

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 4, 2019

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Morgan, Naeyaert, Sebolt, Slaughter, Stivers, Tennis, and Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Commissioner Bryan Crenshaw, Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, Darin Southworth, Diontrae Hayes, Jared Cypher, Tim Morgan, Melissa Buzzard, Matt Bennett, Jessy Gregg, Michael Romkema, Younes Ishraidi, Tyler A Smith, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tennis 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 January 14, 2019 Minutes

CHAIRPERSON TENNIS STATED THAT, WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2019 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD STAND APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

Diontrae Hayes, Lansing Township Supervisor, stated that she was present to talk about the Waverly Road Trails Project. She further stated that the project was one of several to be considered during the meeting, and that it would improve pedestrian safety and connectivity in the region.

Ms. Hayes stated that she was very proud of the project, and that it was a collaboration between Lansing Township and Delta Township. She further stated that for some residents, the trail was a primary mode of transportation between bus routes, and that many used it for recreation.

Ms. Hayes stated that there was a pedestrian fatality on the trail in 2017, and that increasing safety along the trail was a priority for Lansing Township. She further stated that the results of a recent survey showed people wanted more accessibility and connectivity in County trail systems, as people wanted to walk and bike.

Ms. Hayes thanked the Committee for their consideration, and stated she would answer any questions.

Commissioner Morgan asked whether the trail Ms. Hayes mentioned was the one just south of I-496.

Ms. Hayes stated that the trail would run along Waverly Road, from St. Joseph Street to Old Lansing Road. She further stated that there were some concerns about grading, access and traffic flow with the Delta Township trails to which the project would connect.

Ms. Hayes stated that those concerns would take more resources, but could be addressed in Phase II of the project. She further stated that Phase II would give residents access to the River Trail.

Michael Romkema, Roth, Hill & Clark Engineer, stated that Delta Township was disappointed that the Parks and Recreation Commission had not approved the Holt to Mason trail. He further stated that Delta Township staff were pleased that \$1 million had been approved for 2020, but that the money would not cover the full project cost.

Mr. Romkema stated that Delta Township was looking forward to working with the County and other local partners to complete the trail, and ultimately connect the northern boundaries of the County to Mason. He further stated that Delta Township would like the Board of Commissioners to reconsider the funding decision.

Mr. Romkema stated that he wanted to thank the members of the Committee, and that the project would connect to three trail systems in the County.

John Hayhoe, Delhi Township Supervisor, stated that the County Courthouse was in Mason, and that the trail from Holt to Mason would allow access from Mason into Lansing. He further stated that he had been working for 10-12 years to develop trails in Delhi Township.

Mr. Hayhoe stated that some people did not appreciate trails, and that some Delhi Township Board members had taken hits in order to develop trails. He further stated that one trail had been built from Valhalla Park to connect with Lansing trails at the intersection of Aurelius Road and Jolly Road, and that people appreciated it.

Mr. Hayhoe stated that the trail had been developed all the way to Holt Road, and on to Holt High School. He further stated that it was now possible to bike from Lansing down to Holt High School, and that connecting to Burchfield Trail had been considered.

Mr. Hayhoe stated that he wanted to continue developing trails, eventually to Leslie and ultimately to Jackson. He further stated that it was hard to do something like that without someone putting in the time.

Mr. Hayhoe stated that George Hayhoe down in Mason had made it his mission to connect Mason to Lansing. He further stated that plans had been made to build the trail over the highway, through Dart Container's property, along Cedar Street, and into Delhi Township.

Mr. Hayhoe stated that a \$2 million kayak and boating park development was being done near the roundabout south of Holt, and that the site would be located near the planned route for the trail from Holt to Mason. He further stated that Delhi Township would need help for the last two or three miles.

Mr. Hayhoe stated that George Hayhoe would donate \$200,000, and that the trail project would happen, the sooner the better. He further stated that the Delhi Township Board was progressive on the issue, and wanted to connect to Mason.

Younes Ishraidi, Meridian Township Chief Engineer, stated that he was present to talk about the MSU to Lansing Phase II project. He further stated that the project would connect MSU to Lake Lansing, a distance of 5.2 miles.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that the trail could not be finished in one project, so it had been split into three phases. He further stated that Phase I had been funded from the trail millage, as well as a conditional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Mr. Ishraidi stated that Phase II would link the end of Phase I, at Grand River Avenue and Park Lake Road, to Okemos Road near the Meridian Township Services Center. He further stated that there was an established foot trail along the route, and that Phase II would pave the trail.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that Phase III would run from the end of Phase II along the Okemos Boardwalk, and that there was a gap there. He further stated that this project was voted the number one most desired trail in the Lansing area in a survey done by a consultant.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that funding the project would help tremendously, and that students, professors, and workers at MSU would be able to use it. He further stated that he would be happy to answer questions.

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

2. Community Mental Health – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties (CMH) for Health Services Millage Eligible Services
3. Parks Department
  - b. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Laux Construction, LLC
4. Parks Department and Potter Park Zoo – Resolution to Implement a Revenue Management System
5. Health Department
  - a. Resolution to Amend Lease Agreement with Holy Cross Services

- b. Resolution to Authorize Amendment # 2 to the 2018-2019 Comprehensive Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
  - c. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Florida State University
  - e. Resolution to Authorize an Extension to Agreement with MSU for Psychiatric Services and to Increase Psychiatric Services to a .7 FTE Position
  - g. Resolution Honoring Jennifer Allswede on the Event of Her Retirement
6. Board Referrals
- a. Letter from Lansing City Mayor Andy Schor Regarding the Consideration of Funding for the Cambridge Pathway Extension Application
  - b. Resolution 2019-12 from the Bay County Board of Commissioners Regarding Revisions to the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

1. Health Department/Sheriff's Office – Jail Medical Reorganization Discussion

Chairperson Tennis stated that there had been problems with how medical services were being provided at the jail, and the discussion was about whether to continue using in-house medical services, or to consider using vendors.

Linda Vail, Health Officer, stated that she thanked Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, Major Darin Southworth, Anne Scott, and others. She further stated that a request for proposals (RFP) had been sent out, and that a proposal for reorganization had also been completed.

Ms. Vail stated that after completing the RFP process, the Health Department recommended the proposal submitted by Corizon. She further stated that the County was facing some urgency, because current services were provided by the MSU College of Nursing, which had agreed to continue through June, but was now terminating the contract in March.

Ms. Vail stated that with no nurse practitioners, the jail could not provide assessment, diagnosis, or treatment on site. She further stated that the RFP included a requirement that vendors would provide nurse practitioners at the jail, and that this was above and beyond, when compared to other counties' jails.

Ms. Vail stated the change was not about cost savings, but rather about ensuring the best quality of care to inmates in the jail. She further stated that correctional healthcare was outside of the Health Department's expertise, but that it had provided services since 2011.

Ms. Vail stated that using a vendor provided cost containment, and that using one contract to provide services would save costs more effectively than the multiple separate contracts the

Health Department used to provide services. She further stated that consolidation of services would eliminate the “hybrid model,” and avoid multi-contracting.

Ms. Vail stated that Corizon provided a higher quality of care, and more services than Health Department could provide. She further stated that Corizon offered expertise, quality, accountability, consistency, and assurance of staffing coverage.

Ms. Vail stated that if the reorganization was preferred, there were two job descriptions in the packet, and a resolution and memo. She further stated that between Corizon and the reorganization plan, costs were fairly comparable, but the County’s costs were a little higher, with fewer direct services.

Ms. Vail stated that under the reorganization plan, a lot of old problems would not go away. She further stated that jail medical had struggled to retain staff, and that currently only five out of eight Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) were filled.

Ms. Vail stated that in 2013, the jail medical program had stopped providing 24/7 coverage. She further stated that in 2015, the program could not fill its fifth nurse position, and that the program had averaged three or four nurses since then.

Ms. Vail stated that expanded staffing service was necessary to address gaps in operations, but would add costs. She further stated that Corizon offered detox, medication-assisted treatment, substance abuse services, supportive treatment services, and other services that aligned with the Health Department’s methods in providing services to the rest of the County.

Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth stated that solving the jail medical problem was his Office’s number one priority in 2019. He further stated that offsite medical services should be rare, but that they were the norm in the County.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that his office incurred a lot of overtime to transport and guard inmates at hospitals, and that as things were, it might take several days between an inmate needing services and receiving them. He further stated that only three or four counties in Michigan still partnered with their Health Department to provide jail medical services, and that the rest used vendors to provide services.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that jail medical staffing was low, and that there was no backup. He further stated that with a private firm, the responsibility to provide staff would fall on the firm instead of the county.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that currently, his Office provided backup by transporting and guarding inmates. He further stated that he had called other counties that partnered with Corizon, such as Calhoun, Kent, and Genesee counties.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that a request for proposals on the design of the new jail would soon go out, and that a vendor would need to be in place by that time to give input on the design of the medical wing. He further stated that hospital representatives had informed his Office that they would no longer assist in guarding inmates, and that the Sheriff's deputies might ultimately need to rely on local police to relieve them when in need.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that the current system did not provide the level of care needed.

Ms. Vail stated that a plan was in place for the current jail medical staff to be hired into County jobs, and that neither the vendor plan nor the reorganization plan would result in layoffs. She further stated that there was a strong, dedicated group of employees at the jail who were professional, and had endured a lot.

Darin Southworth, Corrections Major, stated that he agreed with Ms. Vail that the current jail medical staff were doing the best they could with what they had. He further stated that the system was imperfect.

Major Southworth stated that he had been helping to recruit nurses since the summer. He further stated that he could not give an absolute answer about what a vendor might do, but that it seemed that Corizon lived up to what it promised.

Major Southworth stated that perhaps Corizon was able to provide more reliable staffing because of its network, and that it serviced Saginaw County. He further stated that Corizon provided medical staff and prescriptions under a contract with the State, and that one of Corizon's offices was local.

Major Southworth stated that failing to provide jail medical services correctly could create a big area of liability for the County.

Ms. Vail stated that Corizon would have a nurse at intake, and that the County would not, under the new reorganization. She further stated that psychiatric services were included in Corizon's plan, but not in the reorganization plan.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked how many other responses to the RFP had been received.

Ms. Vail stated that four proposals had been received in total, and that three fit the requirements. She further stated that Advanced Correctional Health and Correct Care Solutions had provided proper proposals, and that the proposal from ATC Healthcare Services did not fit the requirements.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked what the differences were in the price under the proposals.

Ms. Vail stated that Correct Care Solutions's proposal was for \$2.5 million, Corizon's was for \$2,032,320, and ATC Healthcare Services's proposal ranged from \$1.765 million to \$1.9 million.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked whether health millage funds were being used to provide services to inmates who would be eligible.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that he believed that question had been asked, and that the answer had been "no." He further stated that he had not spoken to the Law & Courts Committee about the issue, because the meeting the previous week had been canceled due to extreme weather.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he was concerned, and that the two proposals were not compared side by side. He further stated that he was concerned about how Corizon could provide more services at a lower price.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he could not understand that, but he needed an answer before he could proceed. He further stated that when privatization of jail kitchen services was proposed years ago, he had told Sheriff Wriggelsworth that privatization would creep into the jail.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that Corizon would provide 24/7 care, and that the County could not.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that there appeared to be a discrepancy between what Corizon considered 24/7 care, and what the County considered 24/7 care.

Anne Scott, Health Department Deputy Health Officer, stated that Corizon had positions in their model that were not present in the reorganization model, including Administrative Assistant positions. She further stated that part of the problem in comparing the two options was that the positions did not line up.

Ms. Scott stated that the Health Department had worked to see what the critical positions were, and how to meet the jail's medical needs. She further stated that the Health Department had worked on both the reorganization proposal and the request for proposals, and were presenting both.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he could not understand how the County's costs were more than Corizon's, and that either the County was overestimating, or Corizon was underestimating.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she had spoken with the Sheriff and the Health Department about this issue, and that it appeared that the discrepancy between the two options was because of the difference in model. She further stated that the liability for any medical problems at the jail was currently on the County, and that using a vendor would place the liability on the vendor instead.

Ms. Vail stated that currently the Health Department used Cross Country Staffing to fill positions, and that they had never provided backup for nurses. She further stated that under the reorganization plan, the Department would find a contract arrangement for psychiatry and some other services.

Ms. Vail stated that the Health Department was currently looking for five registered nurses, and could not get them.

Commissioner Slaughter asked whether the County would need to purchase medical equipment for the jail under the vendor option.

Ms. Scott stated that Corizon would purchase the equipment through sub-contracting.

Commissioner Slaughter asked how liability would be handled, and how Corizon would be supervised.

Ms. Vail stated that under the reorganization plan, governmental immunity would protect against liability to some extent. She further stated that the County was currently named in lawsuits arising from medical care at the jail, and that under the vendor plan, Corizon would be named instead.

Ms. Vail stated that she was not certain that there would be a complete shift of liability, but that the vendor plan would put the County in a better place, as far as liability.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that there was case law suggesting that it would be better to rely on a vendor for medical services, instead of relying on Sheriff's deputies.

Ms. Vail stated that she had not considered whether Major Southworth or someone else would oversee the vendor. She further stated the Health Department was willing to be involved as much, or as little as the Sheriff preferred.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that it was often the case that when services were privatized, the quality went down.

Ms. Scott stated that most vendors maintained accreditations and other qualifications that Health Department staff had no time to work toward. She further stated that those accreditations involved audits and other measures which would create accountability.

Ms. Scott stated that some oversight was necessary, but that the onus would be on the contractor to maintain the standard. She further stated that the Department was currently just trying to cover the bases, and could not yet work toward higher goals.

Ms. Scott stated that the current jail medical staff was a skeleton crew, and that this was a critical point. She further stated that some action needed to be taken, one way or another.



Commissioner Morgan asked whether Ms. Vail and Ms. Scott had seen existing research and journalism on Corizon. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners had a responsibility to look after people's health.

Commissioner Morgan stated that privatization meant a profit margin needed to fit into the budget, and that the customers under this model had no political power if abuses occurred in the jail. He further stated that he was very concerned about the creep of privatization into jail services, and that Corizon had been named in approximately 660 malpractice lawsuits.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he was not sure the Board of Commissioners should look into any prison-industrial contractors, and that he would rather pay more to keep it public.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that the ACLU had filed lawsuits against Corizon, and that Corizon had been named in more than 660 lawsuits in 5 years. He further stated that Corizon had created its own definition of "medically necessary care," and that a \$4.5 million settlement had been paid in New Mexico because of Corizon's services.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that under Corizon, 32% of prisoners who needed medical care did not receive it, and that the medical needs of 83% of the inmates were not evaluated. He further stated that a federal judge had referred to Corizon's actions in one case as "cruel and unusual."

Commissioner Sebolt stated that a woman under Corizon's care who was suffering from lung cancer had been misdiagnosed, and was given Tylenol and hot water bottles. He further stated that Corizon's track record since 2012 was abysmal.

Commissioner Sebolt asked whether the bargaining units involved in the jail medical issue had been involved.

Ms. Scott stated that the Department had spoken with all of the bargaining units.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that the Board of Commissioners would need letters from all bargaining units to go ahead with the plan, and that he wanted to hear where they stood.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she would like to know how the County's performance compared to Corizon's.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that all of the RFP respondents were sued often, and that the County was also sued often.

Commissioner Stivers asked which counties still partnered with their Health Departments.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that St. Clair County partnered with a hospital to provide jail medical services, but that he could not recall the other counties.

Ms. Vail stated that some county Sheriffs operated their own medical services.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that the Eaton County Sheriff hired its own medical staff.

Chairperson Tennis stated that the Ingham County Sheriff used to hire its own medical staff as well.

Commissioner Stivers asked whether the Health Department had looked into partnering with hospitals.

Ms. Vail stated that neither hospital in the County had responded to the RFP.

Commissioner Stivers asked whether an effort had been made to make the terms of the contract with the MSU College of Nursing better in order to retain staff.

Ms. Vail stated that under the reorganization plan, the nurses at the jail would be County employees.

Ms. Scott stated that it was hard to get people to do this kind of work, except with specialty companies.

Commissioner Trubac stated that the Health Department should consider forming a Contract Monitoring Unit to monitor contractors.

Ms. Vail stated that she apologized for the missing pieces in the plans, but that the Health Department was going down two paths at once.

Commissioner Morgan asked whether Ms. Vail would prefer the reorganization plan.

Ms. Vail stated that she would not prefer it.

Chairperson Tennis stated that this issue had come up every year for the last 12 years, and that he was not convinced privatization was the way to go. He further stated that the Committee now had more information, so it could come back and consider this.

Chairperson Tennis stated that he encouraged Committee members to speak with the Health Department and Sheriff's Office about the issue. He further stated that Corizon had included a metric for "lawsuits per inmate per year," and that he would like to know what the same metric was for the County.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the question was about accountability, and that using Corizon would be like hiring mercenaries to work as Sheriff's deputies. He further stated that the further away the Board of Commissioners pushed the services, the less they would know.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that every time privatization happened, new problems arose and old problems got worse. He further stated that he was not interested in any further info on privatization.

Commissioner Trubac stated that it seemed likely that the reason there was so much information about Corizon was because they were one of largest jail medical providers. He further asked whether there was any sense that Corizon could improve quality of healthcare on site.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that it would take people to solve the problem.

Major Southworth stated that he was not sure whether there would be much of a cushion as far as millage funding.

Commissioner Trubac asked what limits prevented care on site.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that the limitation was people, not the facility.

5. Health Department

d. Resolution to Authorize a Lease Agreement for 1100 W. Saginaw, Lansing

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Chairperson Tennis stated that the Ingham Community Health Center (ICHC) Board had not considered this resolution because of weather. He further stated that he would like to amend the resolution to make it contingent on the ICHC's approval.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked whether the resolution would take services out of the Human Services building and put them into the new location.

Ms. Scott stated that was so, and that ICHC had not spoken on that yet.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN, TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will not take effect until the Ingham County Health Center Board reviews and approves it at its next meeting.**

This was considered a friendly amendment.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Health Department

- f. Resolution to Convert Primary Care Physician Position to Nurse Practitioner & Medical Assistant 1 Positions (*Discussion*)

Ms. Scott stated that the Health Department had had a vacant Primary Care Physician position for years, and that another had recently become vacant. She further stated that the idea was to expand women's health services.

Ms. Scott stated that the proposal was to change one of the Primary Care Physician positions to a nurse practitioner position and medical staff assistant. She further stated that the Department needed support staff.

Ms. Scott stated that the Department would still hire for the other Primary Care Physician position.

Ms. Vail stated that this was a good move, and that she supported it completely. She further stated that mid-level practitioners were amazing.

Ms. Vail stated that there had been problems filling the Physician position, and that if it could not be filled, she might need to return to the Board of Commissioners to propose increasing the salary.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, stated that the Health Department wanted immediate action on this, but that because this was technically a reorganization, board policy required that there first be a discussion, then a vote at a later meeting. He further stated that the Committee could choose to waive the policy and vote tonight.

Chairperson Tennis stated that he would rather not do that unless it was a very urgent situation.

Ms. Scott stated that there were deadlines coming up that could make the process even more difficult.

Chairperson Tennis asked whether the Health Department had spoken with the bargaining units involved.

Ms. Scott stated that the Michigan Nurses Association was supportive, and that the Physician position was managerial and therefore had no union.

**MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN, TO WAIVE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REORGANIZATION POLICY AND CONSIDER THE RESOLUTION IMMEDIATELY.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

Commissioner Sebolt disclosed that the bargaining unit involved in the matter was affiliated with his employer.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Parks Department
  - a. Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Trails and Parks Millage Applications
  - c. Trails and Parks Millage 2019 Update

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Melissa Buzzard, Trails and Parks Millage Program Coordinator, stated that she would walk through the Trails and Parks Millage 2019 Update. She further stated that this was the fifth year of the millage, and that she was excited to see projects being completed in 2019.

Ms. Buzzard stated that there had been a ribbon cutting in Mason, and that more would follow in the spring. She further stated that East Lansing had done a lot, and was waiting for warmer weather to continue.

Ms. Buzzard stated that there had been great improvement projects in the parks. She further stated that there had been a lot of amendments passed by the Board of Commissioners in the previous year, to allow for completion in 2019 instead of 2018.

Ms. Buzzard stated that the millage forecast materials showed operating budget, consultant costs, and other costs through 2020.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the materials showed the Holt-Mason trail as complete. She further asked why it was being delayed to 2020.

Ms. Buzzard stated that \$40,000 had been granted to the contractor, and that they were strongly encouraging the contractor to seek a Transportation Alternatives Program grant, which would not take effect until 2020.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that the Parks Commission did not recommend the Holt trail. He further stated that money had been granted to study the trail connection, and that all parties wanted Holt to have something.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that Delhi Township had the funds to build the trail.

Matt Bennett, Ingham County Parks Commission, stated that the Holt trail was a priority. He further stated that Delhi Township had paid for all of its trails so far, and did not want to put out any more money.

Jessy Gregg, Ingham County Parks Commission, stated that Delhi Township had been encouraged to apply for state level grants. She further stated that Ms. Buzzard's contribution was to facilitate those possibilities.

Ms. Gregg stated that everyone in the Parks Commission would love to see the Holt to Mason trail built, but that it was important to build good relationships with other municipalities by funding other projects as well.

Mr. Bennett stated that everyone wanted the trail, but that no one wanted to put up the money. He further stated that Delhi Township would not bring in outside funding.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that the City of Lansing had matching funds for a project there, but that the Parks Commission refused to recommend the project.

Mr. Bennett stated that the Lansing project was to connect a neighborhood to a trail, and that the millage funds were meant to connect trails to trails.

Ms. Gregg stated that everyone would love to see the millage renewed, and the trails built. She further stated that the major trails and trunk lines needed to be built before the neighborhood connectors.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked how many of the funds were county-wide funded, and how many were funded individually.

Ms. Gregg stated that the first major round of funding had been done very recently, and that she was not certain.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the Dansville trail was important to people in her district. She further asked whether connectivity was weighted in the scoring of the projects.

Ms. Gregg stated that connectivity was the main factor in the weighting.

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she would do anything she could to get colleagues to come to that side of the County.

Discussion.

Mr. Bennett stated that the Parks Commission would love to get involved in Dansville. He further stated that a long term goal would be to have trails from Lansing to Mason, and on to Stockbridge.

Tim Morgan, Parks Director, stated that this was the second round of funding, and that this discussion was meant to make the plan so the Parks Department could ask for a trail project in the future.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she wanted smaller communities to be a part of it.

Chairperson Tennis asked whether any of the projects on the list did not fit.

Ms. Gregg stated that, speaking for herself, the Glenna Droscha Community Park project was not in the spirit of the millage because it did not promote connectivity. She further stated that she would fund all the rest if she could, and that Ms. Buzzard was to credit for such a strong round of applications.

Chairperson Tennis asked what the balance of the millage fund was.

Mr. Cypher stated that the balance had been \$12 million at the end of 2018, and that it would be \$15 million by the end of 2019. He further stated that there had been no expenses yet.

Mr. Morgan stated that a lot of those funds were already encumbered.

Discussion.

Chairperson Tennis asked how much would be spent if the Board did not fund any new projects.

Ms. Buzzard stated that \$6.5 million would be spent, not including salary, consultants, and other expenses. She further stated that the total expenses would be about \$7.5 million.

Chairperson Tennis stated that only half of the millage money was being used so far. He further stated that if the Board of Commissioners accepted the recommendation for this year, the additional costs would be \$3.5 million.

Discussion.

Chairperson Tennis stated that almost everything were funded, almost \$5 million would remain in the fund. He further stated that that would mean less for the next year, but that the Board of Commissioners had encumbered future funds for years, and had never caught up to the amount that was coming in.

Chairperson Tennis stated that if the Board of Commissioners sat on the money, he was not sure how they could go back to the voters and ask for a millage renewal.

Mr. Morgan stated that the goal was to take care of unencumbered funds, and that spending the amounts involved here would mean a deficit of about \$4 or 5 million. He further stated that he would rather put the money into township accounts, with a resolution requiring them to spend it on these projects.

Mr. Cypher stated that the money would not actually be spent that way, and that the better option would be to get the money to projects that were shovel-ready. He further stated that the projects

were under two-year contracts, and that as much could be allocated as the Board of Commissioners would like, with a clause requiring availability of matching grants.

Ms. Gregg stated that one of the problems in the past had been very high bids due to low availability of funding, and that re-bidding had delayed projects. She further stated that she was not sure whether any projects were shovel-ready.

Mr. Bennett stated that the program had been set up to maximize County money by using it for match funds.

Commissioner Morgan stated that if the Board of Commissioners did not see results, it might not want to put the millage on the ballot.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she had been on the Parks and Trails Subcommittee, and that the money needed to be spent, or the millage would not be renewed. She further stated that things were constantly evolving.

Chairperson Tennis thanked Ms. Gregg, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Morgan, and Ms. Buzzard, and stated that he was pleased with the work that had been done. He further stated that he was glad to benefit from their expertise, and that some proactive steps needed to be taken.

Mr. Morgan stated that everyone would like to see the trails built. He further stated that these things took time to get rolling, and that even if everything was approved tonight, nothing would happen until 2021.

Chairperson Tennis stated that things should be front-loaded because of that kind of lag. He further stated that the funding could be conditioned on the availability of grants, in case the funds ever ran dry.

Ms. Gregg stated she would love to see the millage continue, and that she was glad to see things start moving.

Mr. Bennett stated that if the funds were made contingent on grant funding, he was not sure how state and federal grant writers would look on that.

Ms. Buzzard asked whether the Board of Commissioners wanted to provide 50% of funds up front instead of the historical 25%.

Chairperson Tennis stated that that issue should be saved for another meeting.

Mr. Cypher stated that due to a Board of Commissioners resolution from 2017, only 70% of any future year's funding could be committed. He further stated that that would need to be waived to fully fund the projects.

Ms. Gregg stated that the Parks Commission needed money to help keep bids lower.



Chairperson Tennis stated that even if almost all of the projects were funded, there would be millions left.

Chairperson Tennis stated that there were three separate recommendations, and that the Committee was moving toward the one entitled “Funding All with One Alternatively Funded Project.” He further stated that he would support that proposal, with the Glenna Droscha Community Park item removed.

Mr. Bennett stated that the \$1 million granted to Delhi Township was not conditioned or designated for anything. He further asked whether the Committee wanted to designate it.

Chairperson Tennis stated that Delhi Township had until 2020 to figure it out under the proposal. He further stated that everyone wanted the Holt to Mason trail, and that the Board of Commissioners wanted to get match money for it, but might accept less in order to get it done.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked whether the Board of Commissioners could get Delhi Township to return money if needed.

Mr. Bennett stated that the Parks Commission held the balance, and disbursed it as it was being used.

Chairperson Tennis stated that giving the \$1 million to Delhi Township would show good faith, and the proposal would include all projects people had appeared to speak about at the meeting.

MOVED BY COMM. MORGAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE ALL PROJECTS IN THE “FUNDING ALL WITH ONE ALTERNATIVELY FUNDED PROJECT” PROPOSAL PROVIDED BY MELISSA BUZZARD, EXCEPT THE GLENNA DROSCHA COMMUNITY PARK.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN, TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 70% limitation on allocation of projected future millage revenue imposed by Resolution 17-275 is hereby waived.**

This was considered a friendly amendment.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac stated that he was concerned that if the \$1 million was allocated to Delhi Township, and the Board of Commissioners was unable to allocate additional funding, the Holt to Mason trail would not be built.

John Hayhoe, Delhi Township Supervisor, stated that Delhi Township had voted for the millage twice without seeing much happen, and that they would probably support it again. He further stated that Delhi Township could put the money in the ground.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Slaughter stated that HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was February 7, 2019, and that the Ingham County Health Center would offer free HIV/AIDS screenings from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

DRAFT