LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
December 5, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Koenig, Celentino, Crenshaw, Polsdorfer (arrived at 6:04 p.m.), Schafer, Slaughter, and Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Bradley Prehn, Caitlin Stewart, Jordan Harris-Gonzales, Teri Morton, Jodi LeBombard, Elizabeth Noel, Michael Tanis, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Koenig at 6:01 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room D & E of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the October 31, 2019 Closed Session Minutes and November 14, 2019 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 31, 2019 CLOSED SESSION AND NOVEMBER 14, 2019 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Polsdorfer.

Additions to the Agenda

2. Circuit Court/Juvenile Division
   d. Resolution for Acceptance of the Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

7. District Court – Consolidation Discussion

Substitutes –

2. Circuit Court/Juvenile Division
   c. Resolution Authorizing Training-of-Trainees for Effective Practices in Community Supervision

3. Animal Control
   b. Resolution to Authorize an Additional Animal Control Officer Position to be Assigned to Cruelty Investigations
4. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center
   a. Resolution to Authorize Purchase Orders for Necessary Modifications to
      Communication Towers Owned By SBA II LLC (Leslie and Mason Towers) for
      the MPSCS/Ingham County Radio Communications System Project

Limited Public Comment

Bradley Prehn, UAW Chairperson, stated he disagreed with the resolution that temporarily
authorized an additional Animal Control Officer. He further stated he believed it set a bad
precedent, nothing similar had been done for other former employees when they had left
employment, and he was concerned about the possible ramifications to the morale of everyone
working for the County with the passage of the resolution.

Commissioner Polsdofer arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Caitlin Stewart, Animal Control Officer, read a statement into the minutes, which is included as
Attachment A.

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

2. Circuit Court/Juvenile Division
   a. Resolution to Authorize Funds to Purchase a New Transport Vehicle for the
      Ingham County Family Center
   b. Resolution for Acceptance of the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program for the
      Ingham County Family Recovery Court (Formerly Family Dependency Treatment
      Court)
   c. Resolution Authorizing Training-of-Trainers for Effective Practices in
      Community Supervision
   d. Resolution for Acceptance of the Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant
      from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

4. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center
   a. Resolution to Authorize Purchase Orders for Necessary Modifications to
      Communication Towers Owned By SBA II LLC (Leslie and Mason Towers) for
      the MPSCS/Ingham County Radio Communications System Project
   b. Resolution Honoring Bryce Alford as the Recipient of the Michigan A.P.C.O.
      2019 Radio Frequency Technologist of the Year Award

5. Controller’s Office – Resolution Approving Various Contracts for the 2020 Budget Year

6. Law & Courts Committee – Resolution Amending the Membership Criteria for the
   Ingham County Indigent Defense System Collaborative Committee

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Ingham Family Center Advisory Board – Interview

Jordan Harris-Gonzales interviewed for a position on the Ingham Family Center Advisory Board.

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO NOMINATE JORDAN HARRIS-GONZALES TO THE INGHAM FAMILY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Animal Control
   a. Resolution to Adjust Staffing at Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter

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

Commissioner Celentino stated that the County Services Committee had reviewed this resolution this week. He further stated that he had no issue with this resolution, because it had been vetted through the Committee and had gone through the formal process.

Commissioner Celentino stated that in looking at Agenda Item 3b, which would create a new Animal Control Officer (ACO) position, he questioned why an ACO position was being eliminated through this resolution.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated the two resolutions happened to come before the Committee at the same time, but this resolution had been in progress before the other resolution came about. She further stated that the hope with this resolution was that one of the current ACO's would apply for the Field Supervisory Officer position, and they would be promoted to the Field Supervisory Officer position and their ACO position would be eliminated.

Ms. Morton stated that Jodi LeBombard, Animal Control Director, would not apply for the Field Supervisory Officer position upon her resignation.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino asked if the ACO position was being replaced with a Field Supervisory Officer position, so essentially the position itself would stay, but it would be reclassified.

Ms. Morton stated the ACO promoted to Field Supervisory Office would go up one grade in the pay scale.

Chairperson Koenig stated the Field Supervisory Office would be expected to be the point person for the ACO's.
Ms. Morton stated the position had been in effect in 2010, and had been eliminated during budget cutbacks.

Commissioner Celentino stated he did not understand why an ACO position was being eliminated in this resolution, but in the resolution for Agenda Item 3b, an ACO position was being created.

Ms. Morton stated that the department was not planning to add an additional ACO to the department with this proposal. She further stated in the event that Agenda Item 3b was not passed by the Board of Commissioners, she hoped this resolution could still be considered.

Discussion.

Chairperson Koenig stated that in looking at each area of Animal Control, the Field Supervisory Officer would be the point person for the ACO’s rather than having the ACO’s go directly to the Animal Control Director.

Discussion.

Ms. Morton stated that this resolution would maintain the same net number of full-time employees. She further stated that the ACO position created with the resolution in Agenda Item 3b would only be an additional position until someone left employment.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino asked what ACO position was being eliminated.

Ms. Morton stated the position would be posted internally to determine which current ACO would become the Field Supervisory Officer, but the mechanism would almost be a reclassification of the successful ACO’s position to Field Supervisory Officer. She further stated that net full-time employees would be the same under this resolution.

Commissioner Polsdorfer stated he assumed Human Resources was looking for a new Animal Control Director since Ms. LeBombard announced her resignation last month. He further stated he thought that it seemed prudent to set aside both resolutions on the agenda until a new Animal Control Director was settled to give them the ability to figure out how they would like to address things moving forward.

Commissioner Schaffer stated it was important to separate these resolutions. He further stated that there were currently six ACO’s in Animal Control, and with the passage of this resolution, there would still be six total ACO’s, one person would just have more responsibility.

Ms. Morton stated while the idea of holding out on these resolutions to wait for a new Animal Control Director was valid, the recommendation had been to move forward, as the new Animal
Control Director may not have field supervisory experience. She further stated that the new Animal Control Director would likely hire the Field Supervisory Officer.

Commissioner Trubac stated he thought waiting to hire the new Animal Control Director made sense, however he thought it might make the transition more difficult because of the logistical issues that had already been brought up by the current Animal Control Director.

Chairperson Koenig asked for an explanation of the difference between the current Lead Animal Control Officer position and the proposed Animal Control Officer-Field Supervisor position.

Ms. LeBombard stated the Field Supervisory Officer would be able to make quick decisions and answer ACO’s questions in the absence of the Animal Control Director. She further stated that the Field Supervisory Officer would also complete scheduling and covering call-ins, which should not fall into the Animal Control Director’s responsibility.

THE MOTION CARRIED. **Yea**: Koenig, Schafer, Slaughter, Trubac **Nays**: Celentino, Crenshaw, Polsdofer

3. **Animal Control**
   b. Resolution to Authorize an Additional Animal Control Officer Position to be Assigned to Cruelty Investigations

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TRUBAC, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated this was not about the individual involved in the creation of the position, but he was concerned about the process. He further stated that the believed the creation of a new position would set a bad precedent.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated he heard that the additional position would be temporary until an ACO left the department, but he believed this was too convoluted to undertake at this time. He further stated that he thought the Board of Commissioners should wait until the new Animal Control Director was hired, to see what they would need in the department.

MOVED BY COMM. POLSDOFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION.

THE MOTION TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED. **Yea**: Celentino, Crenshaw, Polsdofer, Slaughter, Trubac **Nays**: Koenig, Schafer

7. **District Court – Consolidation Discussion**

Commissioner Schafer stated he thought it was important to have closure to an issue. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners had never said that the County was not pursuing consolidation after November 1, 2019.
Commissioner Slaughter stated the deadline in the legislation was November 1, 2019 and that deadline had come and gone.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he thought the Board of Commissioners should say that it had investigated District Court consolidation and had determined it was not feasible.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that those involved knew of the November 1, 2019 deadline, as did the media. He further stated that he did not see the Legislature taking this issue back up, as it would take a heavy lift to put the consolidation back in play.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that the one who had been advocating for consolidation in East Lansing was no longer the Mayor, and neither the City of East Lansing nor the City of Lansing had made a statement about it. He further stated the deadline had passed and a resolution had not been passed, therefore it had been dead on arrival.

Commissioner Slaughter stated he did not know if the Board of Commissioners had officially declared its intent to investigate the District Court consolidation opportunity.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated he believed the Board of Commissioners had passed a resolution in the beginning of the year indicating they would investigate the idea.

Commissioner Schafer stated that the Board of Commissioners had asked former State Representative Sam Singh to take the legislation forward. He further stated that it had been a formal process, and he thought that it should clearly be stated that District Court consolidation would not be pursued for the public’s knowledge.

Chairperson Koenig stated the Committee could not make a decision about this, but it could be brought to the full Board of Commissioners or a caucus meeting.

**Announcements**

Commissioner Slaughter thanked Chairperson Koenig for leading the Committee this year.

Commissioner Celentino thanked Chairperson Koenig for her leadership. He further stated he looked forward to working with incoming Committee Chairperson Slaughter next year.

Commissioner Schafer stated he had appreciated Chairperson Koenig’s leadership.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

[Signature]

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ATTACHMENT A

Ingham County's mission encourages individuals to seek their highest potential and has made a commitment to provide the services most important to its citizens by maintaining a highly motivated, well-trained, and service-oriented workforce. For numerous years, Jodi has been exactly that for Ingham County. During difficult times, Jodi stepped up and stood up for the Animal Control Department. Jodi has bridged and repaired relationships not only within the Animal Control department but between the Animal Control Department and our community and between other agencies as well. Jodi has served Ingham County excellently as a Director, and before that, for many years Jodi served Ingham County excellently as an Animal Control Officer. Anyone who knows Jodi knows the enormous effort and hard work Jodi puts back into our community. If Ingham County has a mission to retain motivated, trained, and high-quality employees, Ingham County should do what's necessary to retain Jodi as an employee.