

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 19, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Banas, Koenig, Nolan, and Naeyaert

Members Absent: Louney, Tennis, and Sebolt

Others Present: Tim Morgan, Ming Thompson, Natrenah Blackstock, Linda Vail, 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 March 5, 2018 Closed Session Minutes and March 5, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5 2018 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: None.

Additions to the Agenda –

None.

Removed from the Agenda –

2. Veteran Affairs Office
 - b. Resolution to Authorize Acceptance of Five Hundred Dollars Donated from Adelheid Berry, Surviving Spouse of Frederick J. Berry.

Chairperson Banas stated that the item was removed from the agenda because the donation had been withdrawn.

Natrenah Blackstock, Veteran's Affairs, stated that the donor was concerned because the donation had not been accepted yet and she did not understand the process.

Commissioner Koenig asked how long the County had the check without cashing it.

Ms. Blackstock stated that the County had the check for about 2 weeks.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, stated that a resolution could be brought forward to avoid this situation from happening again. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners could adopt a resolution that could allow the Veteran's Affairs office to accept any donations.

Chairperson Banas stated her support for the proposed resolution.

Limited Public Comment

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

2. Veteran Affairs Office
 - a. Resolution to Authorize a Lease Agreement with the Kalamazoo Psychology, LLC for Use of Office Space in Ingham County Veteran Affairs

3. Health Department
 - a. Resolution Honoring Lori Brasic

4. Parks Department
 - a. Resolution to Authorize a Contract for the Snow Tube Hill Pump House Foundation Project at Hawk Island County Park

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

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

1. Youth Commission – Interviews

Ming Thompson interviewed for a position to the Youth Commission.

MOVED BY COMM. KOENIG SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, TO RECOMMEND MING THOMPSON FOR A POSITION ON THE YOUTH COMMISSION TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

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

4. Parks Department
 - b. Resolution to Authorize an Amendment to the Watershed Management Plan for Lake Lansing

Tim Morgan, Ingham County Parks Director, stated that historically Ingham County contributed \$10,000 to the Watershed Management Plan fund; however, when the County was making hard

budget cuts the contribution was reduced to \$5,000. He further stated that when the County did not pay the full \$10,000, the Lake Association owners made up the difference.

Mr. Morgan stated that as part of the budget process for 2018 it would be helpful if the County allocated the full \$10,000 to match the \$10,000 that the Meridian Charter Township allocated.

Chairperson Banas asked how successful the program was.

Mr. Morgan stated that since this program started, the tests have shown a lot of improvement in the water quality of Lake Lansing.

Commissioner Nolan stated Lake Lansing was Chairperson Banas' district and that Commissioner Koenig's mother lived on the lake. She further stated that the home values had dramatically improved over the last 25 years and the lakeside home owners were likely to be able to handle the increased cost.

Chairperson Banas stated that the homeowners were individually assessed.

Commissioner Nolan stated that the individual assessment would all go up to equal the amount needed depending on how short the funding had been based on the frontage and square footage of the lots.

Chairperson Banas stated that the homeowners were collectively paying more than \$10,000 currently because the total amount needed for this project is about \$90,000 annually with Meridian Township contributing \$10,000 and Ingham County funding \$5,000. She further stated that historically the County's contribution was \$10,000 and the agreement was to contribute an equal share as Meridian Charter Township.

Discussion.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she supported funding at the current rate.

Commissioner Koenig stated that her mother lived on Lake Lansing and she did not mind paying to maintain the lake because she loved Lake Lansing, although others may not have felt the same.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that her friends who lived on Lake Lansing also did not mind paying to maintain the lake.

Chairperson Banas stated that for this year the funding remained at \$5,000.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. BANAS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

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

3. Health Department

b. Discussion – Ground Water Quality/Clean Water Action Correspondence

Linda Vail, Ingham County Health Officer, stated that Clean Water Action had been sending letters and going door-to-door in the County, including her door. She further stated that she met with Clean Water Action as the Health Officer after meeting them at her home.

Ms. Vail stated that Ingham County was ahead of a lot of other counties, so the request made by Clean Water Action was to have septic tank inspections every three years. She further stated that she could not support inspections every three years of septic tanks, as it did not seem to have enough benefits to outweigh the cost.

Ms. Vail stated that in other counties, Ingham County's Point of Sale inspections was touted as the goal. She further stated that she did not have a problem with a State-wide sanitary code as long as it did not have a local preemption.

Ms. Vail presented information regarding the Sanitary Code and Septic Inspection Programs.

Chairperson Banas thanked Ms. Vail and her staff for their work on the presentation.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she was very impressed by the information provided and thanked the staff for putting the information together. She further stated that most Board of Commissioners members had not been on the Board of Commissioners when the point-of-sale inspections were first enacted and it had been a hot-button issue at the time.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she did not think that inspections every ten years would be any less contested than the point-of-sale resolution was years ago.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that as a Realtor and Commissioner, she had experience with this issue and the current system had a lot of draw backs, but she could see the ten-year inspections as something that would work better.

Ms. Vail stated that the approach currently was not very equitable, so this change to a ten-year inspection cycle could address that. She further stated that a potential buyer could still be

protected because if they wanted to have an additional inspection on the septic system, they could.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she was very supportive of this plan and it seemed to be the next phase moving forward from the point-of-sale. She further stated a large challenge was making it affordable for people who needed to upgrade outdated systems.

Commissioner Koenig stated that this was not only an out-County problem, cities just had to deal with this in another way by replacing the pipes leading to the sewer. She stated that this might not be popular, but it was the right thing to do.

Ms. Vail stated that staffing levels needed to be increased in order to implement this. She further stated that she believed that Realtors were supportive of this plan.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she anticipated that this would be very popular with the Realtors.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she wanted to see some way to help people afford upgrades, such as a grant or low-interest loan.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the number one reason why people did not sell when they had a well and septic system was because they were afraid of the potential problems and the cost to address them.

Chairperson Banas stated that she appreciated the work done for this report. She further asked the Commissioners if they felt the need for the policy change, including asking staff for further work such as reporting cost that the Health Department could incur.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she would like to open this up to public discussion and that the Committee would be surprised about the public's opinion on this matter.

Commissioner Koenig stated that maybe Commissioner Nolan was thinking of a different issue, the Pollution Prevention Program (P2.)

Mr. Cypher stated that both issues had a lot of public interest.

Commissioner Koenig stated that it would be of interest to find out if there were low-interest loans for low-income home owners who needed to make upgrades to their septic systems.

Chairperson Banas stated that this was a good starting point and once more information was gathered by Mr. Cypher and Ms. Vail, it could be put further to public hearings, perhaps in a couple months.

Mr. Cypher stated that to adopt this policy, a change the Ingham County Sanitary Code was needed. He further stated that there was a process for making a change to that Code which included public hearings.

Chairperson Banas asked Mr. Cypher to bring the Committee more information about making changes to the Sanitary Code.

Commissioner Nolan asked about the percentage of homes with septic fields in Ingham County.

Ms. Vail stated that there were about 20,000 homes with septic fields but she was unsure about what percentage of homes that was. She further stated that the information was based on random sampling from the Register of Deeds.

Chairperson Banas thanked Ms. Vail for the presentation.

Announcements

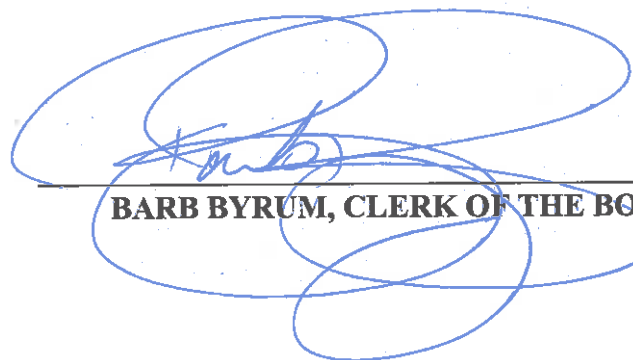
None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD