COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
May 5, 2020  
Minutes

Members Present:  Sebott, Celentino, Grebner, Koenig, Stivers (arrived at 6:33 p.m.), Maiville, and Naeyaert.

Members Absent:  None.

Others Present:  Teri Morton, Jared Cypher, Sue Graham, Patrick Lindemann, Paul Pratt, Becky Bennett, Deb Fett, Kelly Jones, Bill Conklin, Elizabeth Noel, and Michael Tanis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sebott at 6:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-48 regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Approval of the March 3, 2020 Minutes

CHAIRPERSON SEBOLT STATED THAT, WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2020 COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN. Absent: Commissioner Stivers

Additions to the Agenda

Substitutes –

1. Drain Commissioner
   b. Resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to Nemoka Drain Drainage District Bonds

8. Controller/Administrator’s Office
   b. Resolution Authorizing Adjustments to the 2020 Ingham County Budget
   c. Resolution Updating Various Fees for County Services (Discussion)

Late –

8. Controller/Administrator’s Office
   d. Resolution Adopting the Ingham County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

Limited Public Comment

None.

Commissioner Stivers arrived at 6:33 p.m.
MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Drain Commissioner**  
a. Resolution to Approve Agreement for Work in County Road Right of Way by Nemoka Drain Drainage District

2. **9-1-1 Dispatch Center** – Notice of Emergency Purchase Order for Monitors for CAD Workstations

4. **Purchasing Department**  
a. Resolution to Approve the Disposal of County-Owned Surplus Property  
b. Resolution Amending the Purchasing Policy to Include Labor, Employment, and Environmental Criteria in Evaluating Bids and Proposals

5. **Public Defender’s Office** – Resolution to Convert a Senior Assistant Public Defender to a Deputy Chief Public Defender

6. **Health Department**  
a. Notice of Emergency Purchase Order for Conduct Fit Testing of N-95 Masks for Health Department Staff Who May Come in Contact with COVID-19 patients  
c. Notice of Emergency Purchase Order for PSA Spots Related to COVID-19 Information

7. **Road Department**  
a. Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of 2020 Seasonal Requirement of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Mixtures for the Ingham County Road Department  
b. Resolution to Approve Agreements Between Ingham County and the City of Leslie, City of Mason, City of Williamston and the Village of Webberville for the 2020 Pavement Marking Program  
c. Resolution to Approve a First Party Agreement Between Ingham County and Hoffman Bros., Inc. and a Second Party Agreement Between Ingham County and Michigan State University for Bid Packet #54-20 Meridian Road from Howell Road to Linn Road Beaumont Road from Bennett Road to Mt Hope Road Forest Road from Farm Lane to Beaumont Road

8. **Controller/Administrator’s Office**  
a. Resolution to Amend the Economic Development Service Contract with Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)  
b. Resolution Authorizing Adjustments to the 2020 Ingham County Budget

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

1. **Drain Commissioner**  
   b. Resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to Nemoka Drain Drainage District Bonds

MOVED BY COMM. NAeyaERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Maiville stated that most of the Commissioners should have received a letter from the Lansing Chamber of Commerce asking the Board of Commissioners to hold off pledging Full Faith and Credit, but he thought that in this case it was money better spent to do this project now rather than later. He further stated that the letter from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) said to hold off but not under what circumstances, and he knew that the County and municipalities would be experiencing some tight finances, but he wondered if the Drain Commissioner could speak to what would happen if this project was delayed.

Patrick Lindemann, County Drain Commissioner, stated that the letter from the LRCC was at best misinformation. He further stated that he was supposed to have had a conference call with the LRCC yesterday, but they had failed to make the call.

Mr. Lindemann stated that he thought the LRCC had a few members in the Montgomery Drainage District that was questioning how big their assessment was going to be. He further stated that his department had one bid come in higher than he thought it would be, but his department continued to do value engineering on all of their projects, and so his department brought down that bid by at least $3,000,000.

Mr. Lindemann stated that all of the bids received, 13 in total, were less than what his department had anticipated. He further stated that the LRCC did not have that information when they wrote the letter.

Mr. Lindemann stated that it would be interesting to find out from the LRCC on Thursday, May 7 why they want to stop the pledging of Full Faith and Credit. He further stated that not doing the project now would cost more money in the future.

Mr. Lindemann stated that the Full Faith and Credit for the resolution that was on the agenda tonight for a drain in Meridian Township had been in the works for almost 8 years. He further stated that he did not think that the letter from the LRCC identified this particular drain as an issue.

Mr. Lindemann stated that he thought that the letter from the LRCC talked about the Montgomery Drain, which was the Frandor project, and that he would be happy to talk about that as well. He further stated that his department would be in front of the County Services Committee again with the Montgomery Drain for Full Faith and Credit, and that he would be happy to go in further detail about that then, but in terms of the drain that was on the agenda tonight, it was a drainage district that had zero detention value within the system.
Mr. Lindemann stated that 20 percent of the houses had severe water problems over the years, and almost 50 percent of the properties in the area had had wet basements. He further stated that there were 8 properties there that had black mold in their basements, which was a terrible health hazard.

Mr. Lindemann stated that because the watershed was already developed, it was very difficult for his department to find storage areas to store the water without it going into people's basements. He further stated that it took a long time to secure those properties for the retention value that they had offered.

Mr. Lindemann stated that one set of properties that his department had bought, 4 properties he believed, all had black mold in their basements. He further stated that his department demolished those houses, as they were health hazards.

Mr. Lindemann stated that the people who were living in those houses had no way out, and that his department had paid for the houses and their moving costs. He further stated that it took a while for his department to put together that project.

Mr. Lindemann stated that his department now had enough room to store a hundred-year storm event, which was in keeping with their standards. He further stated that his department would be re-plumbing that area with brand new pipes as most of the pipes pre-dated the 1950s.

Mr. Lindemann stated that if anyone had ever driven through that neighborhood, they would notice that the road ditches were all dilapidated, as there was no diversion of any water. He further stated that about half of that neighborhood off of Shaw Street to the west of Lake Lansing was built on mushy soil, and so he thought that when Meridian Township had built those properties, they did not take into consideration any of the building issues.

Mr. Lindemann stated that for the people who lived in those houses, his department had a public meeting earlier in the day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the apportionment of this money and only had 6 callers. He further stated that his department had talked to about 30 people from that neighborhood and all of them were excited about this project.

Mr. Lindemann stated that his department could borrow the money without Full Faith and Credit, but with Full Faith and Credit, his department could get a project for a percentage point cheaper. He further stated that there was a large assessment that the County had to pay for all of the roads and drainage of the roads, and without Full Faith and Credit, the County would pay more for that as the interest rate would be higher.

Mr. Lindemann stated that what Full Faith and Credit meant was should it be impossible for his department to collect an assessment from those properties, the County would step in and make the payment to the bond holders in lieu of his department collecting it from the properties. He further stated that he could not imagine that all 200 of the properties would go bankrupt, and so the risk for the County was very small.
Mr. Lindemann stated that his department supplied the County Services Committee with a series of related paperwork. He further stated that he thought the project was a good deal, and that the infrastructure needed to be replaced and could not wait. He asked if there were any questions about this project that he could answer.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she understood that this project would be done in coordination with the road work that Meridian Township was doing and other potential road work in the area.

Mr. Lindemann stated that the Road Department and Meridian Township all had public works issues in the area, and it would be cheaper to have his department borrow the money and to put it on a 20-year payback plan like what was being done with the drain money.

Mr. Lindemann stated that the Road Department had worked with Meridian Township to work out so that his department would be cutting holes in the pavement to insert their pipes, and that drain will be used to repave those sections of the road. He further stated that where his department would not be cutting into the road, the township wanted it to be resurfaced anyway.

Mr. Lindemann stated that for his department to stretch it over 20 years and pave it was a big boost to them. He further stated that the Road Department had cut a deal with the township, so that the township will pay for it out of their road millage, so the actual total amount would be $9,500,000.

Mr. Lindemann stated that it worked out to be less expensive for everyone if it was done this way. He further stated that this way, all of the work could be done under one contractor and have it all be done at the same time.

Commissioner Naeyaert thanked Mr. Lindemann and stated that the Board of Commissioners heard most from constituents when these types of projects were done, so she appreciated that the work was being coordinated with that area. She further stated that she could not imagine what it would be like in that neighborhood if two projects were being done.

Mr. Lindemann stated that it would be a difficult project and messy for a while, but his department always had luck with their projects working with the neighborhoods. He further stated that, in fact, with most of the projects, people in the neighborhood would bring out lemonade for the bulldozer operators.

Commissioner Stivers thanked Mr. Lindemann for all of his hard work on this project and stated that it was extremely popular adjacent to where she lived. She further stated that she had had black mold in her basement because the drainage was terrible.

Commissioner Stivers stated that her neighborhood was excited for what this project would do for the whole area, and she could not imagine why the LRCC would have any problem with it. She further stated that the project would be good for the businesses in that area as well.

Mr. Lindemann thanked Commissioner Stivers and stated that the LRCC should keep in mind was that this project would create good construction jobs that will have a lot of people earning money. He further stated that it was a good way to bring the economy back to hire these people.
Mr. Lindemann stated that the County Services Committee would see the pipes in Frandor that have collapsed when his department brings the Montgomery Drain project before them in a couple of weeks. He further stated that his department’s first priority was to take care of the health, safety, and well-being of these people, our citizens.

Commissioner Grebner asked Mr. Lindemann if the project used “Nemoka” or “Nemoke.”

Mr. Lindemann stated that he did not know if he could spell it for him.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the street was called Nemoke, but the paperwork provided spelled Nemoka. He further stated that he had no preference between them, but he wanted to make sure that someone had put thought into the correct spelling of the name.

Mr. Lindemann stated that Nemoka was the name of the drain and was the name that the drain was named when it was formed. He further stated that, at that point in time, even to change one letter of the drain would be wrong.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he was not trying to change the name of any drain, but he wanted to be clear that it was not the same as the street name.

Mr. Lindemann stated that it was not.

Commissioner Grebner asked if these were 20-year bonds instead of 30-year bonds.

Mr. Lindemann stated that these were 20-year bonds.

Mr. Lindemann stated that the Montgomery drains would be 30-year bonds.

Commissioner Grebner asked if he would anticipate that this would go for 1.8 percent.

Mr. Lindemann stated that it would be within 1.6 percent and 2.2 percent depending on how the market bears.

Mr. Lindemann stated that Roger Swets was the bond attorney and was the one who would be working to make sure that this would get the best exposure possible to get the best interest rate. He further stated that interest rates were pretty cheap right now, and so it was a good deal.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the drain code, which should be repealed and rewritten, gave total power over construction of this drain to the Drain Commissioner. He further stated that the Drain Commissioner would go ahead with this project.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he had already spent a substantial amount of money, and so the Board of Commissioners did not have a choice as to whether this drain would be built. He further stated the Board of Commissioners should not be discussing their decision in terms of blocking this project or ending this program because none of those were likely to happen.
Commissioner Grebner stated that the Board of Commissioners could somehow make it so the project would be unfeasible, but they could not bring the project to a halt as that would have had to have happened at the determination of necessity, which was years ago. He further stated that the real choice here was whether to pledge Full Faith and Credit, which sounded like a formality but it was not.

Commissioner Grebner stated that it was common a hundred years ago for counties and other municipalities to get involved in financial disasters when it pledged the Full Faith and Credit of the County to a bond, and the bond ended up being unpayable and the County got dragged into it. He further stated that there were formalities that required the Board of Commissioners to vote to pay attention that they were pledging the Full Faith and Credit to this drain district.

Commissioner Grebner stated that one thing he had happen, which was in this resolution, was that the Drain Commissioner had assured the Board of Commissioners that he had reviewed the project and not worried that the County would be on the hook. He further stated that the County might be on the hook for the short-term, but it would be quickly possible to recover that money without any real money into it, and while it was quite possible for a drain to be financially unstable, it did not appear to him that this was such a case.

Commissioner Grebner stated that it was not true that the County’s credit was better than drainage district’s credit. He further stated that even though the County’s credit was recently downgraded from AA+ to AA, it still amounted to near-perfect credit.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the real benefit was that when the County borrowed the money, the County had a track record and bonds could be resold on the market. He further stated that if the Nemoka drain borrowed money, the bonds would have to be privately placed before a bid could be placed.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the only that could be done by not issuing the Full Faith and Credit was to stick people for an extra two percent on $9,000,000 over an average of 10 years. He further stated that it was a significant amount of money and what would have been accomplished was that the Board of Commissioners agreed with the LRCC.

Paul Pratt, Deputy Drain Commissioner, stated that he wanted to recognize Jeanine Macintyre had worked with them on the Nemoka Drain project and was a big part of their team.

Discussion ensued about the history of the drain code in Michigan.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Innovation & Technology Department – Resolution to Approve the Support Purchase of Video Server Hardware through Avalon Technologies

MOVED BY COMM. STIVERS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. GREBNER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.
Chairperson Sebolt asked Deb Fett, County Chief Information Officer, given the reports from the Controller’s Office that the County might need to scale back on some spending because of fears of a prolonged economic pinch due to COVID-19, if this was an absolutely necessary project or could options be reviewed at a later date to not spend the $66,000 cost.

Ms. Fett stated that her department put forward this project in order to save money. She further stated that in purchasing their primary datacenter (SAN), her department was using space rapidly, and to buy more space on that, it was more expensive than doing these video servers separately.

Ms. Fett stated that the video servers allow her department to put the data closer to where it was being used, which would save them bandwidth, and in the time of COVID-19, that was critical. She further stated that it would make things easier for them in the long-term.

Chairperson Sebolt thanked Ms. Fett for her answer.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.  Road Department
   d.  Resolution to Authorize an Engineering Design Services Contract for the Okemos Road Bridge Project with Fishbeck

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Discussion.

Commissioner Maiville asked Bill Conklin, Road Department Director, what plans there were for the camelback bridge at this time as part of this project.

Mr. Conklin stated that an environmental assessment and public involvement process was conducted, and several alternatives for this road-river crossing were developed. He further stated that these were vetted with Meridian Township and put in front of the public at two public involvement meetings, and it had been decided to replace both existing bridges with one new bridge.

Mr. Conklin stated that currently southbound Okemos Road was on one bridge, while northbound Okemos Road used this so-called camelback bridge, which was very old and in poor condition. He further stated that an assessment to maintain the bridge were given back to Meridian Township as a pedestrian facility and historic attraction, but the township decided that they did not want to refurbish the bridge.

Mr. Conklin stated that both bridges would be removed and replaced by a single new bridge as the Road Department had recommended and found to be most feasible.

Discussion.
Chairperson Sebolt asked Commissioner Maiville if that answered his question.

Commissioner Maiville stated that it did, and thanked Mr. Conklin for covering the involvement of Meridian Township for a potential historic preservation attraction. He further stated that that was what his question was directed toward.

**THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. **Controller/Administrator’s Office**
   c. Resolution Updating Various Fees for County Services *(Discussion)*

Chairperson Sebolt asked if there were any questions or comments on the recommended changes from any of the Commissioners.

Discussion.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that there was a recommended fee increase for a couple of things at the Potter Park Zoo, but the staff did not want those fee increases to keep in line with other things happening across the Parks Department. He asked if the other Commissioners wanted to signify a consensus to the Controller’s Office to continue with the fee increase as proposed or to respect the wishes of the Zoo and not have those fees increased at this time.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she would be inclined to respect the wishes of the Zoo at this time, especially regarding fee increases that might make people less inclined to use zoo services, given the economic climate.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she agreed with Commissioners Stivers that if the Director did not recommend an increase, she did not see why the Board of Commissioners should impose that.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he agreed with his colleagues because at the Law & Courts Committee meeting, the Commissioners took a look at the recommendations of the department heads and followed their lead. He further stated that if it did not cause any problems within the department, he did not have any problems with the current recommendations.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that an action item would be brought at the next meeting.

8. **Controller/Administrator’s Office**
   d. Resolution Adopting the Ingham County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

MOVED BY COMM. NAeyaert, SUPPORTED BY COMM. STIVERS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Maiville stated that given the extent of the resolution, he wondered if some of the staff or Human Resources Department wanted to discuss the item.
Discussion.

Jared Cypher, interim County Controller, stated that the Ingham County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan was a requirement of the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-42 and 2020-59 for the County to develop such a plan. He further stated that when that requirement came out, County Administrator’s and Controller’s from around the State of Michigan wondered where to begin the process.

Mr. Cypher stated that Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), which could be thought of as the County’s insurer, stepped in and said that they could draft a template plan and make it available to all members of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), which they did and it was a generic plan. He further stated that his department took the plan and customized it to Ingham County and its needs.

Mr. Cypher stated that his department brought it to the County Services Committee as a late item tonight because their feeling about this plan was that it applied to when the County was under the stay-at-home order, which was set to expire on May 15. He further stated that if his department had let it go to the next round, the Board of Commissioners would be adopting it after-the-fact.

Mr. Cypher stated that his department was working on a separate return-to-work plan for what happened after the Executive Order expired on May 15. He further stated that his department sees them as two separate issues and documents, so that was why his department was bringing it before them as a late item tonight.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that he reviewed the plan and had some recommended changes that he had to the plan. He further stated that he shared those thoughts with Mr. Cypher, and that he recommended that the County Services Committee voted separately on these changes as a directive for the Controller’s Office to address them before it came before the full Board of Commissioners.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that he would walk through the changes, and then if the Commissioners wanted to, they could vote on the resolution as-is and then vote on directing the Controller’s Office to make some additional changes.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that, in the opening paragraph, the plan talked about circumstances under which to update the plan, and he suggested the inclusion of County employee feedback would be one of those reasons, given that the employees were the ones who experienced it in real-time, and if they felt that there were certain deficiencies, they would be heard as front-line employees. He further stated that he thought it was important to include language that provided clear lines of communication for employees to report managers, supervisors, or other employees who were not following the guidelines set forth in the plan.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that he thought it was important to include references to County policies, collective bargaining agreements, and State of Michigan statues on whistleblower protections, so employees knew they were protected when they were coming forward with concerns, as well as having a clear line of how to present those concerns. He further stated that it should be made clear that employees who refuse to follow safety guidelines would be sent home, and references should
be included to County policies, collective bargaining agreements, and State of Michigan statues for disciplinary measures to those who failed to follow safety protocols.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that, in addition to the screening protocol, a log should be maintained, which would be useful in any contact tracing efforts undertaken by the Health Department should an employee come in contact with someone who had COVID-19. He asked if any of the Commissioners had any additional thoughts or questions about any of his recommended changes.

Commissioner Celentino stated that thought his recommended changes should be well-received, and especially referencing collective bargaining agreements, employee concerns and input. He further stated that he saw no reason why these should not be included.

Commissioner Grebner stated that the only thing he worried about was that the Commissioners ought to make sure that staff had a chance to respond to the recommended changes in case it tripped over some regulation or legal problem that was not being thought of because it was so involved in collective bargaining agreements.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that was why he stated that there was no need to rush any of the changes tonight to give staff until next week to prepare changes for the Board of Commissioners meeting.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. STIVERS, FOR THE CONTROLLER’S OFFICE TO RECOMMEND AND INCORPORATE CHAIRPERSON SEBOLT’S RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN A SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Grebner asked Chairperson Sebolt if he was asking the Controller’s Office to prepare a substitute resolution for the Board of Commissioners meeting, and so if anybody did not like the changes, the Commissioners could go back to the previous version.

Chairperson Sebolt stated yes.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Commissioner Grebner stated that he thought that Zoom had worked a lot better than he expected, and believed that the Board of Commissioners could find themselves amending their Board Rules long-term because there were some meetings where it was unnecessary to require people to join in-person. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners should think about the use of Zoom long-term.
Chairperson Sebolt stated that he concurred with Commissioner Grebner and was grateful that the County was able to found this product and put it to good use. He further stated that he appreciated the fact that the Commissioners were able to conduct County business in a sort-of normal manner and to fulfill their duties as Commissioners as best as possible.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

[Signature]

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD