LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
August 15, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Celentino, Crenshaw, Koenig, Polsdofer, Schafer, Slaughter, and Trubac

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth, George Strander, Scott LeRoy, Terri Thornberry, Barb Davidson, Rick Terrill, Teri Morton, Beth Foster, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Koenig 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 July 11, 2019 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2019 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additions to the Agenda

7. Resolution to Honor Guy L. Sweet of the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office

Staff was directed to plan to add a discussion regarding court consolidation to a future agenda.

Limited Public Comment

George Strander, Circuit Court Administrator, and Scott Leroy, Deputy Court Administrator, spoke before the Committee to address a recent Lansing State Journal article, which detailed a case in the Juvenile Division.

Mr. Strander stated that he drafted a memorandum addressing the allegations made in the article.

Mr. Scott stated thanked Mr. Strander for taking an objective look at the situation. He further stated that cases with mental health concerns concerning a juvenile were very complicated and praised the employees involved for doing a great job managing a very difficult case.

Chairperson Koenig stated that she wanted her fellow Commissioners to be aware that Mr. Strander and Mr. LeRoy may not be able to answer questions in detail due to privacy concerns.
Discussion.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he had nothing but respect Mr. Strander and Mr. LeRoy.

Mr. LeRoy stated that he and Mr. Strander wanted to be transparent and face this head on.

Mr. Strander stated that they thought it was important to tell the Law and Courts Committee what happened.

Commissioner Polsdorfer asked if there was outreach to the Lansing State Journal.

Mr. Strander stated that there had been.

Chairperson Koenig stated that she encouraged her fellow Commissioners to reach out to Mr. Strander or Mr. Leroy if they had any further questions.

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

1. Sheriff’s Office
   a. Resolution to Dedicate a Section of Barnes Road: “The Sergeant Paul Cole Memorial Roadway”
   b. Resolution to Honor Sergeant Jeffrey Weiss of the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office

2. Animal Control – Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of a New Mobile Adoptions Transport Vehicle

3. Facilities Department
   b. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Vidcom Solutions for the Access Control at Multiple Ingham County Facilities

4. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center

5. Board Referrals
   a. Resolution 19-083 from the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners Regarding the Trial Court Funding Commission Interim Report
   b. Resolution from the Marquette County Board of Commissioners Regarding the Trial Court Funding Commission Interim Report

7. Resolution to Honor Guy L. Sweet of the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. Facilities Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with ICS Holdings LLC to Lease Space for the 9-1-1 Center’s Public Safety Radio System Replacement Project

MOVED BY COMM. CRENshaw, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Schafer disclosed that his son had a business which was presently leasing this facility. He further stated that, knowing the needs of 9-1-1, he intervened and showed the property to Rick Terrill.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he was not a broker and would not gain anything from this transaction.

Rick Terrill, Facilities Director, stated the space was consistent with the needs of the radio project and it met all the needs. He further stated that he was not able to locate anything similar for the price.

Commissioner Celentino asked if they looked elsewhere.

Mr. Terrill stated that there was no other location that met the requirements.

Commissioner Celentino asked if they looked at properties by the airport.

Ms. Davidson stated that they were not sure anything there would meet their needs and they also could not get over the some of the compliance hurdles with the FCC.

Commissioner Schafer stated that this property was about two miles from the current 9-1-1 center.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked for clarification that nothing else was looked at other than this property.

Mr. Terrill stated that he spoke with a real estate broker and there nothing was available that met the requirements. He further stated that they also looked at cost and nothing compared.

Mr. Terrill stated that the space was heated but did not have air conditioning. He further stated that he may come back before the Committee to request funds for portable air-conditioning units for use during the warmer months.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
4. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center
   b. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center Update *(Discussion)*

   Terri Thornberry, 9-1-1 Director, thanked Barb Davidson, 9-1-1 Staff Services Manager, for doing a great job as Interim Director and gave an update on the 9-1-1.

   Chairperson Koenig asked why the backup center would be located at the Road Department.

   Ms. Davidson stated that it was free and mutually beneficial.

   Commissioner Crenshaw asked if it was normal practice to have a back up center.

   Ms. Thornberry stated that it was 9-1-1 best practice to have a backup center.

   Ms. Davidson stated that Ingham County was too large to rely on surrounding counties for backup.

   Commissioner Schafer asked what costs were associated with the backup center.

   Ms. Thornberry stated that she could not say exactly because it was something they were currently working on.

   Ms. Davidson stated that the fiber would be the biggest cost.

   Commissioner Schafer asked why they could not just transfer calls to other counties.

   Ms. Davidson stated that spreading staff out like that would be very impactful to the level of service.

   Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that the backup center was in planning stages for quite some time and that it was something that the new Director wanted to make a top priority.

   Discussion.

   Chairperson Koenig directed staff to add more 9-1-1 discussion to future agendas.

   Chairperson Koenig asked why not house the backup center at the Sheriff's Office.

   Ms. Davidson stated that the space there was not equipped to handle what the needed and they also need something sooner.

   Discussion.

(4)
Ms. Thornberry continued the 9-1-1 update and passed out a handout on call volume.

Commissioner Celentino asked how she was acclimating herself with the employees.

Ms. Thornberry stated that she made a point to speak with everyone on duty during the day both before and after their shift and stayed to greet the evening shift. She further stated that while she had not met one-on-one with the union leaders yet, she had met with the advisory board and has been networking in the community.

Commissioner Celentino stated that 9-1-1 had personnel issues in the past and he wanted to know her perspective on how to deal with that.

Ms. Thornberry stated that she could have the finest center, but without the people it would be worthless. She further stated that the employees were the most valued commodity and would be treated that way.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked why there was uptick in non-emergency calls in May, June, and July.

Ms. Davidson stated that that was typical in summertime, largely in part due to kids that had nothing better to do with their time.

Commissioner Slaughter asked when Ms. Thornberry planned to meet with City of Lansing and East Lansing Officials.

Ms. Thornberry stated that she did not have that on her schedule yet. She further stated that she had spent most of her time so far focusing on getting her house in order, so to speak.

Commissioner Schafer asked Ms. Thornberry to send him her contact information. He further stated that he appreciated what she was doing.

Ms. Thornberry stated that the biggest obstacle was getting qualified people who have what it takes to do the work and who want to be there.

Ms. Davidson stated that Ms. Thornberry had already made a lot of important connections in the community, including the Lansing Police Chief today and that she had plans to meet Tom Krug from the Capitol City Labor Program next week.

Chairperson Koenig stated that she thought having someone like a chaplain was a good idea and suggested titling it differently, maybe calling the position trauma counselor.

Ms. Davidson stated that later this month there would be training for public safety responders on how to recognize stress and be proactive about managing it.

Chairperson Koenig stated that she would suggest planning more time to meet with the unions.
Chairperson Koenig asked how people could better prepare for testing so they could pass.

Ms. Davidson stated that there really was nothing they could do to prepare because some of the most important characteristics cannot be taught.

Discussion.

Chairperson Koenig stated that having enough quality employees fill 9-1-1 centers was difficult. She asked how long it typically takes for someone who is not going to be successful to wash out.

Ms. Davidson stated that there was a potential to wash out at every phase. She further stated that what they were looking for was continued progress.

Chairperson Koenig invited the Committee to go visit 9-1-1 sometime.

Ms. Thornberry stated that the Commissioners were welcome to visit the 9-1-1 dispatch center and suggested a Friday or Saturday night after the bars close.

Discussion.

Ms. Thornberry stated that other 9-1-1 centers that she had worked at did a rigorous psych exam, something which Ingham County does not do. She further stated that at some point it might be something to consider implementing here.

5. Law and Courts Committee – Appointment to Ingham County Indigent Defense System Collaborative Committee

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he thought this appointment could be made through special orders of the day at the next Board of the Whole. He further asked that that staff go through the entire list to confirm who still wanted to be a part of the Indigent Defense System Collaborative Committee.

Discussion.

Ms. Morton stated that she did contact the courts and the same members were still interested in participating.

Chairperson Koenig stated that this would be added to the Caucus agenda.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD