

LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE  
January 10, 2019  
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Celentino, Crenshaw, Koenig, Polsdofer, Schafer, Slaughter, and Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Judge Thomas Boyd, Jodi LeBombard, Rick Terrell, Scott LeRoy, Lance Langdon, Russel Church, Ryan Buck, Tracy Smith, Megan Banta, Teri Morton, Lindsey LaForte, Tyler A Smith and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Koenig 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 29, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2018 LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

Chairperson Koenig stated without objection that the minutes would be amended to contain the letter from Mike Nichols which had been received at the December 11, 2018 Board of Commissioners as Attachment C.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Limited Public Comment

Lance Langdon, Ingham County 9-1-1 Director, stated that the County was in the process of rolling out the Text 9-1-1 program. He further stated that the program's slogan was "Call if you can, text if you can't."

Mr. Langdon stated that the program was currently in soft launch, which meant that the system was up and running, but that the program would not "go live" until January 16, 2019. He further stated that the media had been invited in, and the staff had been trained to the point that if someone used the Text 9-1-1 system, it would work.

Mr. Langdon stated that the program would benefit the hearing impaired community, and that there had been a lot of interest from Michigan State University, including the hearing impaired students there. He further stated that he wanted to take a moment to let the Committee know that the program was up and running, and that it would be advertised and in use starting January 16, 2019.

Commissioner Schafer asked what amount of information should be included when someone texts 9-1-1.

Mr. Langdon stated that calling 911 was much faster than texting, and that a text does not include location information. He further stated that texting means the operator only gets one question answered at a time.

Commissioner Schafer asked what the texting procedure would be under the program.

Mr. Langdon stated that when someone texts 911, the message is received at the dispatch center, along with the phone number it came from. He further stated that no location information was received through the text system, and that the first thing users should do is text their location and what the problem was.

Mr. Langdon stated that if nothing further was heard from a person who texted 911, there was nothing more dispatchers could do. He further stated that as long as at least an address is sent, emergency services could be sent there.

Mr. Langdon stated that the text system was like the old days of the 911 system, before wireless cell phones were in use. He further stated that once the location and problem were known, dispatchers would proceed by asking questions one at a time, as with a phone call.

Commissioner Schafer stated that the program seemed to be for hearing impaired people, and that very few people would use it.

Mr. Langdon stated that other agencies with the Text 911 system showed a low frequency of use. He further stated that the system was useful for people who cannot speak, either because of a disability or because they are in a dangerous situation.

Commissioner Polsdofer asked whether the system could help someone in a domestic violence situation who could not provide a lot of information.

Mr. Langdon stated that emergency services can only help if they know where the problem is, and that someone texting 911 would need to send at least that. He further stated that dispatchers would respond and do as much as they could, but that until location information was received, they would be stuck.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated that it sounded like people texting 911 should include their location information.

Mr. Langdon agreed.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked how calls were routed to the dispatchers.

Mr. Langdon stated that calls were routed from cell towers to whichever 911 center covered that area.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked whether a phone number with a 313 area code that called 911 would be routed to an Ingham County 911 center.

Mr. Langdon stated that the text would be routed to an Ingham County 9-1-1 center, except in cases where the caller is close to the County border. He further stated that if the phone connects to an Eaton County tower, the Eaton County 9-1-1 center would receive the text.

Commissioner Slaughter asked whether there were any agencies that allow texting of photos or videos.

Mr. Langdon stated that the technology to do that was not yet available, and that it might be possible in the next generation of technology. He further stated that it would open up a can of worms when it became available, because dispatchers are not psychologically prepared to see videos of people in bad accidents or other emergent situations.

Mr. Langdon stated that police officers and firefighters became a little desensitized through seeing traumatic events frequently in the field, but that dispatchers do not. He further stated that he was concerned about that.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he thought 9-1-1 centers could identify where a person was as soon as they typed in 9-1-1.

Mr. Langdon stated that 9-1-1 calls did give location information, but texts did not. He further stated that the technology would get there eventually, but was not there yet.

Commissioner Schafer stated that the 9-1-1 system had come a long way and he could remember when Williamston dispatchers were working out of a living room.

Thomas Boyd, 55<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge, stated that he wanted to wish the Committee a happy new year. He further stated that he wanted to welcome the new members of the Committee, and let the Committee know that the District Court provided monthly updates to the Board of Commissioners.

Judge Boyd stated that new members of the Law and Courts Committee sometimes visited the District Court, and that Committee members were welcome to come out and sit next to the judges as they worked. He further stated that on one past occasion, the Committee had met at the District Court.

Judge Boyd thanked the Committee for taking up the Honorary Resolution. He further stated that if the Committee had any questions for him, to let him know.

Chairperson Koenig thanked Judge Boyd.

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

1. Sheriff's Office – Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with the LeadsOnline Company

2. Prosecuting Attorney – Resolution for the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office to Accept a \$5000.00 Donation for the Care and Maintenance of Support Dog
3. Circuit Court – Family Division – Resolution to Amend Acceptance of Michigan Drug Court Grant for the Ingham County Family Dependency Treatment Court
4. 55<sup>th</sup> District Court – Resolution Honoring the Ingham County 55th District Court Sobriety Court Program on the Occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony
5. Facilities
  - a. Resolution to Authorize a Purchase Order from A&B Equipment & Sons, Inc. for the Replacement Dryer at the Jail
  - b. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with TAB Products Co. LLC. for the Mobile Filing System at the Hilliard Building and Veterans Memorial Courthouse (VMC)
6. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with AT&T for Telephone Services for the Ingham County 9-1-1 Center

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Animal Control – Reorganization (*Discussion*)

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that the Board of Commissioners had a policy which required reorganization resolutions to be on the agenda once as a discussion item before they could be considered as an action item at a later meeting.

Jodi LeBombard, Animal Control Director, stated that the Director and Deputy Director positions at Animal Control had recently been open, and that she had filled the Director position. She further stated that she had looked for areas that needed more resources, and other areas from which resources could be taken.

Ms. LeBombard stated that she had proposed eliminating the Deputy Director position and creating an Animal Care manager position in order to move resources to caring for the animals, and away from other areas. She further stated that Animal Control had office staff, animal care staff, and Animal Control Officers (ACOs).

Ms. LeBombard stated that eliminating the Deputy Director would mean ACOs report directly to her, but that the Lead Officer could provide guidance and direction as well. She further stated that the office staff currently reported to the Customer Service and Outreach Manager, and that not much would change there.

Ms. LeBombard stated that Kate Turner was the present Deputy Director, and was also acting as the Customer Service and Outreach Manager. She further stated that the need for more resources devoted to animal care had been known during the recent investigations at Animal Control, and as far back as 2015, when the National Animal Control Officers' Association had inspected the shelter.

Ms. LeBombard stated that the reorganization would provide another eight hours of worker time devoted to animal care, and would allow the care provider to become familiar with the animals. She further stated that the reorganization would allow the veterinarian to focus on spaying, neutering, and medical care instead of supervisory responsibilities.

Ms. LeBombard stated that the reorganization would save the County money, as well.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he supported the reorganization. He further stated that he wanted to know whether the proposed reorganization would go before the Animal Control Shelter Advisory Committee (ACSAC) before the Committee acted on it.

Ms. LeBombard stated that she planned to present it to the ACSAC at their next meeting, which would occur before the next Law and Courts Committee meeting.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Committee would not see the reorganization plan again until after the ACSAC had an opportunity to give input. He further stated that he was under the impression that eliminating the Deputy Director position would save \$18,000.

Ms. Morton stated that the \$18,000 figure included the extra cost of changing the Volunteer Assistant position to Volunteer Coordinator, which had occurred at the end of 2018. She further stated that the \$18,000 represented the net savings.

Commissioner Celentino asked whether any parts of the job description for the new Animal Care Manager position were similar to ones the Deputy Director would have performed.

Ms. LeBombard stated that the Deputy Director's job description included a lot of elements that were covered by other employees, and that she had taken on the ones that were not.

Commissioner Celentino stated that Essential Function No. 7 from the job description seemed to address some of the issues that had come up at Animal Control in the summer of 2018. He further stated that the Animal Care Manager could report issues to Ms. LeBombard if another "high active" situation arose.

Ms. LeBombard stated that the Animal Care Manager would be working in the back with the animals, and would be able to know "who's who and what's what." She further stated that things changed very frequently as far as animal care, and it could be hard for the Deputy Director to get back there enough to get to know everyone.

Commissioner Schafer asked how the veterinarian's role would change under the reorganization plan.

Ms. LeBombard stated that the veterinarian's supervisory responsibilities had already been removed, which allowed the veterinarian to focus on medical care of the animals.

Commissioner Schafer asked whether Animal Control still employed Michigan State University (MSU) students.

Ms. LeBombard stated that Animal Control did work with MSU students and the veterinarian facilitates that relationship.

Commissioner Schafer asked if the veterinarian position would remain full time.

Ms. LeBombard stated that it would.

Commissioner Schafer asked if the position justified full time hours.

Ms. LeBombard stated that it was more than justified as a full time position. She further stated that the veterinarian worked had generally worked over forty hours a week in the past, and that hopefully without the supervisory duties, the hours would get back down to regular full time hours.

Ms. Morton stated Animal Control needed more veterinarians, even with the current veterinarian devoting more time to animal care work.

Chairperson Koenig stated that perhaps Commissioner Schafer was asking about a matter than had been referred to the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Agency (LARA). She further stated that the Committee had not heard anything back on the matter.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he was trying to get background information.

Chairperson Koenig asked whether the union had been involved in the reorganization plan.

Ms. Morton stated that both of the proposed positions were managerial, and that the Controller had been advised that union involvement was not necessary.

Chairperson Koenig asked whether the new positions had any impact on non-managerial employees.

Ms. Morton stated that there were no changes to other job descriptions, with the exception of which person employees are expected to report to.

Chairperson Koenig stated that she wanted to bring the unions into the loop to make sure there were no objections.

Chairperson Koenig asked how things were going at Animal Control in general.

Ms. LeBombard stated that things were slowing down a little.

#### Announcements

Commissioner Slaughter stated that he was looking forward to working with everyone this year, and that there were a lot of new people. He further stated that he looked forward to Chairperson Koenig's leadership on the Committee, and that it would be a good year.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that January 29, 2019 was the 50<sup>th</sup> Sobriety Court Graduation event at the Mason City Hall, and that he highly encouraged all Committee members to attend.

Commissioner Schafer stated that on Page 3 of the minutes from the November 29, 2018 meeting, it was noted that he and Commissioner Slaughter had requested a presentation from Alcohol and Drug Administrative Monitoring, Inc. (ADAM).

Ms. Morton stated that ADAM had been contacted, and was expected to give a presentation at the next meeting of the Law and Courts Committee.

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.