BOARD LEADERSHIP MEETING
August 13, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Celentino, Crenshaw, Grebner (arrived at 6:02 p.m.), Koenig (arrived at 6:01 p.m.), Maiville, Morgan (arrived at 6:15 p.m.), Polsdofler, Sebolt, Slaughter, Stivers, Tennis, and Trubac.

Members Absent: Naeyaert and Schafer.

Others Present: Tim Dolehanthy, Michael Townsend, Jared Cypher, Teri Morton, Peter Cohl, Becky Bennett, and Beth Foster.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Crenshaw at 6:00 p.m. in the Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the February 21, 2019 Minutes
MOVED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2019 BOARD LEADERSHIP MEETING.

Commissioner Maiville proposed the following amendment:

Mr. Nordfjord stated that if any communications were made that were responsive to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, they would need to be produced regardless of where they were stored or in what format. He further stated that the ethics policy would apply to the Board of Commissioners and its employees.

This was considered a friendly amendment.

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:01 p.m.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Grebner, Morgan, Naeyaert, and Schafer.

Additions to the Agenda

3. Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney-Client Privileged Communication

Agenda items were renumbered accordingly.
Limited Public Comment

None.

1. 2020 Controller Recommended Budget Overview

Commissioner Grebner arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Michael Townsend, Budget Director, gave a brief introduction of the 2020 Controller recommended budget and an overview of revenue.

Tim Dolechanty, Controller, gave an overview of expenses.

Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Dolechanty continued the overview of expenses.

Mr. Dolechanty gave an overview of County Services.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, gave an overview of Human Services.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if the Department of Health and Human Services clients maxed out at a certain amount of basic needs assistance.

Mr. Cypher stated that he was not aware of a max per client.

Mr. Cypher continued the overview of Human Services.

Commissioner Grebner left the room at 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated, for the newer Commissioners, that the Z list referred to money that was allocated for use at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, gave an overview of Law and Courts.

Commissioner Grebner returned at 6:31 p.m.

Ms. Morton continued the overview of Law and Courts.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Public Defenders Office requested funding for review of bodycam footage.

Ms. Morton stated that they had not submitted a request for that.

Commissioner Slaughter asked if the Public Defenders office requested funding for social workers.
Ms. Morton stated that they did.

2. **Email and the Open Meetings Act**

Peter Cohl, County Attorney, passed out an updated summary of the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Cohl stated that emails between Commissioners could be considered a violation of the Open Meetings Act if there was a quorum on emails deliberating or deciding on business of public interest appearing before the Board. He further stated that he advised the Commissioners to be careful about that.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he asked Becky Bennett, Board of Commissioners Office Director, to send all email communications to the Chairperson and to Blind carbon copy (Bcc) the rest of the Board of Commissioners to avoid situations where a reply all would go to everyone.

3. **Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney-Client Privileged Communication**

MOVED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, AT APPROXIMATELY 6:40 P.M., TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION, DATED AUGUST 8, 2019, REGARDING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Absent: Commissioners Naeyaert and Schafer.

MOVED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 P.M.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Naeyaert and Schafer.

4. **Social Media**

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the Board of Commissioners needed to be cognizant of what they posted on social media.

Mr. Cohl stated that discussions on social media could have the same effect as email if a quorum responded. He further stated that the Commissioners needed to be careful.

Commissioner Slaughter asked if it was quorum of a Committee or of the Board of the Whole.

Mr. Cohl stated a quorum of either could be considered a violation.

Commissioner Morgan asked if it would have to be a quorum of any relevant Committee or Subcommittee, or just any Committee or Subcommittee.
Mr. Cohl stated that it could be a quorum of any Committee or Subcommittee.

Commissioner Trubac asked if the conversation had to be germane to business in front of the Committee in order to be a violation.

Mr. Cohl stated that it would be considered a violation if the discussion was germane to business in front of a Committee or the Board. He further stated that he could give a workshop on the Open Meetings Act if that was something that the Commissioners wanted.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she had a tendency to express her opinions on social media and asked if comments between two Commissioners or even clicking like in agreement with something could amount to a violation.

Mr. Cohl stated that there needed to be a quorum in order for there to be a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that the bottom line was for the Commissioners to be aware of what they posted on social media.

5. Millages

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he wanted to bring potential millage renewals to the Commissioners attention because there was an extra election in 2020 and the time to start thinking about what to put on the ballot was now.

Discussion.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he would put all six millage renewals on the March 2020 Presidential Primary. He further stated that it would not cost anything.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that any decisions regarding millage renewals would be made through the Committee process and that this was just a discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he thought the Health Care Services millage would probably be more than a renewal. He further stated that, if nothing else, he expected to change the cap to a percentage of poverty.

Commissioner Grebner stated that it was possible to phrase that as if it was a renewal. He further stated that he bet if all the millage renewals were on the ballot in March that they would all get 70% of the vote.

Discussion.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he thought putting the millage renewals on the Presidential Primary was a fantastic idea.
Commissioner Stivers stated that there was a potential for a new roadways millage and suggested adding that to the March 2020 Presidential Primary as well.

Commissioner Celentino asked where the Roadways Subcommittee was on the roadways millage.

Commissioner Morgan left the room at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that the Roadways Subcommittee had been investigating a roadways millage. He further stated that the most important thing they learned so far was that cities would be made whole.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:31 p.m.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that what actual tangible improvements the County would see with any money left over was an important consideration.

Commissioner Celentino asked where road funding stood at the State level.

Commissioner Polsdofefer stated that the potential new State formula would be weighted heavily towards State trunk lines.

Commissioner Tennis stated that if the Commissioners wanted hold off on a County roadways millage, that they we should know what action the State was taking by the end of 2019.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the Commissioners ought to work a roadways millage up for the August 2020 ballot. He further stated that anything was better than nothing and they should plan to do whatever they could.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that road repair was terribly expensive and that he wanted to make sure the Board of Commissioners could point to multiple improvements to justify the millage.

Commissioner Polsdofefer stated that he and Commissioner Stivers were recently involved with the Meridian Township road millage. He further stated that the key tool was a map that they shared which showed constituents the state of their own neighborhoods, so people knew where they would fall in getting improvements.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that some Commissioners’ constituents could better afford additional taxes than others.

6. **2020 Census**

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he was contacted by former State Representative Sam Singh regarding the upcoming Census. He further stated that he was waiting to hear back from the United Way to see if there what role the Board of Commissioners could play in their effort.
Commissioner Slaughter passed out a Census handout and stated that whatever help the Board of Commissioners could provide that the United Way would appreciate it.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he wanted to hear from the United Way because he did not want to duplicate efforts. He further stated that the Commissioners should stay tuned as the Census was very important.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the jail and the Michigan State University Campus counts were routinely screwed up.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that maybe someone from Ingham Health should be involved.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that everyone should stay tuned because Commissioners may be called upon to serve in some capacity.

7. Update on Ordinances

Mr. Dolchanty gave an overview of a handout listing the ordinances that came through the Board since 1972. He further stated that there was still a lot of work to be done, but the document would be valuable when finished.

Discussion.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD