HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
August 24, 2020
Minutes

Members Present: Trubac, Stivers, Tennis, Koenig (arrived at 6:52 p.m.), Morgan, Slaughter, and Naeyaert.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Commissioner Maiville, Gregg Todd, Jared Cypher, Teri Morton, Michael Townsend, Jill Bauer, Becky Bennett, Linda Vail, Bill Hendrian, Lindsey McKeever, Eric Thelen, Lori Noyer, Tim Morgan, Marion Owens, Joe Reeves, Elizabeth Noel, and Michael Tanis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Trubac at 6:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-154 regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Approval of the August 17, 2020 Minutes


Additions to the Agenda

Michael Townsend, Budget Director, stated that the Controller’s Office had identified items that warranted correcting in the Controller’s Recommended Budget. He further stated that the total Parks Department total cost should be $3,236,484 on Pages 4-31 and 1-10.

Mr. Townsend stated that the corrections would be emailed out by Wednesday, August 26, 2020. He further stated that the Tri-County Office on Aging budget should reflect $103,676 in the total budget and non-General Fund revenue on Pages 1-10 and 1-34.

Mr. Townsend stated that the Elder Persons Millage was not listed. He further stated that it should have a budgeted amount of $103,676 and a total millage amount of $2,402,114, and be reflected on Page 1-10.

Mr. Townsend stated that the Health Services Millage projected fund balance of $112,022 on Page 7-4 should be $1,460,761. He further stated that the Fair CIP request total should be $140,000 for repaving of surfaces.
Limited Public Comment

None.

1. Budget Hearings

The representatives from each of the following departments/affiliated entities indicated, by either verbal acknowledgement, absence, or silence, that they were satisfied with their respective portions of the Controller’s Recommended Budget:

- Community Agencies
- Community Mental Health
- Cooperative Extension
- Department of Human Services
- Fair
- Health Department
- Housing Commission
- Medical Care Facility
- Medical Examiner
- Mid-Michigan 2-1-1 Alliance
- MSHN Substance Abuse
- Parks
- Transportation Millage

Tri-County Aging Consortium

Marion Owens, Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) Director, stated that she understood that the funds that usually went to fund the dues of the Tri-County Aging Consortium would now be taken out of the Elder Persons Millage. She further stated that she and her office were concerned because the Consortium was formed as a partnership under the Urban Cooperation Act of Michigan with the Counties of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham and the Cities of East Lansing and Lansing.

Ms. Owens stated that it was similar to Community Mental Health, where there was a commitment from Elected Officials to pay these dues. She further stated that every year, her office submitted their information to the County of which was said that it was going into the operating budget, not services.

Ms. Owens stated that the Elder Persons Millage was the only millage being touched. She further stated that while the millage was successful, a group of 12 adults worked hard to pass the millage, so she was concerned about sharing this information with them.

Ms. Owens stated that she understood that there would be administrative costs with operating the budget while in contract with the County, but that was not the intention of the millage. She further stated that between the commitment made between the Counties and Cities, the dues paid by the individual members should not be offset by other funds.
Commissioner Naeyaert asked Ms. Owen if she responded to Jared Cypher's, Deputy Controller, email because this was the first time she heard of the response from TCOA in terms of the proposal.

Mr. Cypher stated that the dues were roughly $71,000.

Ms. Owen stated that he was correct. She further stated that the amount was for Meals on Wheels, and her office recognized the funds should come from the millage.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if Mr. Cypher had talked to Ms. Owens or TCOA.

Mr. Cypher stated that he believed he talked to TCOA last Wednesday, and then told people about their dissatisfaction with the Controller's Recommended Budget.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she recalled that Commissioner Crenshaw might have received an email from TCOA.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she received communication from Tammy Lemmer, TCOA Community Relations and Grants Manager, who expressed concern about the Controller's Recommended Budget. She further stated that her understanding was that Gregg Todd, County Controller, planned to meet with Ms. Lemmer and other representatives to discuss this.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she was strongly against using millage funds for anything except for what voters had intended. She further stated that she believed the original amount in the budget was $103,000, so she was not sure where the $71,000 came from.

Commissioner Stivers stated that $71,000 was a small amount for the Board of Commissioners to find another way besides cutting into TCOA. She further stated that to replace their contribution to TCOA's general operating fund with millage funds would cut back on their services.

Commissioner Tennis asked if he was correct that the understanding was that the $2.4 million from the Elder Persons Millage would be going to the TCOA.

Commissioner Stivers stated that he was correct. She further stated that the understanding of the millage language was that the millage would be used for TCOA, who would be the dispensary of the funding.

Commissioner Tennis asked if he was correct that instead of receiving $2.3 million and allowing the County to save money from the General Fund, TCOA wanted $2.4 million in new funds.

Commissioner Stivers stated that was what the voters campaigned for.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the voters voted for additional senior services, but not for funds to go to TCOA. He further stated that as long as the Board of Commissioners did not make a habit of it, he thought the voters would find it acceptable to use $100,000 from the millage to supplement current spending.
Commissioner Tennis stated that he found it strange that the complaint would be that TCOA would be receiving $2.3 million in new funds instead of $2.4 million.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he agreed with Commissioner Tennis. He further stated that it was a one-year special budget circumstance.

Commissioner Morgan stated that this was unprecedented times, and at the end of the day, if the Board of Commissioners did not do this, it was the loss of a position. He further stated that finding money meant removing staff, and so he supported this.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she wondered how many seniors would not receive Meals on Wheels and other services from TCOA. She stated that this was money intended for services and $100,000 bought many meals for seniors.

Commissioner Stivers stated that seniors not receiving meals was an unacceptable outcome.

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:52 p.m.

Chairperson Trubac stated that the Commissioners could revisit this topic after the adoption of the Controller’s Recommended Budget.

The representatives from each of the following departments/affiliated entities indicated, by either verbal acknowledgement, absence, or silence, that they were satisfied with their respective portions of the Controller’s Recommended Budget:

Veteran Affairs
Health Services Millage

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN, TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONTROLLER’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET:

a. Community Agencies
b. Community Mental Health
c. Cooperative Extension
d. Department of Human Services
e. Fair
f. Health Department
g. Housing Commission
h. Medical Care Facility
i. Medical Examiner
j. Mid-Michigan 2-1-1 Alliance
k. MSHN Substance Abuse
l. Parks
m. Transportation Millage
o. Veteran Affairs
p. Health Services Millage
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. **Budget Hearings**
   - **Tri-County Aging Consortium**

   Mr. Cypher stated that, as a friendly reminder, the Z List had $300,000 available, and if the Board of Commissioners chose not to use the Elder Persons Millage to fund the dues portion for TCOA, one alternative was to add that funding to the Z List.

   Commissioner Stivers stated that she would love to make the Z List $200,000, and put $100,000 to TCOA as promised. She further stated that a $200,000 still gave the Commissioners room for requests.

   Commissioner Tennis asked if he was correct to motion to use $100,000 of the Z List to offset the cost of the $103,000 allocation to TCOA. He further asked this brought back the earlier discussion of the difference between Meals on Wheels and the administration costs.

   Commissioner Stivers stated that the Meals on Wheels cost $31,000.

   Commissioner Tennis stated that Meals on Wheels could be paid out of the millage, as Ms. Owens had said. He further stated that, for the purposing of using the Z List, Commissioners Stivers could motion to use $71,000 to cover the costs of the dues.

   Commissioner Stivers stated that she had asked if it was possible to reduce the amount of Z List to $200,000, instead of going through the Z List process. She asked if the Z List always had an amount of $300,000.

   Commissioner Tennis stated that the Z List was $300,000, and the various Committees added items to the Z List. He further stated that whatever the Committee decided, the different requests went through the Finance Committee.

   Commissioner Tennis stated that, if the total amount of the requests from the Committees was less than $300,000, the requests had a good chance of being funded. He further stated that, if the total was more than $300,000, the Finance Committee would prioritize requests.

   Commissioner Koenig stated in most budget years, the Z List exceeded $300,000 and it could not be changed by one Committee. She further stated that as a Committee, the Commissioners could not change the amount because it would preempt other people’s choices.

   Commissioner Stivers stated that she thought the elimination of the Z List still had to be decided. She asked if the decision whether to eliminate the Z List had been decided.

   Chairperson Trubac stated that he thought it was decided at the Board Leadership meeting.

   Commissioner Morgan asked if there should be a motion to adopt the Controller’s Recommended Budget for TCOA, and other amendments if needed.
MOVED BY COMM. MORGAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SLAUGHTER, TO ADOPT THE CONTROLLER'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR THE TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM.

Commissioner Tennis explained the use of the Z List.

MOVED BY COMM. STIVERS TO RESTORE THE FULL AMOUNT OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM DUES AND MEALS ON WHEELS WITHOUT ADDING TO THE Z LIST.

THE MOTION DIED DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT.

MOVED BY COMM. STIVERS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG, TO ADD $71,683 TO THE Z LIST TO FUND THE DUES OF THE TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM.

Please note that this motion was made out of order, and was then reintroduced later in the meeting.

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if this would ultimately be decided at the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Morgan stated yes. He further stated that, because there was not a long list of Z List items, it was good for Commissioner Stivers' wish on this.

Commissioner Morgan stated that this was not an amendment to the original motion, and so he did not want to get lost in a haze of amendments. He further stated that this was a separate motion for the sake of clarity.

THE MOTION ADOPT THE CONTROLLER'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR THE TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM CARRIED. Yeas: Trubac, Tennis, Koenig, Morgan, Slaughter, Naeyaert Nays: Stivers Absent: None

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that she thought Commissioner Stivers' motion was to fund the whole amount, but now the Commissioners were referring to the dues amount, and those were different amounts. She asked what amount the Commissioners wanted to add to the Z List.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she wanted the full amount added to the Z List, not just the dues.

MOVED BY COMM. STIVERS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG, TO ADD $103,676 TO THE Z LIST TO FUND THE TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM DUES AND MEALS ON WHEELS.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he would support adding $71,000 to the Z List, but he thought using millage funds to fund Meals on Wheels was acceptable.
Commissioner Naeyaert asked if the Commissioners did not add this item to the Z List, the Finance Committee could not have this discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding the past practices of adding items the Z List.

Commissioner Morgan stated that Commissioner Stivers' motion was to add the Tri-County Aging Consortium dues and Meals on Wheels to the Z List, but what he and Commissioner Tennis had suggested was to add $71,683 to the Z List to fund the Tri-County Aging Consortium dues.

Commissioner Stivers stated she wanted the $31,000 for Meals on Wheels to be added Z List was because the millage was meant to supplement to provide additional services, and so if the Board of Commissioners did not include those funds, it would be funds out of the pockets of TCOA. She further stated that the Board of Commissioners could make it work because no other items were being added to the Z List.

Commissioner Tennis stated that, in his opinion, when an agency would be getting $2.3 million in new funds, using $100,000 or $32,000 of that to supplement existing services, he did not see how that could be seen as shortchanging. He further stated that if this was added to the Z List, and if the Board of Commissioners approved it, that would be great, but he resented the use of the term shortchanging when TCOA was getting $2 million in new money in a year when most departments would have budget cuts.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that, as a liaison to the TCOA, they would prefer that the $71,000 be added back, but understood the County has given a gift to the services in the area. She further stated that other millages were on this list, and the Board of Commissioners had not discussed supplementing the Health Department with another millage.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the Board of Commissioners tried not to set precedent, and while this action might be because of the current budget crisis, she supported adding the $71,000 to the Z List.

COMMISSIONER KOENIG WITHDREW HER SUPPORT OF THE MOTION.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she recommended Commissioner Stivers ask for the $71,000 to be added to the Z List because of the failure of support.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he agreed. He further stated that there was a much better chance of getting most of what Commissioner Stivers asked instead of asking for the full amount.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she wanted to change her amendment.

MOVED BY COMM. STIVERS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAeyaERT, TO ADD $71,683 TO THE Z LIST TO FUND THE TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM DUES.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
2. Final Ranking

Chairperson Trubac stated that since there was only one item on the Z List, the Human Services Committee did not need to rank the Z List items.

The Human Services Committee’s addition to the Z List was as follows:

1. Fund Membership Dues of Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) in the amount of $71,683

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

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

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD