HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
May 6, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Morgan (arrived at 6:32 p.m.), Naeyaert, Sebolt, Slaughter, Stivers, Tennis, and Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Commissioner Grebner, Joan Nelson, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Yolanda Sherrer, Catherine Cole-Adams, Kai Christiansen, Florencio Hernandez, Jessy Gregg, Tim Morgan, Brett Kaschinske, Jared Cypher, Beth Foster, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tennis at 6:31 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the April 22, 2019 Minutes

WITHOUT OBJECTION, CHAIRPERSON TENNIS STATED THE APRIL 22, 2019 MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Absent: Commissioner Morgan

Additions to the Agenda

4. Fair Office
   b. Resolution Appointing a Fairgrounds Events Director Selection Committee

Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Limited Public Comment

None.

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

4. Fair Office
   a. Resolution to Accept a Grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

5. Health Department
   a. Resolution to Amend the Mother and Infant Oral Health Pilot Project Grant
b. Resolution to Accept Funding from Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine

6. Parks Department
   c. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with L.J. Trumle Builders, LLC.

7. Controller’s Office – Resolution Updating Various Fees for County Services

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Fair Board – Interviews

Catherine Cole-Adams interviewed for a position on the Fair Board.

Kai Christiansen interviewed for a position on the Fair Board.

2. Community Health Center Board – Interviews

Florencio Hernandez interviewed for a position on the Community Health Center Board.

3. Community Agencies – Allen Neighborhood Center/Northwest Initiative/Southside Community Coalition Update

Joan Nelson, Allen Neighborhood Center Executive Director, gave an update on the Allen Neighborhood Center.

Peggy Vaughn-Payne, NorthWest Initiative Executive Director, gave an update on the Northwest Initiative.

Yolanda Sherrir, Southside Community Coalition Youth & Senior Coordinator/Outreach Coordinator, gave an update on the Southside Community Coalition.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that he had the pleasure of interacting with all three organizations and recommended the other commissioners do so as well if they had an opportunity.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if the kids participated in Fair Week 4-H.

Ms. Sherrir stated that the kids did, though mostly with art, not with livestock as they obviously did not have any.
Ms. Nelson stated that they have some contact with 4-H. She further stated that urban agriculture was growing steadily in Lansing and that bringing urban farmers to the Fair in the future was a possibility that had been discussed.

Discussion.

Commissioner Sebolt stated a desire to have the future Fairgrounds Events Director meet with all three program heads to discuss integrating urban farming into the Fair.

Commissioner Morgan stated the importance of all three groups to the community and thanked them.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she would have someone from the Women’s Commission do an Everyday Heroines profile on all three presenters.

Chairperson Tennis thanked the presenters.

4.  Fair Office
   b.  Resolution Appointing a Fairgrounds Events Director Selection Committee

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Chairperson Tennis stated that he wanted to be on the Committee.

The resolution was amended as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints a Fairgrounds Events Director Selection Committee consisting of the following members:

   Commissioner Randy Maiville
   Commissioner Thomas Morgan
   Commissioner Robin Naeyaert
   Commissioner Randy Schafer
   Commissioner Ryan Sebolt
   Commissioner Derrell Slaughter
   Commissioner Todd Tennis

This was considered a friendly amendment.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
6. **Parks Department**
   a. Resolution to Authorize an Amendment to Meridian Township’s Trails and Parks Millage Agreements

MOVED BY COMM. STIVERS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Trubac stated that just because there was a significant increase in cost for some projects while other projects came in under budget, money should not de facto be moved to other projects in the same municipality. He stated that he wanted to go over why the Park Commission was still recommending this project and to get an overview of it.

Chairperson Tennis asked if this resolution was regarding the projects that had already been approved and not new projects.

Tim Morgan, Parks Director, stated that no additional money was being requested and that the projects in question had already been approved.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he was not necessarily opposed to the resolution but that he just wanted to make sure it was understood that once the money was allocated to a particular municipality it was still Trails and Parks Millage money.

Commissioner Stivers stated that it was really hard to estimate the cost, especially some of the huge projects in Meridian Township. She further stated that the team from Meridian Township worked really hard to make sure the money was used to complete their ultimate goal.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that, like Commissioner Sebolt said, it was not Meridian Township’s money, it was Trails and Parks Millage money and if the money came back to the Parks Department, it could be used for other projects in other municipalities.

Mr. Morgan stated that he wanted to remind everyone that this was not precedent-setting. He further stated that the Park Commission was not asking for money towards a different project than was already approved.

Mr. Morgan stated that in the case of Meridian Township, it was moving money around because numbers had changed since the initial estimates were made. He further stated that this was a good discussion to have.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he realized it is was not precedent-setting, but it might be the most shifting around of money from one project to another that the Board of Commissioners has seen.

Jessy Gregg, Park Commission Vice-Chairperson, stated that was not necessarily true.
Discussion.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he was fully prepared to pass the resolution on consent but wanted to emphasize this is Trails and Parks Millage money and he wanted to make sure the Board of Commissioners was thinking about things holistically like that.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she appreciated the point her fellow commissioners were saying about putting the money back in the central pot, but if it was reallocated within a municipality it was a very efficient way to make sure the money stayed in play, rather than sitting around for what could potentially be years while a new project in a different municipality went through the process of being approved.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he did not think any of this was unreasonable at this point. He further stated that if there was a change in overall strategy in how millage money was being spent, they needed to be serious about looking at that, as opposed to going through the process as necessary.

Commissioner Morgan left the room at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he wanted to this point out as a teachable moment. He further stated that none of the Meridian Township projects were close to their estimates.

Commissioner Grebner stated that when project estimates came in low, the money could not be spent because there was nothing more to spend it on and for the project estimates that were too high, the money did not get spent because it had to wait to be approved to be used for something else. He further stated that either way, use of the available funds was delayed.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Grebner stated that these projects estimates were often 20% off from the actual cost. He further stated he was not blaming anyone in particular, but there needed to be a focus on the fact that a poor job has been done, historically, of estimating how much money these projects would cost.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she also thought a better job could be done in a lot of places, but that in the case of Meridian Township, they could not have known the cost until the projects were underway, in part because there were many environmental factors that came up.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any part of the project that would need to be redone after the Okemos Road Bridge was complete.

Mr. Morgan stated that the bridge was unrelated to the trail project.
Chairperson Tennis stated he would have concerns if there were new projects that were not previously authorized and if they were not required to come back to the Board of Commissioners to be approved. He further stated that he would have passed the trail items on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Morgan stated that thought it was a really good conversation to have.

Discussion.

Mr. Morgan stated that when the Parks Department wrote grants, part of the application was that once funding was received from the State, then the Parks Department would engage with professionals to get true costs.

Brett Kaschinske, Lansing Park & Recreation Director, stated that true cost came only after getting bids back.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Parks Department
   b. Resolution to Authorize an Amendment to the City of Lansing and the Village of Stockbridge Trails and Parks Millage Agreements

MOVED BY COMM. MORGAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAeyaERT, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Trubac asked why the project included stairs.

Mr. Kaschinske stated that the intent was to create better access to the river itself.

Commissioner Trubac asked if it was for people to have access to the water to launch canoes and kayaks from there.

Mr. Kaschinske stated that people were not launching canoes and kayaks from the steps and that the idea was for people to be able to closer connect with the river without having the trail itself up to the edge of the water.

Commissioner Trubac asked if there was any concern about kids in the water.

Mr. Kaschinske stated that they did not see the steps as an attractive nuisance.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Parks Department
   d. Parks Millage Discussion
Mr. Morgan stated that the Parks Department had worked on a spreadsheet showing every resolution to date.

Commissioners Stivers stated concern that the millage was overspent.

Mr. Morgan stated that if everything came in as it was appropriated, it would be overspent.

Commissioner Stivers stated that would be a problem.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the Board of Commissioners knew when it passed the resolution that it would not be overspent based on previous experience.

Commissioner Grebner stated that perhaps if there was a plan to have this on the ballot to be renewed, maybe a contingency should be put in.

Mr. Morgan described how competitive the grant process was.

Ms. Gregg discussed the potential of losing matching grant money.

Mr. Morgan stated for example, that if a caveat was included in the millage language that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would not renew because the money has to be guaranteed.

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if that would hurt smaller rural communities.

Ms. Gregg stated that it could, but if it was based purely on the merits then smaller communities would be at an advantage.

Discussion.

Chairperson Tennis stated that if the County had to pay out all its pension obligations today, it would be bankrupt and that, similarly, if all the obligations of the millage had to paid today there would be a problem, but we all knew that was not the case. He further stated that the best way to make sure the money got out was to over-allocate.

Discussion.

Commissioner Grebner stated how wonderful an amenity the trail system was for the community and how great the learning process had been over the course of the development so far.

Commissioner Announcements

None.
Public Comment

Ms. Cole-Adams suggested language she would have made more sense to the general population when trying to get a renewal.

Chairperson Tennis stated that when it came time to renew the millage, they might consider outlining future projects in the renewal language.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD