HEALTH MILLAGE SUBCOMMITTEE
September 16, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Tennis, Sebolt, Morgan, Naeyaert, Slaughter, Stivers (arrived at 5:46 p.m.), and Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Gwenda Summers, Marion Owen, Lori Noyer, Jared Cypher, Beth Foster and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tennis at 5:32 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Additions to the Agenda
None.

Limited Public Comment

Gwenda Summers, Community Mental Health, Families Forward Director, gave a presentation on two health millage proposals (handouts).

Marion Owen, Tri-County Office on Aging, Executive Director, gave a presentation on senior services (handout).

Lori Noyer, Ingham Health Plan Corporation, Executive Director, stated that she was excited to take part in the health millage conversation. She further stated that Ingham Health Plan membership was growing and that she appreciated the increased funding throughout the years.

1. Approve Subcommittee Meeting Dates

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked for everything pertaining to the health millage, over the past year, before the next Subcommittee meeting.

Chairperson Tennis directed staff to make any attorney opinions on health millage language and funding distribution available to the Subcommittee prior to the next meeting.
Later in the meeting, Chairperson Tennis stated that without objection the next meeting would be at 5:30 p.m. on September 30th. He further stated that 6 p.m. on October 7th would be a tentative meeting date if necessary.

2. Review Current Millage Language

Chairperson Tennis stated that the language included in the agenda was the from the renewal millage, which was identical to the original language. He read from the resolution.

Commissioner Stivers arrived at 5:46 p.m.

Discussion.

Chairperson Tennis stated that resources have not grown but demand has grown.

3. Review Millage Collection and Expenditures

Chairperson Tennis gave a history of the health millage.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she wanted to note that at the time the mils were reduced the population of Ingham Health Plan had dramatically reduced.

Chairperson Tennis stated that since the reduction, the amount of patients enrolled in the Ingham Health plan had grown again substantially and inflation and the poverty level shifted so folks who were eligible a few years ago were no longer eligible due to being over the $28,000 cap. He further stated that the Ingham Health Plan had previously been able to put into fund balance, even though the population went down, by collecting disproportionate share Medicaid payments, but that that was no longer the case.

Chairperson Tennis stated that Ingham Health Plan was able to provide care for a lot more people than the County was reimbursing them for. He further stated that the budget that was passed in the Finance Committee the week prior would fully fund the Ingham County members of the Ingham Health Plan who meet the millage criteria.

Chairperson Tennis stated that the cost of the Ingham Health Plan had grown back and that they no longer had access to federal matching funds. He further stated that all they had coming in was from the millage.

Chairperson Tennis stated that to recap, the health millage was raising 3.4 million per year until the amount levied was cut from .52 to .35, which raised 2.4 million per year. He further stated that to keep the same rate would not be sustainable.

Discussion.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, stated that everything was okay through 2020 and what the Subcommittee was probably looking at was more of a renewal.
Discussion.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she thought final language for March 2020 was due in December.

Discussion.

Chairperson Tennis stated that without objection the next meeting would be at 5:30 p.m. on September 30th. He further stated that 6 p.m. on October 7th would be a tentative meeting date, if necessary.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he would not support a renewal. He further stated that he thought the health millage needed to be rewritten because the needs of the community were wildly different now and there should be more flexibility for senior care and mental health care.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she would like to see the new health millage framed as a replacement rather than a renewal.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he did not know if the Subcommittee really wanted to limit themselves to the original cap and that he though they should make an assessment of what the needs were now and go from there.

Chairperson Tennis stated that he did not think anything tied them to that language.

Commissioner Morgan stated that mental health was an important issue and that the Subcommittee needed to get it right.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she agreed with her colleagues that they need to reassess the needs of the increasing senior population as well as the mental health needs of the community.

Chairperson Tennis stated that he agreed. He further stated that the Subcommittee was not limiting themselves to the old language and could even consider separate millage levies for separate items.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he would prefer a Christmas tree approach instead of separate levies.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she wanted the Subcommittee to be cautious about expanding beyond primary healthcare and basic needs. She further stated that she was concerned about the millage language being specific and clear without being overwhelming and intimidating so that voters understood exactly where the money was going.

Announcements

None.
Public Comment

Ms. Owen stated that she wanted to suggest looking at other counties that had human services millages that were not tied to one area of need and left it up to the Board of Commissioners and community to determine where the money would be allocated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD