

Iosco County Board of Commissioners

COURT HOUSE
Tawas City, Michigan 48763

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

July 20, 2022

BOARD-IN PERSON WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AVAILABLE THROUGH ZOOM

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

Absent: None.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Nancy J. Huebel, County Clerk/Co-County Administrator; Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Financial Director; Raymond Bruning II, EMS Operations Manager; Jason Ogden, Press; Cathy Anderson, Treasurer; Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services; Ron Whitney, Veterans Service Officer

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

New Business:

Ron Whitney, Veterans Service Officer – Veterans Affairs Annual Report

Whitney gave the following overview of Veterans Affairs 2021 Annual Report:

- 1) Office Visits: 966
- 2) Documents Prepared: 1,355
- 3) Financial Assistance was approved for 14 veterans with a total cost of \$13,013.34 provided.
- 4) Veterans Affairs received applications for 46 veteran burials at the cost of \$14,900.00. Stone setting applications totaled \$3,465.00 for 22 stones set.
- 5) The amount of monies that come into the county from various claims and benefits for Veterans was \$27,649,000.00.
- 6) The Veteran population is down by 76 veterans for a total of 2,948 veterans in Iosco County. This still makes Iosco County the highest number of veterans per capita in the state. Whitney stated that his number will increase in 2022 due to the influx of veterans into the area.
- 7) Whitney was able to use grant funding to go from a part-time employee to a full-time employee.
- 8) The food pantry for veterans sees an average of 5 veteran families a week. This number has increased in 2022 to an average of 10 veteran families a week.
- 9) Whitney was able to complete the National Association of Veterans Service Officer's course via Zoom to receive his National Accreditation. He was able to complete seven other courses that are required by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 10) Whitney is still searching for a new office space to accommodate veterans. Once a place is found, Whitney can hire an additional Veterans Service Officer.

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Memorandum of Agreement between Iosco County and MSU Extension

This is a renewal that supports one full-time clerical staff member and one part-time 4-H staff member. There is an increase of approximately \$4,300.00, which is still quite a savings compared to Iosco County employing the staff directly. Dutcher moves to take the Memorandum of Agreement between Iosco County and MSU Extension to the full board for consideration and Finley seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

None.

EMS Operations Report for the Month of June: Raymond Bruning II, EMS Operations Manager

Run Report – EMS received 448 total calls. 340 of those calls were billable calls with an estimated \$313,143.63 charged. The other 108 calls were non-billable. Non-billable calls are for fire standby, county coverage, or no patient was found. There were 104 Advanced Life Support (ALS) runs and 212 Basic Life Support (BLS) runs. 4 calls were received for lift assist and 20 calls were for treatment but an ambulance transport was not needed.

Equipment and Fleet Report – The Public Safety Building and the flag pole has been painted. A new flag pole rope was received from the East Tawas Fire Department. The Durango is being utilized as a BLS vehicle. With new laws, the Durango can now be utilized as an ALS vehicle if it has a lockable box for medications in it. 1 ambulance is out of service due it hitting a deer. However, the parts are on order and will be repaired soon. Another ambulance has come back into service after repairs due to a car hitting the ambulance.

Training Report – There were two days of CPR and Pediatrics Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) training to make sure that staff was up-to-date on their credentials. Bruning held a Pediatric Medication Administration Class and a paramedic from Muskegon attended. Bruning held CPR classes for the Tawas City Fire Department and the Tawas City Police Department.

Employee Report – EMS currently has 30 employees. There are 12 full-time EMTs, which is a fully staffed group, 9 part-time EMTs, 5 full-time Paramedics, and 4 part-time Paramedics. Iosco County EMS needs 12 full-time paramedics to be fully staffed. Even facing staff shortages, there are, on average, 4 ambulances during the day.

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

Broadband – Carruthers-Soboleski attended a broadband meeting. Tom Stephenson, Broadband Solutions Specialist, recommended two consultants. Carruthers-Soboleski asked for quotes from both individuals. They are both very busy and will give her an estimate for services in the next few weeks. The funds to expand broadband is very competitive and the consultant will help Iosco County move through the competitive process more smoothly.

Parks and Recreation Commission – There will be a stakeholder’s meeting on August 11 to hear input for updating the Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan. Currently 30 individuals have been invited to attend.

Operating Millage – Carruthers-Soboleski, Bruning, Scott Frank, Iosco County Sheriff, Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services, and Jim Bacarella, Iosco County Prosecuting Attorney have visited all 14 local municipalities. They have given 30 different presentations and have done a radio interview. Carruthers-Soboleski is posting Operating Millage educational posts on her Facebook page for the public.

Website Design – Department heads need to decide on what they would like to see on their website page by the end of July.

Mechanical – The attorney has sent the letter terminating Iosco County’s contract with ATI Group on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Colvin’s Heating and Cooling are working on the system design for the building. They have encountered many problems and design flaws when they went through the building. They are now working with engineers to get a working and flaw-free design.

Any Other Matters:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Claims and Accounts: Bills reviewed and approved by Dutcher, Finley, Miner in the amount of \$522,925.76.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully: Kathleen M. Murphy, Board Secretary

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR August 3, 2022