LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
May 30, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Celentino (left at 6:44 p.m.), Crenshaw, Polsdofier, Slaughter and Trubac

Members Absent: Koenig and Schafer

Others Present: Honorable Thomas P. Boyd, Major Darin Southworth, Undersheriff Andrew Bouck, Mark Blumer, Teri Morton, Beth Foster and others

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

Approval of the May 16, 2019 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2019 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Koenig and Schafer

Additions to the Agenda

5. NorthWest Initiative – Letter of Collaboration

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Community Corrections
   a. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Northwest Initiative for Day Reporting Services and Sentinel, Inc. for Electronic Monitoring Services as Authorized by the Justice Millage
   b. Resolution to Authorize Submission of a Grant Application and Enter into a Contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Ingham County/City of Lansing Community Corrections and Enter into Program Subcontracts for FY 2019-2020

5. NorthWest Initiative – Letter of Collaboration

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Koenig and Schafer
2. **Sheriff’s Office**  – Corrections Staffing Assessment (*Discussion*)

Undersheriff Andrew Bouck and Major Darin Southworth, Corrections Administrator, gave a presentation on Corrections staffing.

Discussion.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that there was never a comprehensive analysis before or a request to adequately staff Corrections. She further stated that this was a background discussion to give the Committee an idea of what would be ideal Corrections staffing.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he understood that the staffing issues could not be resolved on one budget cycle, but that it could be done by taking a look at the needs and spreading the ultimate goal out over several cycles.

Ms. Morton stated that as the budget cycle progressed, they would continue to have conversations about this topic.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Committee talked about this during the Strategic Plan discussion in the previous meeting. He further stated it would be nice to look at what the goals were long-term.

Ms. Morton stated that the discussion centered more on road patrol.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he felt that because the Sheriff’s Department had one of the larger budgets in the County to begin with, they seemed to get hit the hardest when things needed to be taken away. He further stated that the County should focus on replenishing the staff when the budget allows.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked what the budgeted full-time employees were for this year.

Major Southworth stated that they had 62 deputies and 9 command (6 sergeants and 3 lieutenants) budgeted.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked how many vacancies there were currently.

Major Southworth stated that there were zero.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked how many retirements were coming up.

Major Southworth stated that there would be 4 total in Corrections.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked if any new positions would not be going towards this proposed staffing, but would just be filling them up to the current budgeted full-time staff.
Undersheriff Bouck stated that they were at consistent staffing, as budgeted for, right now. He further stated that ideally they would add 8 full-time employees, including 2 command officers.

Discussion.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he recalled a discussion, when the millage was being proposed, about how the new configuration would allow the number of deputies to be reduced.

Ms. Morton stated that that was a discussion under the previous Sheriff. She further stated that it had not been a discussion with the current Sheriff but that her understanding was that those deputies would be redeployed elsewhere as needed rather than the positions being eliminated.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he stood corrected on that. He asked if deputies would be redeployed in areas like education, recreation, etc.

Undersheriff Bouck stated that they wanted to do more but did not have the bodies to that right now.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he wanted to get a clear picture of where this was going and that he appreciated the clarification.

Major Southworth continued the presentation on Corrections staffing.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked staff to check with legal counsel to see if the millage language allowed for staffing as part of “equipping the facility.”

Ms. Morton stated that there was a very good chance the millage could be used for staffing, but that might need to wait to be explored after all the bids were back for the new facility.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that for peace of mind he would like an answer sooner rather than later.

Ms. Morton stated she would definitely ask that question.

Undersheriff Bouck stated that personnel are mission critical.

Commissioner Slaughter asked how our jail was compared to other similar jails.

Major Southworth stated that he had not done the math, but that the County was comparative.

Discussion.

Commissioner Slaughter thanked Undersheriff Bouck and Major Southworth.

3. **Law and Courts Committee** – Judicial Feedback on Action Plan Update – Add New Key Implementation Task: Cash Bail System Reform *(Discussion)*

Commissioner Celentino left at 6:44 p.m.
Hon. Thomas P. Boyd, 55th District Court Judge, gave feedback on the Action Plan Update regarding cash bail system reform. He stated that he wanted to emphasize that not only was the 55th District Court complying with the law but that they were leaders making sure as few people are in jail under their authority as possible.

Ms. Morton asked if there was other language that would be more appropriate, like, "continue to support the courts efforts," or something along those lines.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that they could explore alternative language.

Judge Boyd stated that he did not know exactly what it should say but that he just did not want to find himself coming before the Commissioners and publicly addressing allegations that the Court was not doing a good job.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that was not the intention of the language and that was part of the Strategic Plan as a commitment to always be working towards this as a goal. He further stated that he thought the 55th District Court was doing a great job and he was not trying to say there was problem.

Judge Boyd stated that he would think about the language and get back to the Committee.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked staff to resend the email with the relevant language.

Ms. Morton stated that she would resend that email.

Judge Boyd stated that this was what they do and that they do it better than most.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that instead of using the word "reform" they could use the word "affirm" to show that the Board of Commissioners agreed with the work the Court was already doing.

Discussion.

Commissioner Slaughter thanked Judge Boyd.

4. Board Referral – Letter from the Lansing Branch NAACP Regarding the Consolidation of all Ingham County District Courts

Commissioner Slaughter stated that it was pretty early in the process but that he wanted to acknowledge that these concerns were heard.

Judge Boyd stated that he sent an email regarding this to the Board Chairperson and the Committee Chairperson.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that this issue came late at the end of April and that they had not had a meeting with a full discussion regarding it yet.

Discussion.
Announcements
None.

Public Comment
None.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Barb Byrum, Clerk of the Board