

LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
January 11, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Crenshaw, Hope, Celentino, Anthony, Schafer, and Maiville

Members Absent: Banas

Others Present: Commissioner Ryan Sebolt, Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, Andy Bouck, John Dinon, Bradley Prehn, Beth Rhodes, Joan Austin, Ericanne Spence, Teri Morton, Liz Noel, 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 November 30, 2017 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. ANTHONY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 30, 2017 LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

The minutes were amended as follows:

Commissioner Maiville stated that it was unfortunate that this had to be dealt with as a millage, because he thought that ~~money had been set aside~~ **there was a plan for paying** for this. Further, he stressed how important it was to focus on the court aspect of the issue, which had security concerns of its own with jail defendants using the same entrances and exits as the general public.

This was considered a friendly amendment.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

Bradley Prehn, UAW Chairperson, stated he had been contacted by John Dinon, Animal Control Director, regarding the proposed change in Animal Control Shelter hours. He further stated he had discussed his concerns with Mr. Dinon and his questions had been answered, so the UAW was in support of the proposed hours for the Animal Control Shelter.

Beth Rhodes, Animal Control Shelter volunteer, stated she was speaking on behalf of other volunteers at the Animal Control Shelter as well. She further stated the volunteers had concerns about the proposed hour change, as they did not believe that six months was enough time to determine that Sunday hours should be eliminated.

Ms. Rhodes stated there was a lot that went on at the Animal Control Shelter on Sundays, including the taking in of stray animals and people looking for lost pets. She further stated when volunteers had gone door-to-door about the Animal Control Shelter, voters had liked the hours of the shelter, and the Board of Commissioners should want to keep the voters happy before the capital campaign for the Animal Control Shelter.

Ms. Rhodes stated she was confused with the proposed reduction of Animal Control Officers on Sundays, as having them on the streets was a good thing. She further stated she was also confused with the proposal to eliminate the Clerk position, as there were two new administrative positions, but part of what the County had promised voters was to provide additional services.

Joan Austin, Ingham County resident, stated she agreed with Ms. Rhodes' statements regarding the Animal Control Shelter. She further stated she would also support having Animal Control Officers available 24/7, because there were currently no officers on duty at night to make calls, which was when there were sometimes serious issues like dogs being left outside in the cold and police officers would only respond if they were available.

Ms. Austin stated she also believed six months had not been enough time, as it had been promised to the residents and they were still getting out the word that the Animal Control Shelter was open. She further stated she would like to see the County implement tougher laws than the State of Michigan had regarding animal cruelty, as it had been done in Pennsylvania, because animal cruelty could roll over to people.

Ms. Austin stated she hoped the Committee would reconsider the proposed change in hours, possibly by cutting staff on other days to address staffing issues on Sundays.

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

2. Sheriff's Office
 - a. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections to Rent up to 50 Beds to the Michigan Department of Corrections
 - b. Resolution to Authorize a Training Services Agreement with Bouck Corporation DBA MACNLOW Associates on Behalf of the Sheriff's Office and 9-1-1 Central Dispatch
 - c. Resolution to Honor Captain Vernon Elliott of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

1. Community Mental Health – Resolution Authorizing Additional Funding for the Correctional Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS) Program

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

Commissioner Schafer stated that the 2018 budget process had just finished on January 10, 2018. He asked why the full-time position was not asked for during the budget process.

Commissioner Schafer stated the funds to make the position full-time would come from the contingency account, and he was reluctant to take money out of that account for personnel.

Ericanne Spence, Community Mental Health (CMH) Detox Services Program Supervisor, stated the number hours of the position had recently increased, which she had thought would entice people to apply for the position. She further stated at the current hour level, CMH had not been able to get applicants and the position was currently being filled in by other employees.

Commissioner Schafer asked if Ms. Spence believed if the position was advertised as full-time, it would get people to apply.

Ms. Spence stated she believed it would get people to apply, as there would be benefits and more stable hours.

Commissioner Celentino stated the position was already at 0.854 FTE, and he thought the amount of \$10,000 just to increase the position to full-time was justified for the amount of work the position did. He further stated he supported the resolution.

Commissioner Anthony stated she also supported the resolution. She further stated that she agreed that the position would get more applications if it was full-time, and the position was important because a number of folks that found themselves in jail had mental health issues.

Commissioner Anthony stated despite being the County having challenging budget issues, she believed it was a minimal cost for the services it provided.

Commissioner Schafer stated he hoped the Committee understood that he supported CMH, but he was concerned that the extra funding to make the position full-time would come out of contingency. He further stated he hoped that in future years, the proposal would be part of the budget process.

Ms. Spence stated the funding for the position would be included in future budget processes.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

3. Animal Control – Resolution to Change the Hours of Operation of the Ingham County Animal Control Shelter

Chairperson Crenshaw asked for a motion on the resolution.

No motion was made on the resolution.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated the Animal Control Shelter hours would stay the same.

4. Law and Courts Committee – Planning for Ingham County Justice Complex Millage Question (*Discussion*)

Chairperson Crenshaw introduced the discussion item. He stated the staff, Commissioner Koenig, and he had met last month to discuss a potential plan for the millage.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated it was no secret that the current jail and Sheriff's Office needed to be replaced, not fixed; the charge for 2018 was how the County would fund the new facility. He further stated that it had been discussed to include programming in the millage, which he estimated that about \$300,000-\$400,000 annually for programming would significantly increase the services provided to individuals in the jail.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated he did not pretend to be an expert on millage language, and while there was a rough draft of what was proposed, he was open for suggestions.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated she wanted to get confirmation from the Committee on some items that had been discussed at previous Committee meetings. She confirmed that last year, the Committee had seemed to come to a consensus that they wanted to try for the whole construction project, including the District Court, Sheriff's administration and jail, and using Redstone's initial plan estimate which amounted to about \$65 million.

Commissioner Schafer stated he agreed.

Commissioner Anthony asked if the judges at the District Court were on board with the plans for the facility.

Ms. Morton stated she had consulted with Judge Thomas Boyd, and he had had some initial concerns with the Redstone plan, but he understood that they were initial plans and they could start from scratch on the actual designs and District Court would be included in those discussions.

Commissioner Anthony asked if the cost would increase significantly to change the designs, and if Ms. Morton thought there would be a good estimate between now and the time the Board of Commissioners needed to approve the millage language.

Ms. Morton stated the issue was that Redstone was an expensive proposition, so if the County were to get another updated estimate, it could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. She further

stated just in consultation with Rick Terrill, Facilities Director, the numbers in the memo were what he thought would be good to use.

Ms. Morton stated it never hurt to add more, and if the millage was approved for more than was needed, the County did not have to levy the entire amount.

Commissioner Anthony stated she wanted the millage language to be as close as possible to the amount the County would need for the project, so they would not have to go back to the voters to ask for more money later.

Ms. Morton stated there always seemed to not be enough when they did millages like this.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated he assumed there was some wiggle room in the project as well, so when it came to put the project out for an RFP, they could make sure it was within the amount in the millage.

Commissioner Anthony stated in the event that the County needed to scale the project back, she hoped that programming would not be cut, as that was usually considered a low-hanging fruit, but she did not want to short-change those dollars.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated he thought staff should consult with Judge Boyd and Judge Don Allen on these issues as well.

Commissioner Hope asked if there would be a contingency amount in the budget for the project.

Ms. Morton stated there would be a contingency amount included in the budget.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Committee had thought about possibly placing on the millage on the August 7, 2018 Election ballot. He further stated if the Committee intended to have the question on the ballot then, the language would have to be approved by April.

Ms. Morton stated the deadline to put a ballot question on the August 7, 2018 Election ballot was April 26, 2018.

Commissioner Hope stated that the Committee had many discussions regarding current programming last year, and she thought the Committee might not need to dedicate a whole meeting this year to that discussion. She further stated she thought it might be best to keep the language broad, so the programs could be flexible and programs could be implemented that made sense for the jail.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated he had thought that staff could possibly come up with ideas for future programming, as he recalled discussions regarding substance abuse programs and dealing with the opioid crisis.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that programming meant people, and then the people could drive what services were needed for the people in the jail.

Commissioner Anthony stated she agreed with both points, as she thought a discussion about programming would be awesome, but they may not want to include it in the language. She clarified if the millage was placed on the August 7, 2018 ballot and it failed, then the consensus was to try again with the November ballot.

Discussion.

Chairperson Crenshaw clarified that the Committee also wanted to see programming hours included in the ballot language, as opposed to just construction costs.

Commissioner Schafer stated it was important to decide what the Board of Commissioners wanted to refer to the project as. He further stated he referred to the project as a public safety complex.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated he referred to the project as a justice complex.

Discussion.

Ms. Morton stated she thought the Committee might want to put the programming in the title as well.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated the Committee needed to have preliminary ballot language by February 15, 2018.

Discussion.

Commissioner Anthony asked if staff could come up with a few options of names for the millage and project for the Board of Commissioners to consider at the February 8, 2018 Board Leadership meeting.

Ms. Morton asked if the Committee would like to discuss the names at the February 1, 2018 Committee meeting first.

Commissioner Anthony stated she thought it would be good to consider at the Committee meeting, and then recommend an option at the Board Leadership meeting.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated he also wanted to be sure to include the partners at District Court in the name, so he was leaning more toward calling the project a justice complex.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated confirmed Ms. Morton and staff would come up with some ideas of names.

Ms. Morton stated she would come up with name ideas, based on conversations last year and this year.

Chairperson Crenshaw confirmed that staff would consult with the District Court Judges on what they wanted to see and ideas for design. He further stated hopefully they would have those discussions at the February 1, 2018 Committee meeting, have draft language by February 15, 2018, and then refine ballot language to have the Board of Commissioners vote on it by the April 26, 2018 meeting.

Discussion.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated he and his Sheriff's Office administration had started to stress to the community how important this project was, by opening their doors to the public to show them what the facilities needed. He further stated his administration was also meeting with the American Civil Liberties Union, and Rotary and Kiwanis clubs to explain their need.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated this facility was in the capital county of Michigan, the jail was one of the oldest in the State, and the County needed to make plans for the next 50 years.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if the Sheriff's Office was performing background checks on individuals who were touring the facility.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated the visitors were generally escorted by members of the Sheriff's Office, so they did not generally perform background checks.

Discussion.

Andy Bouck, Undersheriff, stated there was a facility security policy in place that determined what could come in the building.

Discussion.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD