

September 6, 2023

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

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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; Juli Montgomery, IT Director; Ericka Earl, Register of Deeds; Chris Martin, Baldwin Township Supervisor, Julia Darton, MSU Extension District Director; Tim Hissong, Press; Rob Pallarito, Michele Hoytenga's Representative

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

### **New Business:**

#### **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Hire a Full-Time Employee for Register of Deeds Office**

**A part-time employee in the Register of Deeds office recently resigned. There is a full-time position built into the 2024 budget. However, Carruthers-Soboleski would like to hire a full-time employee now instead of waiting till next year. This is due to the fact that there are only two employees working in the Register of Deeds at the moment. The position would be a level three union position. Finley motions to move this to the full board for consideration and Dutcher seconds. All ayes; motion carried.**

#### **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Agreement for Extension Services between Iosco County and Michigan State University Extension**

**This agreement is a yearly renewal. The service cost has increased 3% and Carruthers-Soboleski has indicated that this increase is very reasonable. Dutcher motions to take the Agreement for Extension Services 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**

- Carruthers-Soboleski has attended two meetings regarding Consumers Energy dams.
  - She has toured the 5 Channels Dam.
  - At the Community Stakeholder Meeting, Consumers Energy informed the audience that no decision has been made yet regarding the dams.
  - Consumers Energy has an RFP out to sell the dams.
  - They have applied for Federal and State grants.
  - The dams generate \$140 million a year from tourism according to their Economic Study
- Iosco County has been given notice to proceed with the MI HOPE Grant Phase II.
  - The portal is open until September 30<sup>th</sup> and all applicants will need to be screened by Kathleen Murphy, Housing Director/Board Secretary, and Carruthers-Soboleski before being given to the Housing Commission.
  - Carruthers-Soboleski has applied for Phase IV of the MI HOPE Grant.
- Carruthers-Soboleski will come back to the board next meeting asking for a Letter of Intent for the CHILL Grant Program.
  - Assistance through this grant of \$10,000.00 or less will be granted to the homeowner with no repayment, mortgage, or mortgage note required. Anything over \$10,000.00 will be a zero interest, zero payment loan and will be forgiven in full after five-years.
- The Infrastructure grant for recycling drop off sites have been approved in full.
  - Host agreements between the host sites and Alpena Recycling Facility will have to be completed.
  - Carruthers-Soboleski would like to start operating in the spring of 2025 when the Alpena Recycling Facility opens. This means that the Special Assessment will begin December 2024.

**Any Other Matters:**

None.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Claims and Accounts:** Bills reviewed and approved by Finley, Loeffler, and O'Farrell in the amount of \$119,175.55.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully:

**Kathleen Murphy  
Board Secretary/Housing Director**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR September 20, 2023**