

LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
August 16, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Crenshaw, Anthony (left at 6:23 p.m.), Celentino, Schafer, and Maiville

Members Absent: Banas and Hope

Others Present: Chairperson Koenig, Judge Thomas Boyd, Shauna Dunnings, Rick Terrill, Brian Fisher, Jyl Alward, Tina Walton, Connie Kapugia, Rick Flynn, Teri Morton, Lindsey LaForte, and others

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

Approval of the July 12, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE SUPPORTED BY COMM. SCHAFER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2018 LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

CHAIRPERSON CRENSHAW MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION THE MINUTES ARE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Christy Lawrence, ~~Save the Lansing Pitbulls Advocates for Reform at the Ingham County Animal Shelter~~, stated that there were serious issues with the ICAC at various times. She further stated that in 2014, the Ingham County Controller stated that an ad hoc committee was to be formed to address some of the issue; however, it was never formed. ~~She further stated that there was a history of Ms. Burns having very similar issues in Livingston County.~~

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

Additions to the Agenda

Removed from the Agenda –

3. Animal Control
 - b. Resolution to Discontinue Whisker Wednesdays and Replace Them with Other Adoption Promotions
 - c. Resolution to Change the Hours of Operation of the Ingham County Animal Control Shelter

Limited Public Comment

Tom Krug, Capitol City Labor Program (CCLP) Executive Director, stated that he was before the Committee to discuss the Ingham County Animal Control (ICAC) and the 9-1-1 Center. He further stated that as the County moved forward looking for a new ICAC Director they should seek a people person.

Mr. Krug stated that there had been a history of the ICAC being a difficult work environment and they needed a strong manager who was a people person to provide leadership. He further stated that many of the employees did not feel that anyone cared for them.

Mr. Krug stated that when thinking about changing the shelter hours, the Committee should keep in mind that changing shifts affected those who worked there and that these people had a life outside of work. He further stated that he would encourage the Committee to listen to employee input.

Mr. Krug stated that in regard to the email the Committee members had received from the CCLP Local President, he wanted to make the Committee aware that the 9-1-1 Center had half of the number of dispatchers that they should have. He further stated that this was a very stressful job.

Mr. Krug stated that they had begun a conversation about recruitment nearly a year ago and he encouraged the Committee to push that along.

Connie Kapugia, concerned citizen, stated that the information given to the Committee concerning the ICAC shelter hours was considered poor data. She further stated that the data took into account the average of the adoptions over every Sunday, even though the shelter had not been open for some of those days.

Ms. Kapugia stated that there were some days that the statistics were not accurate. She further stated that Whisker Wednesdays should not be changed at this time.

Ms. Kapugia stated that adoptions were the highest on Wednesdays because of this program. She further stated that the shelter needed to keep consistent hours.

Ms. Kapugia stated that at this time the County should leave everything alone at ICAC and let the dust settle. She further stated that the community was cautious and leery at this time.

Ms. Kapugia stated that they should let the new leadership come in and make changes after that time.

Jyl Alward, concerned citizen, stated that former ICAC Deputy Director Ann Burns should have been fired and not allowed to retire. She further stated that ICAC Veterinarian Dr. Karen, Worthington should be fired.

Ms. Alward stated that anyone who had seen the Dreamvil video and read the complaints and reports concerning the ICAC knew that Dr. Worthington was at fault. She further stated that not

telling the Board of Commissioners about this situation for over two months and providing a poor report left her wondering how the Controller could be in the position of supervising ICAC.

Tina Walton, ICAC volunteer, stated that she was at the recent Board Leadership meeting and Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth stated that they would walk the wards twice a day. She further stated that she had never had seen Dr. Worthington do that before.

Ms. Walton stated that animals should not be allowed to die and she was a fierce advocate. She further stated that the ICAC had a hotline to report animal cruelty and abuse.

Ms. Walton stated that Dr. Worthington's actions were equal to those reported on the hotline. She further stated that the number of cats euthanized because of feline leukemia was enormous and there was no reason for it because there were places for those cats to go such as cat sanctuaries.

Ms. Walton stated that under current practices, ICAC was a kill shelter. She further stated that the Board of Commissioners should step up and do the right thing.

Ms. Walton stated that Ms. Burns was a coward. She further stated that there had been three ICAC employees under the microscope and only one of them came to the meetings to face the criticism.

Ms. Walton stated that all of these meetings and discussions had been a waste of time if Dr. Worthington was still at ICAC. She further stated that Dreamvil, Jonah, Skully, Simba and others needed justice.

Ms. Walton stated that those guilty of cruelty to animals at ICAC needed to be prosecuted the same as any others. She further stated that if she had treated those dogs the same way ICAC did, she would be in jail or she would have been fined heavily and placed on a do not adopt list.

Ms. Walton read a passage about animals giving all the love they had.

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

2. Sheriff's Office
 - a. Resolution to Continue Patrol Car Video Storage Software Support from L3 Mobile-Vision, Inc.
 - b. Resolution to Approve Purchase of Training from Policeone.com Academy
 - c. Resolution to Authorize the Renewal of a Contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections to Rent up to 50 Beds to the Michigan Department of Corrections
3. Animal Control
 - a. Resolution to Address Interim Needs of the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter

4. Facilities – Resolution to Authorize an Agreement to Furnish and Install a New Detention Control Panel in the Ingham County Jail
5. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center
 - a. Resolution Authorizing Language Interpretation Services Contract for the 9-1-1 Center
 - b. Resolution Authorizing Replacement of the Training Room Consoles for the 9-1-1 Center
6. Indigent Defense Collaborative Committee
 - a. Resolution Creating a Chief Public Defender Position

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

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

7. Board of Commissioners – Resolution to Adopt an Ordinance Amending the Ingham County Animal Control Ordinance to Transfer the Supervisory Authority Over the Animal Control Director to the County Controller/Administrator

Chairperson Crenshaw asked Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, for an update about this issue.

Ms. Morton stated she had spoken with the County Attorney concerning the ICAC ordinance. She further stated that the 2013 resolution giving the Controller the authority to supervise the ICAC director had already been adopted, the only reason why the updated ordinance was not in place was that it was not published.

Ms. Morton stated that in order for the 2013 ordinance to take effect, it could simply be published. She further stated that if the Board of Commissioners wanted to take away the changes to the ordinance they should rescind the 2013 resolution.

Ms. Morton stated that if the Board of Commissioners would like to make further changes then they may amend the ordinance. She further stated that there was a 2006 amendment to the ordinance which had given the day-to-day supervision of the ICAC operations to the Controller; however, the Controller did not have the ability to fire the ICAC Director.

Ms. Morton stated that she would like to hear from the Committee as to how they would like to proceed with this.

Commissioner Maiville that that he would like clarification of what the current ordinance said. He asked if the Controller had the supervision of the day-to-day ICAC operations without the ability to fire the Director.

Ms. Morton stated that was correct. She further stated that the amendment to the ordinance in 2006 was properly published.

Commissioner Maiville stated that with all that was going on at ICAC, he did not want to make any changes and was leaning toward tabling the item.

Commissioner Anthony stated that she understood the spirit of earlier conversations were that the Controller should have supervision of the ICAC including the ability to terminate the Director. She further stated that she would like to publish the 2013 resolution in order to complete the process of amending the ordinance.

Ms. Morton stated that the resolution which was not published, may need some further changes. She further stated that the 2013 resolution only amended one section of the resolution and another section still allowed the Board of Commissioners to have a supervisory role over the ICAC.

Commissioner Celentino asked for clarification what changes had been made by the 2013 resolution.

Ms. Morton stated that the 2013 resolution amended Section 1 of the ordinance, but not Section 7. She further stated that it was the opinion of the County Attorney that both sections should be amended to properly transfer the supervision of the ICAC Director to the Controller.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that with this new information, it seemed that there was more to consider and they should wait to move forward.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Committee members had made good points, along with the speakers tonight, about the need for stability at the ICAC. He further stated that he agreed that they needed to let the dust settle on this this issue before starting to come to some closure.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. ANTHONY, TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas and Hope.

Discussion.

Ms. Morton stated that she would wait to hear from the Committee as to when this matter should come back to Committee.

Commissioner Celentino stated more information was needed.

Commissioner Anthony asked that the Board of Commissioners be provided with a synopsis of what had happened with this ordinance and what the options were moving forward. She further stated that was something that did not need to wait.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he would let the Controller's Office know when they would like to take this issue up again but he did not see that happening before October.

1. District Court – Update on District Court Activity

Thomas Boyd, 55th District Court Judge, reviewed the packet of information he provided to the Committee.

Commissioner Anthony left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Judge Boyd stated that they had been examining the possibility of District Court Consolidation. He further stated that the 1963 Michigan Constitution led to the establishment of District Courts in 1968. He further stated that there were three classes of courts, but only six counties currently had the smallest level of city or 3rd class District Courts.,

Judge Boyd stated that this this model was inefficient. He further stated that this potential consolidation would follow the model of the Kalamazoo District Court.

Judge Boyd stated that in order to consolidate the courts, the State Legislature would have to approve the plan and the Legislative Service Bureau had a working draft bill. He further stated that most of the savings would come as the courts shrunk through attrition.

Judge Boyd stated that the District Courts would initially keep all employees and just not fill vacancies as they came up. He further stated that they would keep labor contracts.

Judge Boyd stated that a consolidation could be done with two or three locations. He further stated that if the Court maintained three locations there would be a savings of about \$700,000 per year.

Judge Boyd stated that a savings of over \$1 million per year could be achieved if the Court was reduced to two locations. He further stated that it may also be possible to reduce the number of judges and sunset one judge.

Judge Boyd stated that there would be a transition period to ease the transition into two locations He further stated that they would be able to provide a better service to the citizens for a lower cost.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he and Commissioner Koenig had attended a meeting with some of the stakeholders yesterday to discuss the District Court consolidation.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked Judge Boyd if he would like to speak to that at all.

Judge Boyd stated that a former Lansing Mayor had approached him about this about seven years ago and it seemed to make a lot of sense to him. He further stated that at this point both the East Lansing and Lansing Mayors had both agreed to look at a consolidation.

Judge Boyd stated that there were various parts of the equation including things such as the lockups. He further stated that the more the District Courts worked together, the more economical consolidation became.

Judge Boyd stated that consolidation made sense and seemed doable.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he had been on the Board of Commissioners for 34 years and had heard this was needed for that long. He further stated that it seemed that East Lansing wanted to keep fees and they did not want to approach consolidation because of that.

Commissioner Schafer asked what had changed to get the cooperation of East Lansing.

Judge Boyd stated that East Lansing's views had changed. He further stated that the parking revenue in City of Lansing was not run through the Court except in certain instances.

Judge Boyd stated that East Lansing could also avoid their parking revenue from being sent through the District Court. He further stated that the bulk of the revenue from the District Court for East Lansing was parking revenue.

Judge Boyd stated that without the parking revenue, it did not seem that East Lansing had a positive revenue balance. He further stated that there had been a change in times and even traffic tickets were down.

Judge Boyd stated that they had not needed to add a new member to the bench since 1980. He further stated that revenue was down and expenditures continued to rise.

Judge Boyd stated that he should not guess at why East Lansing wanted to pursue consolidation at this time, but he thought that those factors played a part.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he would like to see this happen before he died.

Commissioner Celentino asked about how it would be determined which model would be used.

Judge Boyd stated that it was up to the Legislative and Executive Branches to determine what model would be used. He further stated that avoiding a transitional period could make this a bit cheaper.

Judge Boyd stated that the consolidation would result in a seamless transition for the public. He stated that page 10 of his handout showed a map with a potential changes to the districts served.

Judge Boyd stated that Lansing Township would be served at the City of Lansing, and Meridian Township would be served at the City of East Lansing. He further stated that there would be no change in the jurisdiction of the judges at this time.

Commissioner Celentino asked the Chairperson Crenshaw and Commissioner Koenig what sense they had about how the meeting went.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he had a good feeling about it, and the finance departments for the jurisdictions were meeting soon to discuss this.

Commissioner Koenig stated that there was revenue that could be accessed. She further stated that there were a lot of moving parts, but they could be separated into different pieces and did not all need to be addressed on the same timeline.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the consolidation could be moved forward without making any changes at all, and then changes like locations could happen later. She further stated that she felt they got bogged down by details when \$1 million could be saved per year.

Judge Boyd stated that the cities saved the most in the deal, but the County would still see some savings.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the cities could eliminate legacy cost. She further asked Judge Boyd about the court becoming revenue-neutral.

Judge Boyd stated that there was a Committee appointed by the Governor to look at the funding of the court system and he served as the chair. He further stated that they had been looking at how much courts cost across the state and if it was possible to become revenue neutral.

Judge Boyd stated that there was also a Supreme Court case dealing with the funding which had yet to be decided. He further stated that when looking at today, consolidation was what would work.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the draft legislation would have to become law before they could consolidate.

Judge Boyd stated that when the legislation became law, it would open the door to the proposition of consolidation and start a clock as to how soon it would have to happen. He further stated that State Representative Sam Singh would like to move this forward if the jurisdictions wanted to move on with this.

Commissioner Koenig stated that Representative Singh wanted some assurances that everyone was on board. She further stated that it seemed that East Lansing was ready to go.

Judge Boyd stated that the Lansing City Council had not had their briefing on this matter yet.

Commissioner Schafer asked what the next step was.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that they would wait until the financial groups met to see what their outcome was. He further stated that the Committee could adopt a resolution of support in October.

Judge Boyd stated that made sense, but the only caveat was that Representative Singh wanted this to pass before the November Election.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Committee could take this up at the meeting in September or the first meeting in October.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the next Committee meeting was September 13, 2018.

Discussion.

Judge Boyd stated the sooner the Board of Commissioners took up the issue, the better and the resolution just started a clock and did not mean that the County had to follow through if they found that the consolidation was not the right move.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Committee should put forth a resolution announcing support for this idea.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that tonight they could ask for a resolution to be ready for the next full Board of Commissioners meeting.

Discussion.

Ms. Morton asked if the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing also needed to do this.

Judge Boyd stated that this was resolution that was not legally required, but Representative Singh asked for something to show support for the possible consolidation.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the State House of Representatives was back in session September 5, 2018 and that would probably be a good time for Representative Singh to introduce the bill. He further stated that they could have this resolution in order to encourage the support of this plan.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SCHAFER, TO CREATE A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT THE COURT CONSOLIDATION PLAN.

THE MOTION CARRIED. Absent: Commissioners Anthony, Banas, and Hope.

Judge Boyd stated that he was happy to speak to the other Committees or members of the Board of Commissioners and answer any questions.

5. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center
 - c. 9-1-1 Center Update

Lance Langdon, 9-1-1 Dispatch Center Director, reviewed the information that he provided to the Committee.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if they had a year-by-year breakdown of the training failures.

Mr. Langdon stated that they did not have that breakdown. He further stated that they had been getting a bit better each year.

Commissioner Celentino asked about the email from Sherri Lerner, Union President, and if he could respond to that.

Mr. Langdon stated that they were looking at this. He further stated that they had been training just call takers, but that caused a bit of a backlog.

Mr. Langdon stated that they were trying to get people in the door at the 9-1-1 Center and had a limited number of trainers. He further stated that they had two more people step up to become trainers.

Mr. Langdon stated that there was a balance that they were attempting to achieve.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he was happy to hear from Ms. Lerner that morale had improved.

Ms. Morton stated that they had been having regular meetings with the Controller's group and this issue had been brought up in the past but had not been brought up recently. She further stated that they would be sure to bring that up and follow up on that concern.

Mr. Langdon continued to present the information provided.

Commissioner Schafer left the room at 7:04 p.m.

Commissioner Schafer returned to the room at 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked about the rewriting of the mission statement.

Mr. Langdon stated that they decided to make it less wordy and bring it down to common core values. He further stated that serving the public was the most important, then well-being for their staff, and then making sure they were getting the right resources out to those who needed them.

Mr. Langdon stated that they were using that to help explain why they were doing things, and reminders of it were on letterhead, signage in the center, so everyone understood and knew what they were about and where they were going.

Mr. Langdon continued to present the information provided.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he had been to some of the award ceremonies. He further stated that it evident that morale was increasing and they were great events.

Mr. Langdon continued to present the information provided.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if there was anything in the audit findings that the Board of Commissioners should be aware of.

Mr. Langdon stated that they needed to improve their website, which was being addressed. He further stated that they had two training receipts that could not be found so that was corrected.

Mr. Langdon stated that they had a good report all around.

Commissioner Maiville asked when they would be able to accept 9-1-1 text messages.

Mr. Langdon stated that he was not sure when it would happen. He further stated that with all of the training currently happening they did not have time to train on that.

Mr. Langdon stated that everything was in place once they had time to train.

Commissioner Schafer left the room at 7:15 p.m.

6. Indigent Defense Collaborative Committee

b. Interview/Hiring Panel for Chief Public Defender Position (*Discussion*)

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the County had applied for a grant from the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) were awarded the grant. He further stated that one of MIDC's recommendations was to create a Chief Public Defender position.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the posting was created and the resolution passed tonight was on the way to the County Services Committee for approval.

Ms. Morton stated Shauna Dunnings was also on the Collaborative Committee and was here tonight to speak about this. She further stated that the Collaborative Committee suggested that the Law & Courts Committee could provide direction that they would like to know how to proceed with developing a hiring panel for this position.

Ms. Morton stated that it was the consensus of the Collaborative Committee that all of the groups on that committee should also be represented on the hiring panel.

Commissioner Schafer returned to the room at 7:18 p.m.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Collaborative Committee was made up of representatives from the Board of Commissioners, 55th District Court, 30th Circuit Court, 54A District Court, 54B District Court, the Bar Association, and the MIDC representative. He further stated that the MIDC representative would not be on the panel but would be more of an advisory position.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that they would like direction from the Committee as to if one person from each group should be on the hiring panel.

Commissioner Celentino stated that if there was one person from each group, it would be a committee of seven. He further stated that he was not familiar with how this typically worked and asked if that would be too large.

Shauna Dunnings, 30th Circuit Court Administrator, stated that she did not think that would be too large. She further stated that the judges had personal experience with the skills of the possible applicants.

Ms. Dunnings stated that she was at the Committee to ensure that at least the 30th Circuit Court could be represented. She further stated that they had checked with the MIDC and the Michigan Judges Association to make sure that they were supporting the concept.

Ms. Dunning stated that it was appropriate for a Judge to be at the table but not to control the decision. She further stated that they had done some research on this because it was important for the judiciary to not have too much oversight into the process.

Ms. Dunning stated that since the judiciary was well-suited to know what to look for in a public defender and to know the potential applicant pool, they would certainly like to be represented.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he would be supportive in everyone being represented on the hiring panel. He asked about the timeline for this.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that they would like to hire someone by the end of the year.

Ms. Morton stated that October 1, 2018 was the goal.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he had no problem with the hiring panel being large enough so that every group could be represented, plus Commissioners Hope, Koenig, and Crenshaw.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that staff could reach out to each group, as well as Commissioners Hope and Koenig, to get the names of whoever should sit on this committee so the hiring panel members could be appointed at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Discussion.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked to set a maximum number of members for the hiring panel committee. He further stated that perhaps a committee of 11 members would be best.

Ms. Morton stated that they can ask for one representative from each group and if groups want more she would communicate that there may be room for more than one as long as the committee did not exceed 11.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that they could go up to 11, but did not want the hiring panel committee to be too large. He further stated that they needed the names of the members by Friday.

Commissioner Maiville asked if the judges would be allowed to have a vote on the committee.

Ms. Dunnings stated that the panel could discuss what was best but they had checked with the MIDC and the Michigan Judges Association to make sure that the Circuit Court was not going to make any recommendations that was contrary to their intent. She further stated that further guidance from MIDC might be needed.

Ms. Dunnings stated that they would like a seat at the table even if they could not be voting members.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that it may be similar to the Ingham County Animal Control (ICAC) Director hiring panel where there were some non-voting members of the public at the table.

Ms. Morton stated that a resolution would come to the Board of Commissioners because it was ultimately a Board of Commissioners appointment.

Announcements

Commissioner Maiville asked if the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development had an update on the ICAC report.

Ms. Morton stated that the report was not done yet.

Commissioner Maiville asked if the materials to be sent to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) had been forwarded on.

Ms. Morton stated that it had been done.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he was going to follow up with a letter to LARA as the Chairperson of the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Celentino asked about Agenda Item 3a. He asked if this was to give an option if the veterinarian was removed from staff or there was another personnel change or was it to help with the caseload.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the initial thought was to help alleviate the caseload, but if there was an interim veterinarian needed, that may also help.

Ms. Morton stated that the language was flexible.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Board of Veterinarian Medicine did not meet again until September but he would continue to follow up.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he was glad this was brought up as the animals needed good care.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he would like to thank the voters of Ingham County for passing the Justice Complex millage. He further stated that they were already moving forward with the plan and working closely with Rick Terrill, Facilities Director, and Jim Hudgins, Purchasing Director.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he was pleased with the outcome of the millage. He further stated that there was still some discussion with the district courts to be had before finalizing the plans.

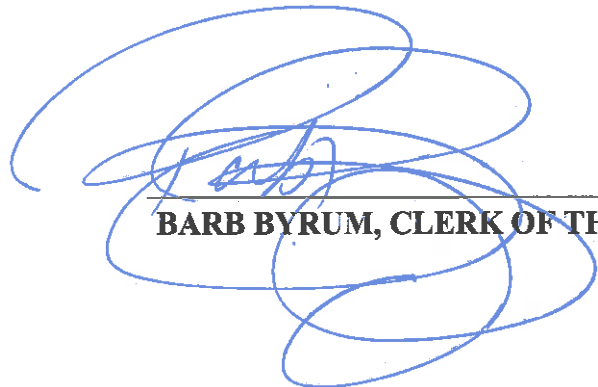
Ms. Morton stated that staff would have the proposal for programming ready to start on January 1, 2019.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD