

FINANCE COMMITTEE
February 7, 2019
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Grebner, Crenshaw, Maiville, Polsdofer, Schafer, and Tennis (arrived 6:14 p.m.).

Members Absent: Morgan

Others Present: Brad Beck, Ernie West, Russel Church, Tim Morgan, Evan Hope, Michael Townsend, Teri Morton, Younes Ishraidi, Dan Troia, Tyler A Smith, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Grebner at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room D & E of the Human Services Building, 5303 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the January 16, 2019 Minutes

WITHOUT OBJECTION, CHAIRPERSON GREBNER STATED THE JANUARY 16, 2019 MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Absent: Commissioners Morgan and Tennis.

Additions to the Agenda

6. Health Department
 - f. Resolution to Convert Primary Care Physician Position to Nurse Practitioner & Medical Assistant 1 Positions
7. Board of Commissioners Office –
 - b. Resolution to Extend Administrative Leave Time and to Amend Suspension of Operations Policy

Substitutes –

4. Parks Department
 - a. Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Trails and Parks Millage Applications
9. Road Department – Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of the Ingham County Sheriff Department/Homeland Security Division's a Used Command Center Truck & Purchase of One New Sport Utility Vehicle for the Ingham County Road Department; and Related Modification to the Road Department's 2019 Capital Improvement Plan

Removed –

6. Health Department
 - d. Resolution to Authorize a Lease Agreement for 1100 W. Saginaw, Lansing

Deputy Controller Michael Townsend stated that the amended title of Agenda Item 9 read “Security” as amended, and that it should be corrected to “Security.”

Limited Public Comment

Brad Beck, Lansing Township Planner, stated that he was excited to work with the Board of Commissioners on the Waverly project, and that the project would increase the safety and mobility of pedestrians..

Ernie West, Delta Township Engineer, stated that it had been great to collaborate with Ingham County. He further stated that working with the Road Department and the City of Lansing had been a great collaboration.

Mr. West stated that he was excited that the Board of Commissioners was considering the project.

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

2. Animal Control – Resolution to Authorize a Reorganization of the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter
4. Parks Department
 - b. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Laux Construction, LLC
5. Parks Department and Potter Park Zoo – Resolution to Implement a Revenue Management System
6. Health Department
 - a. Resolution to Amend Lease Agreement with Holy Cross Services
 - b. Resolution to Authorize Amendment # 2 to the 2018-2019 Comprehensive Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - c. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Florida State University
 - e. Resolution to Authorize an Extension to Agreement with MSU for Psychiatric Services and to Increase Psychiatric Services to a .7 FTE Position
 - f. Resolution to Convert Primary Care Physician Position to Nurse Practitioner & Medical Assistant 1 Positions
7. Board of Commissioners Office
 - a. Resolution to Enter into an Employment Agreement with William Fowler to Serve as Ingham County Equalization Director
 - b. Resolution to Extend Administrative Leave Time and to Amend Suspension of Operations Policy

8. Innovation and Technology Department
 - a. Resolution to Approve the Renewal of the Internet and Voice Services Provided by Everstream
 - b. Resolution to Approve the Renewal of the SeamlessDocs Licensing Subscription
9. Road Department – Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of the Ingham County Sheriff Department/Homeland Security Division’s Used Command Center Truck & Purchase of One New Sport Utility Vehicle for the Ingham County Road Department; and Related Modification to the Road Department’s 2019 Capital Improvement Plan

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Morgan and Tennis.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Morgan and Tennis.

Please note that later in the meeting, Commissioner Tennis stated he was in favor of all items on the consent agenda.

1. Public Defenders Office – Resolution Creating Assistant Public Defender Positions for the Public Defenders Office

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the resolution appeared to allow the Chief Public Defender to determine how many positions the Office would have at each classification. He asked whether, once the number of positions for each classification was set, it would remain fluid or become fixed.

Russel Church, Chief Public Defender, stated that he planned to structure things somewhat like the Prosecutor’s Office, and that he would hire, move and replace employees depending on experience. He further stated that he wanted to be able to attract skilled attorneys to handle very serious cases, and that being able to promise a higher level of pay would help with that.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that these were new positions, and that they would be Managerial and Confidential. She further stated that the unit may later become organized, but that there was presently no union involvement.

Ms. Morton stated that the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney unit had only one class, with eight steps. She further stated that the Assistant Public Defender classifications were within a similar range as the Prosecuting Attorney’s eight steps.

Ms. Morton stated that the proportion of positions would remain fluid until some point, but not forever.

Chairperson Grebner stated that it was unusual to approve a specific number of positions, and allow the department head to assign and change the number of positions at each classification.

Ms. Morton stated that perhaps the Board of Commissioners could revisit the resolution and amend it in the future if needed.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Board of Commissioners would revisit the resolution in one year. He further stated that he did not believe that any other department in the County had the ability to change positions to different classifications at will.

Ms. Morton stated that it was highly unusual.

Chairperson Grebner stated that if the resolution remained as it was, the Chief Public Defender could change the budget around as he wished, and could even pay all of his employees at the highest rate. **He further stated he would like the Controller to add language to leave the discretion to set the number of employees at each classification with the department head until Feb 1, 2020, at which time the number of positions at each classification would become set.**

Chairperson Grebner stated that after the number of positions became set, changes could be made by the usual reclassification process.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked what the time frame was to hire attorneys.

Mr. Church stated that he planned to finish hiring by about April 1, 2019.

Chairperson Grebner stated that there would probably be turnover, replacement, and promotions during the early stages of operation.

Mr. Church stated that there would probably be a void on the high end of the classification structure, and that he felt it was likely he could fill the mid and low end. He further stated that he would send out an email blast the following day to various legal organizations, and that he was not certain how many applicants would be ready to go the first day.

Chairperson Grebner stated that creating a new department from scratch would require Mr. Church to discover things as he went along, and that he would expect chaos in the Chief Public Defender's Office even a year from now. He further stated that he was willing to allow flexibility for that reason.

Chairperson Grebner asked if the allocation would be within the funding the State had provided.

Ms. Morton stated that she had budgeted to hire by modeling on the Prosecutor's Office scale. She further stated that the Public Defender's Office had plenty of money.

Chairperson Grebner asked whether there was a limit on the total amount of State funding.

Ms. Morton stated that there was no funding cap per se, but if the Office asked for a lot more money, she was not certain how the State would respond. She further stated that the current funding cycle included startup costs, and that it was likely the budget would be lower in following years.

Ms. Morton stated that there was no reason the Office would not get its requests from the State granted.

Mr. Church stated that the hiring matrix would allow some flexibility for future years. He further stated that he was planning to hire nine people in the top three steps, and that it was possible not all of those positions would be filled.

Commissioner Tennis arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Ms. Morton stated that the Committee would get the remainder of the proposed positions in a resolution in the next Board of Commissioners cycle. She further stated that the Office was working diligently to find office space, and that the next cycle may include request for a late item to approve a lease.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Morgan.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he would have voted in favor of all items on the consent agenda.

3. Community Mental Health – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties (CMH) for Health Services Millage Eligible Services

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he would be voting against the resolution, because the funding for Community Mental Health (CMH) had taken on a life of its own.

Commissioner Maiville stated that he would still support the resolution, but had similar concerns. He further stated that it appeared a lot of the millage funds were going to CMH, and asked how the Board of Commissioners was ensuring that the money was going to millage-eligible people.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he would be voting against the resolution. He further stated that it seemed as if CMH had been asking for more money each year, and that it had built an addition.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that CMH needed to look at what was essential, and what they could provide without further funding increases.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the Health Services Millage had passed in 2015 or so, and that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) had not been implemented at that time. He further stated that when the ACA was implemented, demand for millage funds was greatly diminished.

Commissioner Tennis stated that in response, the Board of Commissioners reduced the millage levy by one-third, and shifted one-third of the funding to CMH to shore it up after a massive cut in State support. He further stated that funding CMH was a way to try to maintain mental health services, which were chronically underfunded, and that considering behavioral health and substance use services, the Board of Commissioners needed to focus more resources than it was at present.

Commissioner Tennis stated that having many County residents receive healthcare through the ACA allowed a tax cut for the County, and helped to gird cuts to CMH funding. He further stated that he understood that funding requests had increased, but that he assumed that was due to an increase in demand.

Commissioner Tennis stated that there had been an audit requirement for Ingham Health Plan in the past, but that it was due to concerns about their internal auditing process. He further stated that there had been no issues since then.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he did not think auditing was necessary for CMH, because it was already under scrutiny as a public agency. He further stated that he fully supported the resolution.

Commissioner Schafer stated that, looking through categories of services, many seemed far removed from healthcare.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the separation between mental and physical health was diminishing, and that there were lots of connections between the two. He further stated that traditionally, the Board of Commissioners had divided funding for physical and mental health into separate pools, but that healthcare was becoming more and more holistic.

THE MOTION CARRIED. **Yeas:** Grebner, Maiville, Polsdofer, Tennis.

Nays: Crenshaw, Schafer.

Absent: Morgan.

4. Parks Department

- a. Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Trails and Parks Millage Applications

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. POLSDOFER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Tim Morgan, Parks Director, stated that was present to answer any questions. He distributed materials to the Committee.

Commissioner Polsdofer asked what was encompassed in Phase II of the Michigan State University (MSU) to Lake Lansing Connector project.

Younes Ishraidi, Meridian Township Chief Engineer, stated that the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector was the number one priority project for Meridian Township, and that Meridian had been considering it for years.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that the project was quite large, at 5.2 miles in length, and that it could not be done all at once. He further stated that Phase I was the main phase and the largest phase, and that it would run from Hagadorn Road to the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Park Lake Road, along the north bank of the Red Cedar River, crossing it at the MSU Music Building.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that part of the funding for the project was from the Trails and Parks millage, and that Meridian Township had received a \$1.7 million Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, conditional on receipt of Trails and Parks millage funding. He further stated that Meridian Township was adding \$350,000, and that the total budget of the project was \$3 million.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that the project was on schedule to meet Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) requirements, and that it would be starting fall of 2020. He further stated that environmental permits, rights of way, and easements still needed to be secured to clear the way, and that many of these were required to meet MDOT regulations. He further stated that Phase II of the project would connect to Phase I at Grand River Avenue, and would run across mainly Meridian Township owned property.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that there was already a trail established there, but that it would need to cross private property. He further stated that Phase II would end at the Meridian Township Services Center on Okemos Road, and that Phase III would run from there to Lake Lansing.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that Phase II would be funded from County and Meridian Township funds, and that no MDOT funding would be involved. He further stated that Phase II was starting design during 2019, and that both Phase I and Phase II could begin construction in 2020, because Phase II involved much less trouble with permits.

Commissioner Polsdofer asked whether there was any progress or tentative agreements with property owners along the Phase I path.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that some property owners were enthusiastic about the project, and had offered money to help pay for it. He further stated that the property owners would be pleased to have students use the trail instead of being on the road.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that when a consultant was first hired to assess the Trails and Parks projects, it put out a survey, on which the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector was the number one vote-getter. He further stated that the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector connected to the Lansing River Trail through MSU campus.

Chairperson Grebner stated that there likely would not be and funds drawn for Phase II of the project until 2020.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that Meridian Township still needed to sign agreements, and that he was not sure when funds would be drawn.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector was listed as a 2019 expenditure, but would not actually draw funds until 2020 or 2021.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that Meridian Township would still need funding for preparatory work.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he was not proposing to hold back funding, just that Meridian Township might not draw the funds for some time.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the Holt to Mason project was the elephant in the room.

Discussion.

Commissioner Maiville asked whether there were plans for match funds or other external money to fund the Holt to Mason trail project. He further stated that while the MSU to Lake Lansing connector was the number one vote-getter in a survey, this was number two.

Mr. Morgan stated that when TAP staff met with County staff, they stated that this would be their top project to fund. He further stated that TAP grants often matched funds 70/30, so County money should be used as match funds toward a TAP grant.

Evan Hope, Delhi Township Clerk, stated that he had been over this many times with the Parks Commission. He further stated that if the County wanted to build regional trails, it needed to step up and construct some expensive trails.

Clerk Hope stated that when projects became this expensive, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) trust fund grants would add an additional cost of \$800,000, but would only grant \$300,000. He further stated that TAP grants could add 25% or more to cost of a project, and that Delhi Township would need to receive in excess of \$1 million to break even.

Clerk Hope stated that Delhi Township staff knew all of this because the engineering firm they used had done it many times across the state. He further stated that seeking these grants would also add delays, and that for this project, he was not eager to go for those grants.

Clerk Hope stated that Delhi Township was building a park and other projects at the same time, and wanted to apply for grants toward those projects instead.

Chairperson Grebner asked how much money Delhi Township had put toward trails.

Clerk Hope stated that in last ten years, Delhi Township had spent \$7 million out of its general fund on trail projects, and that Delhi Township's yearly budget was only about \$10 million.

Chairperson Grebner asked how much of that money had been within the last four years.

Clerk Hope stated that he did not know, but that many new trails had been built within that period.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Parks Commission had spent a lot of money, and that none of it counted as match funds.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he appreciated the explanation about other State level grants, and that it was the first he had heard about those issues. He further stated that he assumed the increased costs were because of environmental regulations, or material requirements.

Commissioner Tennis stated that until then, he did not understand why Delhi Township had been so unwilling to ask the State to fund something they seemed willing to fund.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Human Services Committee voted to give \$1 million to Delhi Township, and was planning to fund the whole project one way or another. He further asked what the effect of funding at the full amount would be.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he was thinking that the \$1 million could be used as match money for other funding sources. He further stated that he had figured that amount would be sufficient to match the State dollars, and complete the project, but that at that time, he had not heard that adding State grants would add costs.

Chairperson Grebner stated that half of the cost of the project involved covering the drain on Cedar Street, and that once the DNR got involved, things would become complicated. He further stated that the trail itself was a small part of the cost.

Chairperson Grebner asked whether the trail ran between Cedar Street and Hogsback Road.

Clerk Hope stated that the trail did run between Cedar Street and Hogsback Road.

Matt Bennett, Parks Commission Chair, stated that this was the first he had heard that State grant funding added costs to the trail project.

Clerk Hope stated that the State being involved added costs for contractors, and created incredibly lengthy delays.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the Mason to Holt trail would go through Alaiedon Township, and possibly Vevay Township. He further asked who the champion for the project would be.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the City of Mason and George Hayhoe were, on the south end.

Clerk Hope, stated that there had been difficulties with the Holt to Mason project, and the Burchfield Trail project before that. He further stated that Delhi Township was not opposed to trying for a TAP grant, and that if it was granted a huge amount of money, it would be worthwhile.

Clerk Hope stated that the cost of project would increase every year.

Chairperson Grebner asked what the effect would be of the Board of Commissioners making a formal commitment to fund the entire Holt to Mason project.

Clerk Hope stated that it would depend on which years the funding was for, and the renewal of the Trails and Parks Millage. He further stated that if the project were funded in its entirety in 2020, it would be able to start.

Clerk Hope stated that the planning was done, and that staff could start working on the permits any day. He further stated that Delhi Township could start construction in the spring or summer of 2020 and have progress to show voters, or, if funded in 2019, could have the project done in 2020.

Commissioner Maiville asked whether Delhi Township would pursue TAP grants if it were given the \$1 million.

Mr. Morgan stated that grants were competitive, and that nothing was a sure thing. He further stated that the TAP process would take time.

Dan Troia, Ingham County Road Department Engineer, stated that the stretch of Cedar Street near the Holt to Mason trail path was slated for resurfacing in 2021. He further stated that there might be a big road project going on nearby at the same time.

Mr. Troia stated that there had been some discussion about taking rights of way from Hogsback Road and turning it into a trail.

Clerk Hope stated that that had been done during the Ram Trail project in previous years. He further stated that on that project, Delhi Township had worked with the Road Department.

Mr. Bennett stated that the Holt to Mason trail was a priority, and that the Parks Commission had not recommended it only because of a lack of match funds. He further stated that the Parks Commission had been instructed to try and leverage County money in order to get external funding.

Clerk Hope stated that Delhi Township staff had helped plan out much of the millage-related information. He further stated that now, the County was spreading out lots of money, but that it may be better to concentrate the money in each cycle, and rotate through different areas of the County.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he had been concerned about this since the millage was passed, and had started complaining in 2015. He further stated that during the previous year, he had been irate about how money was piling up unspent, but had been assured that spending it would leave negative balances.

Chairperson Grebner stated that as of today, there was \$12 million in unspent funds, and that the County would have \$15 million in unspent money by the end of the year. He further stated that he did not know how much more clearly he could have been right, and how much more wrong the department could have been.

Chairperson Grebner stated that unspent funds were the problem, and that there was no need to worry about running out. He further stated that maybe it was worth worrying about phasing the spending, or controlling how to spend it.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he was very pleased that the County Services Committee had funded almost everything that was proposed, but that now, the Board of Commissioners were at the point of hamstringing the Holt to Mason project. He further stated that he would like to allocate sufficient funds to Delhi Township, whenever they were needed.

Chairperson Grebner asked how much money was recovered from allocations as unspent or unspendable in 2015.

Mr. Morgan stated that nothing was allocated in 2015, and that applications were received in early 2016, with the first round of projects contracted in the summer. He further stated that for applications in the fall of 2016, contracts were made in the early winter of 2017.

Chairperson Grebner asked how much money was recovered from those projects.

Mr. Morgan stated that he did not know, but that twenty contracts from that period got extensions or renewals through the Board of Commissioners. He further stated that he was hopeful that those projects will be done during 2019.

Mr. Morgan stated that \$750,000 in projects would be reimbursed, and that only a couple of projects had been completed.

Chairperson Grebner stated that some projects had come in under budget, but that he believed no reallocation had occurred.

Jessy Gregg, Parks Commission Vice-Chair, stated that the City of Lansing and City of East Lansing had used excess funds to cover their overages. She further stated that overall, the projects were about \$500,000 over estimate.

Chairperson Grebner stated that there had not been any formal attempt to figure out what money from 2015-2018 would never be spent.

Mr. Morgan stated that a majority of projects were not finished, so it was difficult to know.

Chairperson Grebner stated that there would be \$15 million in the millage fund in April, and that the Board of Commissioners was doing a very poor job of determining when money would be drawn. He further stated that after five years of the millage, 80% of the money would still be in County hands.

Ms. Gregg stated that the Parks Commission had been very slow out of the gate. She further stated that they had asked communities to match, which extended things two more years.

Ms. Gregg stated that in 2019, she expected a huge amount of money to be spent. She further stated that grants and studies had come in, and things were finally starting to roll.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he did not blame the Parks Commission members. He further stated that it would be foolish to bet that anything less than \$8 million would be in the millage fund by January 1, 2020.

Ms. Gregg stated that the Parks Commission would be behind on things, and that they did not know that they could allocate from future funds until very recently. She further stated that for four years, it had not been part of the discussion.

Chairperson Grebner stated that if projects were late, or ran over or under, the Board of Commissioners would not hear about it until they needed money.

Ms. Gregg stated that the Parks Commission did not hear until then, either.

Chairperson Grebner stated that it was interesting to know that the 2019 allocation for Meridian Township would not be drawn until 2020.

Ms. Gregg stated that the Parks Commission made allocations in the near future because it wanted to make sure money was available at the earliest time possible.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that in the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey, the computer HAL went crazy because it received conflicting orders, and that that was the fault of the people who programmed it, not HAL. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners had been giving conflicting orders.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he understood the frustration and anger, but would stop short of assigning blame to anyone but the Board of Commissioners. He further stated that the Parks Commission had done the best they could, based on what the Board of Commissioners had told them to do.

Commissioner Tennis stated that one of the ways to correct this would be to frontload a bit, and to start spending based on balance, not projected, unencumbered balance. He further stated that Delhi Township had done a ton for the trails in the County, more than any other municipality except perhaps Meridian Township.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he would be comfortable funding \$3.8 million, which would leave the County in the neighborhood of a \$4-5 million fund balance. He further stated that he

was not opposed to looking at making a commitment to Delhi Township, Mason, and other townships.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he was still torn on whether to seek State match funds. He further stated that the Parks Commission said seeking match funds was a top priority.

Commissioner Tennis stated that connecting different parts of the County was how the millage was sold, and the Holt to Mason project was a big part.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated that he would be amenable to spending some money in 2019 rather than 2020. He further stated that it was clear from talking to business groups, the Lansing Economic Area Project (LEAP) and other groups that the recreational and connectivity elements of the millage projects were a big part of the appeal.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated that it all seemed to be part of a bigger goal of making Ingham County a connected community. He further stated that in a few weeks, a rep from LEAP would be in China looking to recruit an agriculture firm to mid-Michigan.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated that the Board of Commissioners needed to do what it could to connect nearby communities into the bigger picture. He further stated that he would be amenable to move funding up into 2019.

Commissioner Maiville asked whether the \$1 million for Delhi Township should be designated as match money for a TAP grant, or should just be given to Delhi Township without condition.

Chairperson Grebner stated that Delhi Township should see if there was TAP money available, and do its best to apply for it.

Clerk Hope stated that Delhi Township could do that. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners should keep in mind that, depending on what they awarded, Delhi Township might not be very happy with that.

Clerk Hope stated that he was not sure what the timeframe was for applying for TAP, and that even if the Board of Commissioners showed a commitment for the future, the price might be a bit higher due to increased costs.

Commissioner Schafer asked whether the Board of Commissioners considered the level of usage of a trail as a factor.

Ms. Gregg stated that it was difficult to put a quantity on use, because use would be lower in out-county areas, and that connectivity was the emphasis, not the number of users on each segment. She further stated that a lower level of use did not mean that the trail segment was less valuable.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Board of Commissioners should know how many people are using each segment of trail, and that it was a separate question how much weight to give that factor.

Commissioner Schafer stated that connectivity did not seem as important as usage. He further stated that he saw trails along the freeway on his usual drive, and rarely saw anyone on them.

Commissioner Schafer stated that the Board of Commissioners should focus on high-use areas, not connectivity.

Ms. Gregg stated that all of the prioritization was based on survey results, and that the Dart Trail portion of the Holt to Mason trail would be commuter trail.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he would like to collect usage information for all different methods of travel, and compile an estimate of the level of usage that there was or will be.

Ms. Gregg stated that the communities involved would be in the best place to collect that information, and that perhaps it could be added to the application process.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the process needed to be centralized, not spun off to fifteen different communities.

Mr. Morgan stated that some communities had used MSU to do use studies, and that the university region through MDOT had done interesting work using people counters and car counters.

Mr. Morgan stated that he could look into what it would cost to get some idea of usage.

Discussion.

Chairperson Grebner stated that there was a need to assess current usage and estimate the usage of new trails. He further stated that he proposed two rules; the first being that cash balance in the millage fund should never be less than \$1 million, but also never more than \$6 million on hand; and the second being the Parks Commission should allocate two years in advance, and should be thinking about 2022 now.

Ms. Gregg stated that the Parks Commission had felt bound by the expiration of the millage, and would be happy to make a long term plan. She further stated that if the Board of Commissioners wanted to go forward, it would need to either commit the money and risk the County having a bill, or use the money for match funds.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Parks Commission ought to allocate two years out, and that if it did that, there would always be unallocated money in the bank, because the process takes a long time.

Ms. Gregg stated that she would like to look ahead two years, but had had issues where the Parks Commission needed more money.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the County Attorney probably would not let the County make promises of money that it did not have. He further stated that he would be interested in having the resolution include a clause stated that the Board of Commissioners expressed its intention to allocate sufficient funds in future years to ensure the completion of the Delhi-to-Mason trail.

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its intention to allocate sufficient funds in future years to ensure the completion of the Delhi-to-Mason trail.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he would vote no on the amendment. He further stated that there was a real mishmash of things going on, and that the Board of Commissioners needed to sort things out and organize.

THE MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION CARRIED. **Yeas:** Crenshaw, Grebner, Maiville, Polsdofer, Tennis. **Nays:** Schafer. **Absent:** Morgan.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Parks Commission was concerned about projects in East Lansing. He further stated that he had traveled out to one of them, and that there was a 20-foot ravine between the trail and a nearby apartment complex.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the trail was very nice, but not terribly usable.

Ms. Gregg stated that it was the intention of the Parks Commission to put money toward the most connective projects. She further stated that they would be happy to fund all of the projects if they could.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the Aurelius Township project was a parks project more than a trails project, and that was why it got cut.

Ms. Gregg stated that if the Parks Commission used millage funds to build a playground, they would get every other municipality asking for the same. She further stated that the Parks Commission had focused the funding on trails.

Commissioner Maiville stated that it would be better to let some of this money go out to rural townships without strings attached.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he was to blame for that. He further stated that as the chair of the Human Services Committee, he had asked whether any projects did not fit the theme of the millage, and it had appeared that the Aurelius Township project did not.

Discussion.

Chairperson Grebner asked whether the Board of Commissioners was holding up progress by doing what it was doing. He further asked whether allocating \$1 million now, with an amendment to the resolution, would allow Delhi Township to move forward.

Clerk Hope stated that if Delhi Township felt there was a commitment, it could move forward. He further stated that TAP grants could take three years or more, and that there were other projects lined up for that money as well.

Mr. Morgan stated that it would be good to bring in the Road Department to create an economy of scale.

Mr. Troia stated that the Road Department would be happy to partner with Delhi Township, especially if it could start now.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he was glad to have a thorough discussion, because there was \$10-15 million at stake.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Morgan.

Announcements

Chairperson Grebner displayed various signs, and stated that they were made of all sorts of materials. He further stated that these signs cost a lot less than \$10,000.

Commissioner Schafer thanked Chairperson Grebner, and stated that his passion in delving into issues was important. He further stated that the Finance Committee would not have gotten this far without doing so, and that in the end he felt more comfortable about things.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he would not be attending the Board of Commissioners meeting on February 12, 2019. He further stated that he had attempted to advise the Committee that he would be late to the present meeting, but that he had contacted Commissioner Morgan, who was absent.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.