

FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 7, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Grebner, Anthony (left at 6:41 p.m.), Louney (left at 6:39 p.m.), Koenig (arrived at 6:19 p.m.), Crenshaw, Tennis, and Schafer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tim Dolehanty, Steve Kwasnik, Melissa Buzzard, Tim Morgan, Bill Conklin, Christina Johnson, Rick Terrill, Lisa McCormick, Jason Ferguson, Michael Townsend, Liz Noel, Lindsey LaForte and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Grebner 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 February 21, 2018 Minutes

WITHOUT OBJECTION, CHAIRPERSON GREBNER RECOGNIZED THAT THE FEBRUARY 21, 2018 FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Absent: Commissioner Koenig

Additions to the Agenda –

12. Opioid Litigation – Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Weitz & Luxenberg, PC to Represent Ingham County in Litigation Against Manufacturers and Wholesale Distributors of Opioids

Substitute –

7. Parks Department
 - d. Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Trails and Parks Millage Applications
10. Road Department
 - b. Resolution to Authorize an Extension of the 2017 Purchase Agreement for the 2018 Seasonal Requirement of 29A Slag

Limited Public Comment

Steve Kwasnik, ICEA Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's Division President, stated that he was before the Committee to support adding the additional Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (APA) position, due to the increased sexual assault caseload and the police departments sending more cases for the Prosecutor's office to review. He further stated that he would like to see this position be fully funded and a union position.

Mr. Kwasnik stated that this current APA contract has reopeners for wages he stressed the importance of bringing wages to a fair amount during that time. He further stated that the Hay Study showed the classification would be a level 19 for APA positions and their compensation remained under what that pay grade is equal to.

Mr. Kwasnik stated that the public sector lawyers, which should be Level 19, were underpaid by \$10,000 at the 25th percentile and almost \$30,000 underpaid at the 50th percentile. He further stated that for some positions like Physician's Assistants were able to be reclassified, but the APAs were not classified so they were unable to go through a reclassification system, thus not able to be brought up to a wage would be fair.

Christina Johnson, APA, stated that she stood with Mr. Kwasnik on both the issues of adding another APA to the Prosecutor's staff and to bring equity to their pay. She further stated that she is also in the Crimes Against Children Unit which prosecuted criminal sexual conduct (CSC) cases.

Ms. Johnson stated that she had two CSC cases involving children under 12 years old back to back and she should have been in trial this week with a kidnapping case also but the judge was busy with another serious CSC case. She further stated that in other counties APAs were compensated much better than the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

Ms. Johnson stated that she recently had seen a grant funded, union job posting for Genesee County which sought out someone with less experience than herself, but the salary was higher than the highest step available for APAs in the Prosecutor's Office, and would be 1.5 times more than her current salary.

Ms. Johnson stated that she would like the County to bring up the salaries to fairly compensate APAs for their work.

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

1. Sheriff's Office – Resolution to Authorize a Contract for Dry Cleaning, Laundering and Repair of Issued Uniforms and Clothing
2. Prosecutor's Office – Resolution to Authorize the Expenditure of Funds to Hire an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
3. Human Resources – Resolution to Restore the Human Resources Specialist Position

4. Animal Control
 - a. Resolution to Accept the MDARD Anti-Cruelty Grant
 - b. Resolution of Intent to Enter into Contract of Lease with Ingham County Building Authority; to Authorize Publication of Notice of Intent; and to Declare Intent to Reimburse

5. Facilities
 - a. Resolution to Authorize Community Mental Health (CMH) to Utilize Unused Space at the Human Services Building
 - b. Resolution to Provide Professional Paving Design Services for the Asphalt Parking Lot

6. Fair Office
 - a. Resolution to Authorize a Lease Agreement with CVTS Enterprise, LLC at the Ingham County Fairgrounds
 - b. Resolution to Authorize a Part-Time Temporary Position at the Ingham County Fairgrounds

7. Parks Department
 - a. Resolution to Authorize Application for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant
 - b. Resolution to Authorize Application for a Recreation Passport Program Grant
 - c. Resolution to Authorize Application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

8. Health Services Millage – Resolution Authorizing a Contract Extension with Malannoy Consulting, LLC to Review Member Eligibility and Expenses Relative to the Health Services Millage Contracts with Ingham Health Plan Corporation

9. Youth Commission – Resolution Authorizing the Youth Commission to Raise Funds and Accept Donations on Behalf of the Youth Commission

10. Road Department
 - a. Resolution to Authorize an Extension of the 2017 Purchase Agreement for the 2018 Seasonal Requirement of 29A Crushed Natural Aggregate
 - b. Resolution to Authorize an Extension of the 2017 Purchase Agreement for the 2018 Seasonal Requirement of 29A Slag

11. Controller/Administrator's Office
 - b. Resolution to Authorize Participation and Funding for a Health Insurance Pool Feasibility Study
 - c. Resolution to Authorize a Transition Overlap for the Financial Services Director Position

- d. Resolution Establishing the Budget Calendar for 2019

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Koenig

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

7. Parks Department

- d. Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Trails and Parks Millage Applications

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. LOUNEY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Tennis stated that with the work that had been done by the Parks Department, there would be another chance to approve the removed projects at a later date.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he had a lot to say on this topic but wanted to remain as chair and he would give both sides a chance to speak.

Commissioner Anthony stated she supported Chairperson Grebner remaining as chair for this item since it was in line with normal procedure.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked if the communities would need more time or if the March 31 deadline would be sufficient.

Melissa Buzzard, Trails and Parks Program Coordinator, stated that the communities had been given notice and that March 31 was a reasonable date.

Tim Morgan, Parks Department Director, stated that all the communities had been contacted but only Delhi Charter Township and Meridian Charter Township had come forward.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he would like to move the projects forward, particularly Delhi Charter Township's project. He further stated that he encouraged the Parks Department to work with the communities to get this any and all proposals submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Anthony stated that she supported the current version of the resolution, but would like to get staff to work closely with Delhi Charter Township and Meridian Charter Township to have their projects funded as well.

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:19 p.m.

Commissioner Louney stated that there was a concern that more time was needed to give communities without projects more time to respond since only two had done so. He further stated

that communities with approved projects needed a chance to move forward before April 1, 2018 which was why the resolution had moved forward without Delhi Charter Township and Meridian Charter Township.

Chairperson Grebner stated that it seemed as if the Delhi Charter Township and Meridian Charter Township projects were being brought up and approved soon, and he was supportive of that solution. He further stated that if these projects are not brought up he would create his own resolution to make it happen.

Chairperson Grebner stated that there was no doubt about the amount of County funds that have not been spent as there was about \$11,000,000 in the fund. He further stated that the Parks Commission had become a bit too concerned about waiting for money to be in hand before allocating money to projects, which has led to a surplus.

Chairperson Anthony stated she was concerned about the language that had been removed at the Human Services Committee meeting.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the question had been split in the Human Services Committee meeting because of the language. He further stated he had supported the addition of the language in a previous Finance Committee meeting, and in the Human Services Committee meeting he argued that they keep that language and he continued to support it.

Commissioner Louney stated that he also supported keeping the language in the resolution with Commissioner Tennis.

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM ANTHONY, SUPPORTED BY COMM TENNIS, TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the role of the Park Commission is to receive, evaluate, and rate all proposals, and to forward them for consideration to the Board of Commissioners, including for each proposal a description of its primary strengths and weaknesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the decision whether to fund a given project is reserved to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the Park Commission needed to forward information to the Board of Commissioners in order for the Board of Commissioners to be able to have knowledge of the proposal. He further stated that if this language is not replaced it would be a lot harder to get information from the Park Commission.

Commissioner Koenig asked if there had been any issue with the staff not providing information. She further stated that in the Human Services Committee meeting, Commissioner Nolan had said that it was insulting to the Park Commission to put this language in.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Park Commission did a lot of work and that information was available. She further stated that Commissioner Sebolt had said at the Human Services Committee meeting that the Board of Commissioners had the power to do what was in the resolution currently and it is not needed to put the Commission in each resolution and this language seemed to be a way to beat their chests and assert power..

Discussion

Commissioner Schafer stated that he appreciated the approach that Chairperson Grebner had taken on this issue which helped fund of many projects in a more open, County-wide process.

Chairperson Grebner stated this was a political process and that there needed to be some balance between which communities received funding, so that no community was left out. He further stated that it was the Board of Commissioners' job, not the Park Commission's job, to determine where that process became more political.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he agreed with Commissioner Grebner's comments that there was a perception that some of the Commissioners had questioned the powers of the Commission and he continued to support this language.

Commissioner Anthony stated that she would support this language being in each millage-related resolutions and she was not concerned with this setting a precedent.

Chairperson Grebner stated that in other areas the Board does not do this, for example with 9-1-1 and public safety and it had worked.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she did not care about the language because it would be forgotten in three months. She further stated that she encouraged more people to attend the Parks Commission meeting if they were interested in what they were doing.

MOVED BY COMM. LOUNEY, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW TO CALL THE QUESTION.

THE MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION CARRIED. **Yeas:** Grebner, Anthony, Louney, Crenshaw, Tennis **Nays:** Koenig, Schafer **Absent:** None

THE MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION CARRIED. **Yeas:** Grebner, Anthony, Louney, Crenshaw, Schafer, Tennis **Nays:** Koenig **Absent:** None

Discussion

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

Commissioner Louney left at 6:39 p.m.

11. Controller/Administrator's Office

- a. Resolution to Authorize Participation and Funding for Booking/Holding Facility

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Chairperson Grebner stated he believed that there was a need to bring institutional stability and protection to the County on this project in case something catastrophic happened with the City of Lansing and they were unable to pay for their holding facility.

Tim Dolehanty, Controller, stated he agreed and that this idea was timely.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Louney

12. Opioid Litigation – Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Weitz & Luxenberg, PC to Represent Ingham County in Litigation Against Manufacturers and Wholesale Distributors of Opioids

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Anthony left at 6:41 p.m.

Chairperson Grebner stated that this was an unusual situation for staff to change a recommendation.

Mr. Dolehanty stated that the recommendation had been changed because the one firm did not respond to an inquiry for further information. He further stated that a Committee could not change policy because they did not consist of a quorum of the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Dolehanty stated without policy change the staff would not have made a change a recommendation; however, it became a moot point because the one firm did not respond. He further stated he was concerned with the language that would have possibly had the Board of Commissioners overturning policy to hire the lowest bidder.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Committee did not step over their authority that they did not have. She further stated that the authority to tell the Purchasing Office to ignore the purchasing policy was not within Human Service Committee's purview.

Chairperson Grebner stated that was not his interpretation.

Commissioner Tennis stated that was not what happened at all.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Human Services Committee had told the staff to ignore the policy.

Commissioner Grebner said he was at that Human Services Committee and it was not what had happened.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the Committee reviewed the ethics and purchasing policies. He further stated that Commissioner Grebner had been at the Human Services Committee meeting that night and Commissioner Koenig had not been.

Commissioner Tennis stated that Commissioner Grebner had assisted the Human Services Committee by helping to understand that the purchasing and ethics policies which made it possible to focus on different aspects for professional assistance.

Discussion.

Chairperson Grebner stated that part of the original recommendation was based on the firms' abilities to ensure that the County would be protected by not charging fees if the case was not successful. He further stated that the two firms were equal on that.

Commissioner Koenig stated that was not true, and only one firm had been willing to do that. She further stated that the one firm had maintained that by law they would have to include those fees.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the question of costs and fees went to the State Bar Association and the State Bar Association said that was not true.

Chairperson Grebner stated that the staff recommendation was based on the difference between final fees between the two firms, but by the time the Health Services Committee met, the firms were on equal footing on that matter.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the County's legal counsel had told them that they had received an opinion on that matter and that the firm agreed if the State Bar said it could be done, then they were willing to do it.

Chairperson Grebner stated that he had expected that the staff would continue to keep the same recommendation but for the first time ever, they had changed their recommendation.

Commissioner Koenig asked if the Committee had the authority to overrule a policy of the whole Board of Commissioners.

Chairperson Grebner stated that this was not a bid process so the Committee did not usurp the authority of the Board of Commissioners as laid out in the ethics policy.

Discussion

Mr. Dolehanty stated that the County's practice was not to only look for the low bid, but examined many factors that made this the best choice for the County.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Louney and Anthony

Announcements

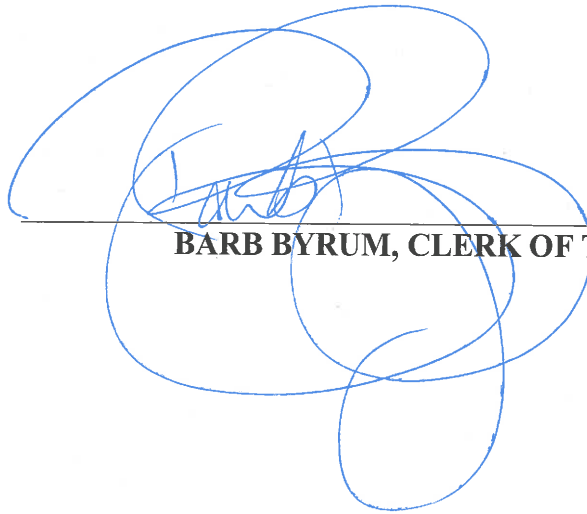
None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

