October 5, 2022

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

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/Assistant County Administrator; Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Financial Director; Jason Ogden, Press; Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services; Scott Frank, Iosco County Sheriff; Cathy Anderson, Iosco County Treasurer

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

New Business:

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Planning Commission Ordinance

The Planning Commission Ordinance is outdated. There was a big change to the Enabling Act in 2008. Iosco County's attorney wrote the updated ordinance. If the Planning Commission Ordinance is approved, the board will have to reappoint the current Planning Commission members. Commissioner Finley will be a non-voting member and will be an advisor. A school district representative will need to be found to be placed on the Planning Commission Board. Dutcher moves to take the updated Planning Commission Ordinance to the full board for consideration and Miner seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Housing Commission Ordinance

There was never an ordinance for the Housing Commission. It was created via resolution in 1980. An ordinance is needed in order to run the Housing Commission. The Iosco County's attorney wrote the Housing Commission Ordinance. The current members of this commission will need to be reappointed if the full board approves the Housing Commission Ordinance. Dutcher moves to take this issue to the full board and Miner seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Iosco County did not receive grant funding from the MI-Hope Grant. 67% of applicants were denied. However, another round of funding is opening in January

2023. MSHDA is holding a conference in Saginaw and Alpena. Kathleen Murphy will attend the conference in Alpena on October 12, 2022.

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Medical Examiner Contract with Dr. William Morrone, DO MPH MS

Doctor Jaya Sankaran's contract as Iosco County's Medical Examiner is expiring. Sankaran has informed Carruthers-Soboleski that she is retiring. However, she has recommended Doctor William Morrone. Carruthers-Soboleski has spoken with Lieutenant Brown from Michigan State Police and Don Hanson from Bennett Funeral Home regarding Dr. Morrone's work. Both suggest that Dr. Morrone is someone that could work well within Iosco County. Dr. Morrone has performed at least 20 autopsies within the last three years through a contract with Dr. Sankaran. Dr. Morrone would like to shadow Dr. Sankaran the last few months of her contract and then have her stay on as a deputy and back up. Dr. Morrone will provide reports to the Board of Commissioners regarding number of deaths, cremations, burials, manner of death, manner of accidental death, gender, age, etc. The Committee of the Whole would like to receive a quote from Dr. Morrone. Dr. Morrone will get his quote to Carruthers-Soboleski and it will be presented at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on October 19, 2022.

Charlie Finley, District 3 Commissioner – Support Amending the No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act

This resolution has been adopted by other counties within the state. We cannot change this act at the county level and can only send a resolution of support for legislature to amend the 2019 No-Fault Auto insurance Reform Act. Michigan Association of Counties is supporting this amendment. While this reform lowered auto insurance rates it also lowered coverage. Dutcher motions to take this to the full board for consideration and Finley seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

None.

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

Broadband

The DCS Technology consultant, Chris Scharner, attended the Broadband meeting at Warrior Pavilion in Oscoda. There were five service providers that attended this meeting to talk about possible funding. Scharner has connections with all of the providers that attended this meeting. Scharner has been driving around Iosco County looking at the GIS mapping that the state has provided. He thinks that there are some errors with the mapping.

Recycling

EGLE grants are coming out to help with recycling infrastructure. Iosco County will need to work with the local municipalities to implement a recycling strategy. Iosco County could levy $25 per household for the strategy to work effectively and to manage drop off sites. The county will need three to four drop off sites and some of the municipalities have offered to manage the drop off sites. There is a lot of community support. However, Iosco County is behind compared to surrounding counties. Carruthers-Soboleski will attend the final regional recycling meeting on October 14, 2022.

Audit

Carruthers-Soboleski has worked with Scott Frank, Iosco County Sheriff, and Penny Freehling, Sheriff's Secretary, to fix audit issues.

Hydro-dams

Carruthers-Soboleski has gone to two meetings, including a meeting for stakeholders. Consumers Energy is presenting that the hydro-dams are not profitable business venture. Develop Iosco is looking at what will happen if the dams were to be removed. Consumers Energy's goal is to decide whether or not they are going to remove or maintain the dams in 2023. Foote dam is currently a first line barrier for invasive species entering further into the AuSable River. As such other stakeholders, such as the state or federal government may prevent this dam from being removed. Consumers Energy is telling residents that the local government can take over dam operations. However, Carruthers-Soboleski indicates that this is not a feasible option for Iosco County. Carruthers-Soboleski is looking to meet with Senator Sue Allor to discuss this issue.

Any Other Matters:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Claims and Accounts: Bills reviewed and approved by Dutcher, Finley, and Miner in the amount of $112,036.94.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully: Kathleen M. Murphy, Board Secretary

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR October 19, 2022