took a 10 minute recess at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:55 p.m.

Michael Beach, Montcalm County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division FOP, presented the committee with a request for the FOP union to be able to take up a donation of sick and vacation time to help Officer Perkins when she is off to give birth, up to a maximum of 500 hours.

The committee recommends to the full board to allow FOP members to donate sick and vacation time to Officer Perkins, up to 500 hours.

Eric Smith, Emergency Services, was in attendance to request the Homeland Security Grant Program Intergovernmental Agreement between West Michigan Regional Medical Consortium and allow for signatures.

The committee recommends to the full board to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and allow for signatures.

Deb Ballard, Equalization Director, presented the board with the 2022 Tax Rate Request, L-4029.

The committee recommends to the full board to approve the 2022 Tax Rate Request, L-4029 and authorize the appropriate signatures.

Commissioner Petersen had asked to have the Junk and Rubbish Ordinance added to the agenda for review. He stated that this is a subject that comes up at every township meeting he attends and he

would like to see it beefed up to instill more motivation in people to keep their properties cleaned up. Commissioner Bresnahan stated that she agrees completely.

The Building Department currently hands out citations, but it is not a comfortable situation for them to be in. Commissioner Petersen feels the Building Official should not be listed in the Ordinance under Enforcement as they are not equipped to deal with this type of a situation.

Sheriff Williams was in attendance and stated that if the penalty is changed from a civil infraction to a misdemeanor then it would be more enforceable. Sheriff Williams stated that they used to be a misdemeanor and explained how the process used to work. In 2004 the Board changed the penalty to a civil infraction. The County's legal counsel would need to be involved a decision made on what the penalties would be.

Sheriff Williams stated that if commissioners would let him know where these problem areas are, then he will send an officer out to investigate.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the board with the Winn Telecom Agreement.

The committee recommends to the full board to approve the Board of Commissioners the agreement between Winn Telecom and Montcalm County for use of the Electrical Hut in exchange for a back-up internet connection provided to the county at no cost and allow for signatures.

The committee recommends to the full board to approve warrant number 08082022 in the amount of \$782,790.56.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the committee with the budget review documents. She stated her concern is the jail revenue and she does have concerns with the Treasurer's dog licensing revenues and has suggested an amnesty program.

Discussion took place on FY2023 Budget Discussions. Ms. Taeter gave each board member a copy of General Fund budget. The only big change is with the Maintenance tractor with a push plow that was turned down at the last meeting. She stated that Doug Gietzen would like the tractor in place of the leaf truck and leaf vac. Therefore, Ms. Taeter does recommend approving the tractor request for Maintenance.

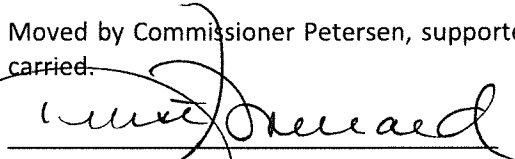
Brenda stated that there is a \$200,000 surplus because she forgot the tourism income that she just remembered today.

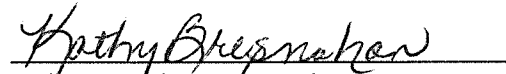
The committee recommends to the full board to allow Undersheriff Doezema to accept the COVID-19 Testing In County Jails- 2022 Grant and begin submitting allowable expenses for reimbursement.

Ms. Taeter informed the board that the Expenditure Policy will be part of the budget packet.

Public comments were offered. Kristen Millard, County Clerk, wanted to publicly thank all of the Township and City Clerks and their election workers for a smooth election day. Everyone did an outstanding job.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Miller to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried.


Kristen Millard, County Clerk


Kathy Bresnahan, Acting Chairman