

**COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**August 23, 2018**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Celentino, Hope, Grebner, Naeyaert, Nolan, Maiville, and Sebolt

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Register Derrick Quinney, Rick Terrill, Deb Fett, Jill Rhode, Matt Nordfjord, Bill Conklin, Jim Hudgins, Cynthia Wagner, Sheldon Lewis, Michelle Beloskur, Ryan Buck, Michael Townsend, Jared Cypher, Terri Morton, Tim Dolehanty, Craig Hoffman, Sue Graham, Becky Bennett, Lindsey LaForte and others

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

Additions to the Agenda

1. Budget Hearings
  - u. Ingham Conservation District

Limited Public Comment

Michelle Beloskur, Ingham Conservation District, stated that she had an update since she was last before the Committee. She further stated that she wanted to highlight the number of federal dollars coming into Ingham County for conservation last year, which was over \$557,000.

Ms. Beloskur stated that the invasive species unit was running well and they had over \$300,000 in State funds to help that program.

Ms. Beloskur stated that the used tire collecting event was on June 23, 2018 and they had collected over 1,000 tires at the Road Department’s facility. She further mentioned that they were in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of stream monitoring and now had a nice amount of data.

Commissioner Grebner asked what they were measuring when monitoring the stream.

Ms. Beloskur stated that they monitored macro invertebrates.

Chairperson Nolan stated that the Committee would start with all the agencies that approved the recommended budget, and then review the remaining agency budgets one by one.

Commissioner Hope asked if they had received the budget books later than normal.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that it was within the range of the budget calendar.

Commissioner Hope stated that having only received it two days ago, it seemed later than usual.

Ms. Morton stated that she could look and see how it compared to last year.

Commissioner Celentino asked if the Treasurer's Office was happy with their budget.

Chairperson Nolan stated that the Treasurer was not present at tonight's meeting.

Tim Dolehanty, Controller, stated that they had not heard from the Treasurer about any concerns.

Deb Fett, Innovation and Technology Department Director, stated that she was happy overall with the budget and appreciated having one additional staff member added in the Controller's recommendations. She further stated that she was before the Committee to ask for another position to be placed on the Z list.

Ms. Fett stated that they needed another analyst on staff to help with applications and that this would save money in the long term. She further stated that her current staff did not have time to perform these functions now.

Ms. Fett stated that the cost was \$136,133 at the highest level. She further stated that she requested consideration of this additional position.

Chairperson Nolan asked if this was the first year that IT was asking for this position.

Ms. Fett answered yes.

Commissioner Celentino asked the Controller if they he had budgeted \$300,000 for the Z-list.

Mr. Dolehanty stated the Z-list had been given \$300,000.

Commissioner Celentino stated they were the first Committee and had the full amount to work with.

Chairperson Nolan stated that this was a big ask.

Ms. Fett stated that it was but she felt that it was needed.

MOVED BY COMM. GREBNER TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL IT ANALYST POSITION TO THE Z-LIST.

THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT.

Mr. Buck stated that some of what was done by the Clerk's Office was simply receiving of files, but they also needed to process some things further and provide records. He further stated that they did not feel that the Clerk's Office had been getting an equal level of support from the Treasurer's Office as they had been providing.

Mr. Buck stated that the Lansing Office was always staffed by the Clerk's Office, even if someone was on vacation. He further stated that the Treasurer's Office would close the window if they were on vacation.

Mr. Buck stated that the relationship was not working.

Chairperson Nolan stated that was not good.

Commissioner Sebolt asked the Chairperson to clarify her comment.

Chairperson Nolan stated that it was unfortunate that the Clerk's Office and Treasurer's Office could not make the relationship work.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that it was unfortunate but there were so many issues with the Treasurer's Office he was not sure that they needed to also be handling the Clerk's Office responsibilities.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he had not heard complaints about the Treasurer's Office mishandling anything for the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that they just heard complaints that the relationship was not working.

Commissioner Grebner stated that there was a vague mention of an issue. He asked Mr. Buck if there had been written complaints.

Mr. Buck stated that he was not able to answer that question.

Commissioner Grebner stated that of course he could not answer. He further stated that there were problems at the management level in the Treasurer's Office but it did not mean that they could not help with simple paperwork.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that the Treasurer's Office having an employee absent in the Lansing Office and leaving that office closed was an issue.

Mr. Buck stated that he wanted to clarify why he could not answer these questions. He further stated that this was an open meeting and what he is being asked related to personnel issues Mr. Buck stated that he would want to discuss such a matter with Clerk Byrum and the Human Resources Director first.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the Treasurer's Office was very small and did not have staff to move to Lansing when the Lansing staff was absent. He further stated that there was a time when

Commissioner Grebner stated that the question was not about fairness and that he did not believe in fairness to departments when it came to the budget. He further stated that it was about what was the best bang for buck.

Commissioner Grebner stated that they needed to consider how the taxpayers could best get services. He further stated that this was a long term project to bring the IT Department up to date.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the County had been an exemplar of trailing edge technology and they needed to put more money into IT. He further stated that there should be lots of Z-list items to give Finance a lot to decide.

Commissioner Celentino stated that if the Committee approved all three positions requested tonight for the Z-list, the cost would be about \$213,000. He further stated that he supported putting everything on the Z-list and giving some stress to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he was supportive of the Clerk having an additional Deputy Clerk for the Lansing Office which was critical for himself and his constituents. He further stated that it was very convenient to go downtown, especially for his constituents that had limited transportation access.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Committee could put everything on the Z-list and they would still be under \$300,000.

Chairperson Nolan stated that the motion that they were speaking to only considered the IT position.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.                      Yeas: Celentino, Hope, Grebner,  
Naeyaert, Nolan, and Maiville                      Nay: Sebolt                      Absent: None

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT, TO ADD TWO DEPUTY CLERK POSITIONS FOR THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO THE Z-LIST.

COMM. GREBNER ASKED THAT THE QUESTION BE DIVIDED.

Commissioner Hope asked Mr. Buck how this affected the Circuit Court.

Mr. Buck stated that earlier he had spoken about the Clerk's Office covering three locations which included the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, the Lansing Office, and the Mason Office. He further stated that the Clerk's staff included two manager positions at the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, four Deputy Clerks at the Mason Office, one Deputy Clerk at the Lansing Office, and the Recording Secretary, Elections Clerk Coordinator, Chief Deputy County Clerk at the Mason Office.

Mr. Buck stated that counting the Clerk, that there was a staff of 11 at present.