

LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
April 12, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Crenshaw, Banas (arrived at 6:11 p.m.), Hope, Celentino, Maiville, and Schafer

Members Absent: Anthony

Others Present: Teri Morton, Lindsey LaForte and others

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

Approval of the March 29, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. HOPE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 29, 2018 LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Banas and Anthony.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. HOPE, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Sheriff's Office – Resolution to Accept Dataworks as a Sole Source Vendor and to Purchase Two Mobile Identification Units
3. Animal Control – Resolution to Accept a Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Free Adoption Grant
4. Controller's Office
 - a. 1st Quarter Budget Adjustments

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Banas and Anthony.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Banas and Anthony.

4. Controller's Office
 - b. Resolution to Accept the 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that this was on the agenda in order to remind Committee members to review the Strategic Plan. He further stated that if anyone had suggestions for changes to the Strategic Plan, they should forward them to Teri Morton, Deputy Controller.

2. Circuit Court – Resolution to Authorize Project Change Request #2 for the Statement of Work Entered into with Imagesoft Corporation Pursuant to Resolution #16-276 and an Analysis by Equivant of the Case Initiation and Auto Docketing Processes

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

Commissioner Schafer stated that he was concerned about the funding because contingency funds were being utilized.

THE MOTION CARRIED PASSED. **Yeas:** Crenshaw, Hope, Celentino, and Maiville **Nays:** Schafer **Absent:** Banas and Anthony

5. Law & Courts Committee – Resolution to Submit to the Electorate a Special Millage Question for a Justice Complex and Treatment Programming

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

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that there was additional information passed out.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the cost increase with the Circuit Court surprised him.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the discussion to include the Circuit Court was mainly a concern about security in the current location at the Historical Courthouse. He further stated that the addition of space for the Circuit Court did not add as much cost to the project as the District Court did because the need for space was less than the District Court.

Commissioner Celentino asked about the square footage increase from the 2016 plan to the current proposal and if it was increased in order to address the County's need for additional storage.

Ms. Morton stated that the 2016 plan was smaller because there was an effort to reduce the cost of the complex and amount of millage requested, thus the square footage was reduced.

Commissioner Celentino asked about how storage concerns, particularly the Clerk's concern for climate-controlled storage, could be addressed.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the site of the current animal control facility would be empty as soon as the new facility was finished. He further stated that the building may be demolished and the site would be available for building a new, stand-alone storage facility.

Commissioner Schafer thanked Chairperson Crenshaw for his leadership on this issue. He further stated that there was a need to complete the project in the best way possible and perhaps that meant including storage.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Committee needed a consensus on the programming portion of the millage.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the increased cost for the Circuit Court seemed reasonable. He further stated that he was concerned if an additional floor could be added without a huge increase in cost.

Ms. Morton stated that it was something that could be explored.

Commissioner Hope asked about the number of beds in the proposal, which was higher than had been previously discussed.

Ms. Morton stated that it was based on a basic formula, but the RFP would have fewer beds in it.

Commissioner Hope asked if a possible District Court Consolidation would impact this project.

Ms. Morton stated that the consensus seemed to be that they still needed to be a District Court presence in Mason. She further stated that therefore, it would not seem that it would have any impact.

Ms. Morton stated that if a district court consolidation moved forward quickly and it did not appear that this complex needed room for the Court, this funding could be used toward a consolidated court building.

Commissioner Banas arrived at the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Commissioner Hope asked about changing the title of the millage question which had been discussed at a prior meeting.

Discussion

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that there needed to be a discussion about programming. He further stated that the cost for programming would be about a million dollars on top of the overall cost.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the programming may bring the millage up to 0.83 mills.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he figured 0.15 mills for programing and 0.7 mills for the building for a total of 0.85 mills. He further stated that if the cost were to come in lower, the Board of Commissioners could choose to not levy the entire amount.

Ms. Morton stated that the owner of a \$200,000 house would pay an addition \$40 per year in property taxes.

Commissioner Celentino asked if it would be subject to Headlee override.

Ms. Morton stated that it could possibly be subject to a Headlee override in the future.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if there was a consensus on programming.

Commissioner Hope stated that she continued to support the amount for programming.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if the Committee had a preference between 0.83 mills versus 0.85 mills.

Commissioner Banas asked what the difference was between the two in dollars and cents.

Ms. Morton stated that it would be a difference of \$100,000 per year.

Commissioner Banas stated that she was inclined to round up because the more funding available for programming would be helpful. She asked about the cost of the debt per year.

Ms. Morton stated that they expected about \$30 million in borrowing costs for this project.

Commissioner Banas stated that the millage was planned for a length of 20 years and perhaps this could be done in less time. She further stated that the animal control millage was reduced in length which reduced borrowing cost.

Ms. Morton stated that the animal control project was one tenth of the size and could be funded more quickly.

Discussion.

Commissioner Banas stated she supported the millage rate of 0.85.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he supported this rate as well.

MOVED BY COMM. HOPE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. BANAS, TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following question be submitted to a vote of the electorate in the primary election to be held on August 7, 2018:

JUSTICE MILLAGE QUESTION

For the purpose of constructing, equipping, and financing a new combined justice complex facility and expanding correctional programming, to include a new county jail, Sheriff's department offices, and court facilities, which would replace the existing facilities and will be safer for the public, staff and inmates, and allow for more efficient operations; and including programming for the treatment of substance addictions, treatment of mental illness, and reduction of re-incarceration among arrested persons, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan be increased by up to ~~xx/100 (0.xxxx)~~ **85/100 (0.8500)** of one (1) mill, ~~\$0.xx~~ **\$0.85** per thousand dollars of state taxable valuation, for a period of twenty (20) years (2018-2037) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated \$_____ **\$6,078,272** in the first calendar year of the levy, based on state taxable valuation.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Anthony.

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM. HOPE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. BANAS, TO AMEND THE MILLAGE QUESTION TITLE AS FOLLOWS:

JUSTICE COMPLEX AND CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMING MILLAGE QUESTION

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Anthony.

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

Announcements

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he and Commissioner Maiville attended the 9-1-1 Center employee award ceremony and it was a great event. He further stated that the recipient of the employee of the year award was very surprised and it was evident how his fellow employees held him in the highest esteem.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he encouraged fellow commissioners to attend an award ceremony if they can fit it in their schedule. He further stated that Barb Davidson, 9-1-1 Staff Services Manager, was doing an excellent job and staff moral seemed to be very high.

Discussion.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he received a letter from Dave Clinton to Treasurer Schertzing. He asked if the Committee would be addressing the letter.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that a response would be more appropriate from the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Hope stated that when citizens bring concerns to the Board of Commissioners, she expected the commissioner who represented that concerned citizen to respond to their concern.

Discussion.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Committee recommended that the commissioner who represented Mr. Clinton respond to the letter and possibly the Finance Committee could take up the concern, if necessary.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the County Services Committee would be taking up the resolution at the next meeting concerning Board Rules on public comment but he was concerned that the media and public may have issues with this. He further stated that Jackson County was having an issue with a changes to public comment rules.

Commissioner Maiville wanted to get ahead of this issue so it did not develop into a firestorm.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he was the one to request the change to the Board Rules, and he would talk to County Services Committee Chairperson Nolan about it. He further stated that there could be time for everyone to speak, but it allowed the meeting to move more efficiently if only comments concerning agenda items happened during the Limited Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Maiville stated that Chairpersons may use their discretion to limit public comment during the limited public comment portion of a meeting. He further stated that based on his 30 years of experience on public committees and boards, this proposed changes to the Board Rules was not good public policy.

Commissioner Maiville stated that it was sometimes difficult for certain members of the public to sit through the whole meeting to be heard.

Commissioner Banas stated that she understands that a chairperson needs to be able to maintain order, but she had experienced meetings in Meridian Township, using the proposed change to the Board Rules, and it was not a good experience.

Commissioner Banas stated that the Board of Commissioners had learned a lot from public comment. She further stated that perhaps this would be best left to the discretion of the chair and not a rule change.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he wanted to mention that Agenda Item 5 had been something that has been worked on for a long time. He further stated that he thanked Chairperson Crenshaw and Commissioner Hope, former Chairperson of Law & Courts, for their hard work and leadership.

Commissioner Celentino thanked his colleagues for their efforts on passing the Justice Complex resolution.

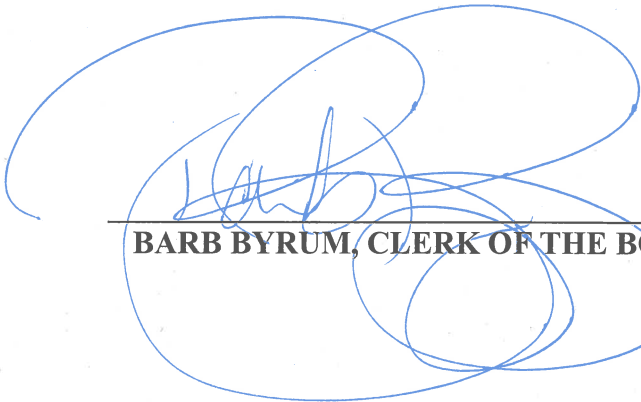
Commissioner Maiville stated that last year, the Board was not in a place to have a vote on this millage, but this was the right time.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

