HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 30, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Banas, Nolan, Koenig, Tennis (left at 8:10 p.m.), and Naeyaert

Members Absent: Sebolt and Louney

Others Present: Natrenah Blackstock, Linda Vail, Sue Chamberlain, Jared Cypher, Lindsey LaForte, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Banas at 6:30 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the April 16, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. NAeyaert, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2018 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Sebolt and Louney.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Substitutes –

4. Health Department
   c. Resolution to Change WIC Program Positions

Removed from the Agenda –

1. Department of Health and Human Services & CMH – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Therapy Dogs International and Amending the Ingham County Pet in the Workplace Policy.

Limited Public Comment

None.
MOVED BY COMM. NAeyaert, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

3. Facilities – Resolution to Authorize Placement of a Fire Hydrant and Water Main

4. Health Department
   a. Resolution to Extend Agreement with ERG Environmental for Hazardous Waste Hauling Services
   b. Resolution to Authorize a Letter of Understanding to Extend Probation to Allow Coding Specialist to Obtain Certification

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Sebolt and Louney.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Sebolt and Louney.

2. Fair Office – Resolution Approving the Appointment of Mark McCorkle as the Manager of the Ingham County Fair

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

Sue Chamberlain, Ingham County Fair Board, stated that she had been on the interview panel for this position and recommended Mark McCorkle. She further stated that she had known Mr. McCorkle from his experience with the MSU Extension and the 4-H program.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that Mr. McCorkle had the most experience and best answers to the questions posed by the interview panel. She further stated that Mr. McCorkle had a working knowledge of the Expo Center programs and sponsorships which had been impressive.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the Fair took place in the community that she represented and it was important to her community. She further stated that the budget issues with the Fair recently greatly concerned her.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that there were certain things that you cannot control with the Fair, such as lower revenue on rainy days. She further stated that working closely with the County staff was important to avoid unexpected shortfalls.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if Mr. McCorkle was the unanimous choice of the Fair Board.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that there was one member of the Fair Board that was not supportive.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, stated that the interview panel unanimously supported Mr. McCorkle.
Commissioner Koenig stated that the one member of the Fair Board that did not support the candidate did so because of concerns about diversity.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas asked who from this Committee was on the interview panel besides Commissioner Sebolt.

Commission Koenig stated that she was on the panel but could not make the actual interview.

Chairperson Banas asked what Mr. McCorkle's experience was with MSU Extension and what the budget was for that program.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that he oversaw the 4-H program for Ingham County. She further stated that she did not know the budget amount but that it was a budget with a lot of components.

Chairperson Banas asked what made this candidate stand out and the best able to do the job.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that Mr. McCorkle's experience with 4-H and working knowledge of the Fair were excellent points in his favor.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that this job was not only about the Fair. She further stated that there are a lot of other events that fill the fairgrounds throughout the year.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that this was true and he had a lot of skills with the press and sponsorships. She further stated that he was looking forward to keeping the grounds scheduled as much as possible and developing the Expo Center.

Chairperson Banas stated that she was concerned that this interview only took 30 minutes for such an important position. She further stated that she wanted to make sure that the interview panel was certain that this was a good choice.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that she was certain that this was a good choice, but the panel was happy to do a further search.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she wanted to thank the interview panel and Mr. Cypher for their hard work. She further stated that Mr. McCorkle's experience with 4-H really stood out, and she is less concerned about the budget because he would work very closely with the Controller's office.

Commissioner Koenig further stated that he worked well with the Livestock Committee and that it was said if you could make that happen, you could make anything happen.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that was a very important point as the livestock component of the Fair was very important.
Ms. Chamberlain agreed that being well-liked by the Livestock Committee was important.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Sebolt and Louney.

4. Health Department  
c. Resolution to Change WIC Program Positions

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

Commissioner Koenig asked how the positions were different with the proposed changes.

Linda Vail, Ingham County Health Officer, stated that to be in compliance with the State WIC program, these positions needed to be filled with Registered Dietitians. She further stated that the current people who held this position did have that credential, but it was not in the job description which it needed to be.

Ms. Vail stated that during the last audit with the State WIC program, this was brought up as something that needed to be changed. She further stated that this was position that already was in place, but it was a change to this particular job.

Commissioner Koenig asked about the salary difference.

Ms. Vail stated that this would go from grade five, step two to grade seven, step one.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the cost was a difference of $40,782, but that was supported by the cost saving of the elimination of the Medical Assistant II position which would actually save the County money.

Discussion.

Commissioner Koenig asked if there would be any need for the Medical Assistant II position in the future.

Ms. Vail stated that it had been the position was vacant for a while and would not be needed. She further stated that she had asked her staff the same question.

Commissioner Koenig asked if there was a way to make these changes to job descriptions easier in the future. She further stated that she and Tim Dolehanty, Controller, had started discussions about updating the policy on reorganizations, changes to job descriptions and such.

Ms. Vail stated that she would support the Board of Commissioners changing the reorganization policy in order to be more nimble and move faster on changes like this.

Commissioner Nolan stated that the County was not as nimble as it could be. She further stated that the policy was written a certain way and it needed to be followed until it was changed.
Commissioner Nolan stated that she was concerned that the County policy for reorganization was not being followed.

Ms. Vail stated that it was difficult for her to know what changes were considered reorganizations so she went by what the Human Resource Department (HR) told her.

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she liked the fact that this would allow the County to be in compliance during the next State WIC audit. She further stated that she agreed that the reorganization policy did need to be examined.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Board of Commissioners was beginning to look at this issue.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she was having trouble with this because it seemed that the County was not being consistent with this policy. She further asked Mr. Cypher if there was a staff member in the HR department that made these decisions.

Mr. Cypher stated HR had people who were the experts on the policy and he had asked Travis Parsons, former HR director, those questions in the past. He further stated that there did not seem to be a clear consensus with this issue.

Commissioner Nolan asked if it was bad policy.

Mr. Cypher stated that there needed to be a simple, straight-forward policy for these issues.

Commissioner Nolan asked that the HR Department look at the reorganization policy and clarify it.

Mr. Cypher stated that Mr. Dolehanty was working with Commissioner Koenig on this issue.

Discussion.

CHAIRPERSON BANAS MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Medical Assistant II position (position number 601105) is hereby eliminated.

THIS WAS CONSIDERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Sebolt and Louney.
4. Health Department
d. Office for Young Children (Discussion)

Chairperson Banas stated that this was a former function of County government but it had quietly been done away with.

Ms. Vail stated that the Office for Young Children had been part of the Health Department for 30 years and it had been funded through the Michigan 4C and various grants. She further stated that the 4C funding was eliminated.

Ms. Vail stated that they were given 6 weeks’ notice that the funding was being eliminated from the state grant. She further stated that it had been the County’s policy to end the programs when the grants end.

Ms. Vail stated that three staff members retired, two were placed in other positions, one bumped into another position and one temporary employee did not have a spot available.

Discussion.

Commissioner Nolan stated that this was disappointing.

Ms. Vail stated that she agreed.

Commissioner Banas stated that her concern was that the County continued to have quality child care in the area.

Ms. Vail stated that there was still a Great Start Collaborative in the County.

4. Health Department
e. Sparrow/VOA Update (Discussion)

Ms. Vail stated that this had been operational for a few months and was going well. She further stated that this had become a County clinic and the transition of their staff to Ingham County employees was continuing to happen.

Ms. Vail stated that there were some challenges with the electronic medical records to be on the Next Gen system like the rest of the Ingham County Health Department. She further stated that the VOA had begun a dental center in the clinic with grants from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Delta Dental, but it was not going well for them and there were conversations to bring that under Ingham County’s management also.

Ms. Vail stated that they wanted to integrate behavior health and dental to be a comprehensive clinic. She further stated that they had done so at other centers.
Ms. Vail stated that they may want to move quickly in order to make the change and ensure that this programming can continue. She further that they wanted to serve the people best and were mindful of the fiscal needs of the County.

Commissioner Nolan asked if this change would come to this Committee.

Ms. Vail stated that this had been news to her within the last two weeks and she wanted to bring attention to the Committee. She further stated that when any agreements were reached it would be brought to the Committee for approval.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she was excited about this because it was what they had wanted to happen from the start.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she had been concerned that the VOA was not going to be able to provide the dental care that was needed. She further stated that she was concerned about the dramatic changes that were happening to the VOA.

Discussion.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she wanted to thank Ms. Vail for her hard work and the ability to make these changes happen. She asked if the location would remain the same.

Ms. Vail stated that this was a good space for now and they would continue to operate there; however, it may change later.

Commissioner Koenig asked were Sparrow was with this.

Ms. Vail stated that Sparrow had been able to get the clinic up and running but have been backing away from it. She further stated that part of this was related to the reimbursement for services.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the Health Department had been looking for space near the VOA in the past, so this was a win for the County.

Chairperson Banas thanked Ms. Vail for her help.

5. **Veteran Affairs** – Ingham County Department of Veteran Affairs Black Tie Gala *(Discussion)*

Natrenah Blackstock, Ingham County Veteran Affairs Director, presented information about the proposed gala.

Chairperson Banas asked when the County would know about the possible $20,000 Federal grant.
Ms. Blackstock stated that there had not been a lot of information at this point but she was going to put together a comprehensive proposal and submit it soon.

Chairperson Banas asked if she had reached out to Senator Stabenow to get information about getting this funding.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she had been working with Congressman Bishop’s office on this.

Chairperson Banas asked Ms. Blackstock how this plan was conceived.

Ms. Blackstock stated that the veterans in the County had many needs and there was little funding for those needs; therefore, she had begun to think outside the box in order to receive additional funding. She further stated that when she saw this Federal legislation she saw it as a way to raise additional funds.

Ms. Blackstock stated that this also allowed them to reach out to veterans with more income who do not normally receive services from the VOA. She further stated that the veterans with a lower income are also not receiving all the benefits available either.

Ms. Blackstock stated that with these empowerment initiatives were important to level the playfield around the community.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she was seeking financial assistance from MSU and sponsorships from the community. She further stated that Dr. Henry Louis Yates would be the keynote speaker.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked about Dr. Yates’ fee.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the fee was $50,000 for Dr. Yates which was $10,000 less than normal, and the fee for General Colin Powell would be $55,000.

Ms. Blackstone stated that General Colin Powell was not confirmed at this time so this was an estimate.

Commissioner Nolan state that this was ambitious and she was supportive. She further asked Mr. Cypher how much contingency funds were available because this was a lot of money.

Mr. Cypher stated that he would have to look that up.

Commissioner Koenig left the room at 7:46 p.m.

Ms. Blackstock stated that one idea she had was to ask a car dealership for a donation of a vehicle to be raffled off, with everyone registering being eligible for a chance to win the vehicle. She further stated that she expected that to encourage people to register.

Commissioner Koenig returned to the room at 7:47 p.m.
Ms. Blackstock stated that she had reached out to a few different organizations and many were excited about this idea.

Chairperson Banas stated that the contingency fund had about $202,000 in it.

Commission Nolan stated that it would be very important to attain that Federal grant and she was disappointed that their process was not clearer.

Commission Koenig stated that she loved the idea and thinking outside the box; however, she was not sure if this could legally funded by the County. She further asked if Ms. Blackstock had put together a large fundraiser like this before.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she had not done this in this sector but had hosted this type of event annually over 5 years to support her church. She further stated that there could be ways to reduce the cost of the event.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he thought that sponsorships would be key for this event to be a success. He asked if there had been a consideration to contract with a professional fundraiser, especially since this comes on the heels of the MLK luncheon and the Lansing Promise dinner.

Commissioner Tennis stated that Dr. Yates would be a huge draw and that General Powell was probably not necessary. He further stated that the Federal Act was pretty vague and this event would need to be sold as a fundraiser.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she intended this to be a fundraiser. She further stated that opening registration earlier would allow a good estimate of attendance.

Commissioner Tennis asked if any nearby Veteran Affairs departments would be doing something similar.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she had not heard anyone else doing this same thing.

Commissioner Tennis stated that perhaps involving the other counties in the region would allow this to be a bigger and better attended event.

Commission Koenig asked if anyone could remember the County ever doing this before.

Chairperson Banas stated that this was an ambitious project. She further stated that sponsorships would be critical because it was difficult to use a third of the contingency fund to fund this project.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she was confident that community partnerships and sponsors would be possible but she had not sought any out at this time because she wanted to get approval from
the County first. She was also concerned that she needed to reserve the Lansing Center and the Speaker before seeking sponsors.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Board of Commissioners was the fiduciary of the taxpayers’ funds and they needed to carefully balance what serves the taxpayers best. She further stated that this was a huge, one-time event whereas most of the time these events start small and build up.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she hoped to build to an annual event.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she liked this idea and it was very good, but she cannot commit to funding at this amount.

Commissioner Tennis stated that it was possible to reach out to the sponsors without having a commitment from venue and speaker. He further stated that the Federal law did not really say Black Tie Event to him, but seemed to be talking about community outreach events.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the taxpayers are very critical to funding these things.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas stated that the Ingham County Animal Control had an annual fundraiser put on by a “Friends of the Ingham County Animal Control.” She further stated that perhaps it would be helpful to have a similar group host this event.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she would appreciate that.

Chairperson Banas asked if there was anything else Ms. Blackstock would like to share.

Ms. Blackstock stated that she was concerned about reserving the venue and speaker.

Chairperson Banas stated that it was going to be a few weeks to complete this process.

Commissioner Nolan stated that it would be great to have some sponsorships lined up before they commit to funding this project. She further stated her appreciation of this ambitious project.

Commissioner Tennis left at 8:10 p.m.

Chairperson Banas stated her appreciation for Ms. Blackstock thinking outside the box.

6. Controller’s Office – Resolution Updating Various Fees for County Services (Discussion)

Commissioner Nolan asked Mr. Cypher if there was anything significant or outside of the parameters of the normal process in the fee update.
Mr. Cypher stated that this was within this normal process and the memo highlights a few sections that differed from the normal process.

Discussion.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD