

August 2 2023

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

BOARD-IN PERSON WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AVAILABLE THROUGH ZOOM

Commissioners Present in person: Huebel, Dutcher, Finley, Loeffler, and O'Farrell.

Absent: None.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Nancy Huebel, County Clerk/Assistant Controller; Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director; Raymond Bruning II, EMS Operations Manager; Scott Frank, Iosco County Sheriff; Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director; Cathy Anderson, Iosco County Treasurer; Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services; Erika Earl, Register of Deeds; Kristie Nelson, Press; Juli Montgomery, IT Director; Mike Bowers, Emergency Management Coordinator; Bruce Bolen, Iosco County Road Commission Manager

Meeting called to order after a five-minute recess following the Full Board meeting.

New Business:

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – ORV Crossing on River Road

The Charter Township of Oscoda would like to make changes to Iosco County's ORV Ordinance. According to the county's ordinance, crossing River Road at the Old Orchard Park entrance is prohibited. The Forest Service is not opposed to reopening the trail crossing. The Iosco County Road Commission has surveyed the area and has some recommendations that would need to be in place be for the ordinance can be changed. Bruce Bolen, Iosco County Road Commission Manager, recommends that some trees are cut down to make a clear line of sight. Bolen would like to see that the ordinance is written in a way that the cleared area will be maintained. There will need to be signs posted along the road warning that there is an ORV crossing. Currently, ORV riders are traveling along River Road to Wells Road to get in and out of the campground. Dutcher motions to take changing the county's ORV Ordinance to open this ORV trail crossing River Road to riders provided that the Iosco County Road Commission's recommendations are completed to the full board and Loeffler seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Wage Adjustment for the Prosecuting Attorney and the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Currently there is a wage disparity between indigent defense attorneys and county prosecuting attorneys. Indigent defense attorneys, which are paid mainly through a grant from State of Michigan, have an annual salary of as high as \$140,000.00 and another increase in hourly rate goes into effect October 1, 2023 as required by MIDC. This will further widen the gap. Iosco County prosecuting attorney, Jim Bacarella, pay and benefits totaled \$114,000.00 last year; Bacarella's assistant prosecuting attorney, Andrew Mong, pay and benefits totaled \$93,000.00 last year. Carruthers-Soboleski recommends that the county adjust the wages of Bacarella and Mong starting October 1, 2023, to \$115,000.00 and \$90,000.00 respectfully. Dutcher motions to take the wage adjustment for the prosecuting attorney and the assistant prosecuting attorney to the full board for consideration and Finley seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Wage Adjustment for the Housing Director

The board has appointed Kathleen Murphy, Iosco County Board of Commissioners' Secretary, as the Housing Director. This used to be a full-time position making \$34,000.00 plus benefits. Murphy is helping to work on the MI-HOPE Grant applications with Iosco County residents. There are currently 29 applications in the system. Murphy has helped 10 of those applicants with their applications and is scheduled to help 9 more. There will be a significant amount of more work when contractors are screened and the projects are started. Carruthers-Soboleski recommends that the board adjust Murphy's wage by \$5,000.00. This will bring her wage up to \$37,000.00 plus benefits. This may have to be readjusted in the future. Finley motions to take this to the full board for consideration and Dutcher seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services – Purchase Class for First Responders for Training in Electric Car Fires

The Firefighters' Association will be holding a class for all first responders in the area to train what should be done when an electric or hybrid car catches on fire. These fires are more dangerous and need to be fought differently than normal car fires. There were an estimated 4, 105 electric vehicle fires last year. The expense for the training will not exceed \$1,000.00. Eller would like the Iosco County Board of Commissioners to commit to paying this expense with American Rescue Plan Funds. Donations will be taken during the class and will go toward the training cost. Dutcher motions to take this to the full board and Finley seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

Old Business:

None.

County Controller's Report: Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director

- **The second Quarterly Meeting will be taking place at the Warrior Pavilion at 8:30 a.m. on August 30, 2023.**
 - **The municipalities will be able to meet the new Equalization Department Heads.**
- **Union discussions are taking place and are going well.**
- **Central Dispatch did a great job on their LEIN Audit. They had zero findings and the Director of Criminal Justice wrote Central Dispatch a letter congratulating their great performance.**

Any Other Matters:

Finley – Thank Mike Bowers, Emergency Management Coordinator, for the warning siren at the Goodar Township Fire Department.

Dutcher – Develop Iosco is having a special meeting on Tuesday to hire the Executive Director.

Public Comments:

None.

Claims and Accounts: Bills reviewed and approved by Dutcher, Finley, and Loeffler in the amount of \$80,013.18.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully:

**Kathleen Murphy
Board Secretary/Housing Director**

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR August 16, 2023