

February 15, 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; Scott Frank, Iosco County Sheriff; Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services; Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director; Ron Whitney, Veterans' Service Officer; Juli Montgomery, IT Director; Ericka Earl, Register of Deeds; Raymond Bruning II, EMS Operations Manager; Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director

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

#### **New Business:**

#### **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Barracuda Spam Filter Upgrade**

**The current spam filter is up for renewal. It is recommended that Iosco County upgrades to a cloud-based filter. This will help with security as government accounts are being hacked. This is due to Iosco County's information being on Barracuda's servers and not on an appliance in the County Building. If we do not upgrade to a cloud-based system, Iosco County would have to purchase a new appliance and update our maintenance services. If the board decides to upgrade, Iosco County will receive more services. Finley motions to take this matter to the full board for consideration and Loeffler seconds. All ayes; motion carried.**

#### **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Opioid Litigation Fund and Expenditure**

**Iosco County has started receiving payments from the opioid lawsuit settlement. The county will receive an estimated \$1.1 million over the next 18 years. These funds may increase due to current litigations against other companies. These funds are restricted and need their own budget, which Iosco County has already established. Michigan Association of Counties has set up a tool kit on how to spend funds appropriately. One of the first steps is to create a task force. This task force will be made up of current opioid users, family members affected from opioid abuse, mental health professionals, EMS staff, etc. There will be little to no law**

enforcement staff on the board. This is so that individuals may feel safe to attend these meetings and speak freely on the topic of drug dependence, abuse, and gaps in treatment. These members of the task force will be in charge of creating a strategy on how the opioid litigation funds are to be used that concentrate on gaps within the current system. Resources and guidance strongly suggest creating a new program that focuses on prevention, rehabilitation, treatment, and/or education. Dutcher motions to have Carruthers-Soboleski start the process of establishing the task force, creating a strategy, and hold stakeholder meetings. Huebel seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Scott Frank, Iosco County Sheriff – Purchase a Vehicle for the Animal Control Officer**

Every four years the Sheriff's Department purchases a new vehicle for the Animal Control Officer. Due to the Animal Control Millage passing, which adds a part-time Animal Control Officer, the Sheriff's Department would like to purchase a new vehicle. This will ensure that both Animal Control Officers have a vehicle. There are funds in the millage to purchase a new vehicle, the laptop, and dog box that are needed. Dutcher moves to take these purchases to the full board for consideration and Finley seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

**Ron Whitney, Veterans' Service Officer – Increasing the Veterans' Affairs Board from 5 Veterans to 7 Veterans**

The Veterans' Affairs Board would like to increase their number of members to ensure that they will meet quorum at every meeting. The VA millage will be able to fund the additional two members. Currently the Board of Commissioners have three interested applicants to fill two vacancies. If the Commissioners decide to increase the VA Board, all three applicants will be able to be appointed to the board and Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary, will need to advertise to fill the remaining vacancy. Whitney has looked at the letters of interest and D14s of the three applicants and they are all qualified. Whitney questions if the interviews are still needed if the Commissioners decide to increase the board. Dutcher motions to take increasing the VA Board members to 7 to the full board for approval and Loeffler seconds. All ayes; motion carried. Dutcher motions to take to the full board for consideration the appointment of James Miner, Dennis Browne, and James Miller to the Veterans' Affairs Board and Finley seconds. All ayes. Motion carried. Murphy will call each candidate and cancel the interviews that were to be held today. Dutcher motions to take to the full board soliciting letters of interest and D14s from the veterans of Iosco County to join the VA Board and Loeffler seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

**Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Service Agreement for Animal Lodging and Care and Lease Agreement with the Humane Society**

Carruthers-Soboleski received both the Service Agreement and Lease Agreement yesterday after changes were reviewed by the Iosco County attorney. The county has had both agreements in the past. However, they have expired. Carruthers-Soboleski and Scott Frank had a meeting with representatives from the Humane Society to negotiate terms of the agreement and lease. The agreements will be in place until the Animal Control Millage expires. Dutcher moves to take this to the full board for consideration and Finley seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Cathy Wusterbarth, Need Our Water (NOW) Representative – Letter of Support for Interim Remedial Action Sites at the Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Oscoda, Michigan**

Wusterbarth could not attend the meeting today. Dutcher will discuss this matter. There are four identified sites that NOW in conjunction with its technical experts have identified that needs to be cleaned up. The Department of Defense currently has two existing interim remedial action sites at Wurtsmith but NOW believes four additional sites are needed. Wusterbarth would like a letter of support to bring attention to the clean up effort. Iosco County had past a resolution in 2017 supporting the clean up of the Air Force Base. Wusterbarth is holding a press conference today at 5:00 pm regarding this issue at the Methodist Church. Dutcher will attend this meeting. The Commissioners would like Carruthers-Soboleski to contact Wusterbarth, invite her to the next meeting, and request that she sends a letter or sample resolution to Carruthers-Soboleski.

**Old Business:**

None.

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

- Site visits for recycling drop off bins.
- Carruthers-Soboleski would like quarterly meetings with the municipalities. She will invite elected officials and administrative representatives.
  - The municipalities are requesting more communication between themselves and the county.
  - The meetings will move around the county with the first being held in Tawas. There is a tentative date in April.
  - The county cannot provide food or other refreshments at the meetings. However, Develop Iosco has offered to help with this matter.
- The MI-Hope Grant and Blight Grant have been submitted.
  - The State Land Bank has requested more information regarding the county's Blight Grant submission.
  - Carruthers-Soboleski has not heard back from MSHDA.
- Carruthers-Soboleski is working on the year end audit adjustments.

**Any Other Matters:**

None.

**Public Comments:**

**Mike Eller, Director of Emergency Services** – Comments on quarterly meeting refreshments.

**Claims and Accounts:** Bills reviewed and approved by Loeffler, O'Farrell, and Huebel in the amount of \$219,192.43.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully:

**Kathleen Murphy**  
**Board Secretary/Housing Director**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR March 1, 2023**