LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
January 30, 2020
Minutes

Members Present: Celentino, Crenshaw, Polsdofer, Sebolt, Slaughter, Trubac.

Members Absent: Schafer.

Others Present: Judge Thomas P. Boyd, Treasurer Eric Schertzing, Commissioner Koenig, Heidi Williams, Michael Cheltenham, Teri Morton, Elizabeth Noel, Michael Tanis, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Slaughter 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 January 16, 2020 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2020 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

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

2. Prosecuting Attorney’s Office — Resolution to Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Attorney General, the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office, and the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, Aware Inc., and a Sub-Contract with End Violent Encounters (EVE)

3. Public Defenders Officer
   a. Resolution to Approve an Agreement with the City of East Lansing for its Local Share Contribution under the County’s Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) 2019-2020 Compliance Plan
b. Resolution to Approve an Agreement with the City of Lansing for its Local Share Contribution under the County’s Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) 2019-2020 Compliance Plan

4. Animal Control
   a. Resolution to Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between Capital Area Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic and Ingham County Animal Control

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer.


Judge Thomas P. Boyd, 55th District Court, presented the Report and Recommendations of the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Koenig asked if Judge Boyd would send a copy of the Report and Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Judge Boyd stated yes.

Commissioner Crenshaw thanked Judge Boyd for his presentation to the Law & Courts Committee. He further asked what the appetite was for the Michigan Legislature to fund the recommendations.

Judge Boyd stated that a reporter had asked Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist a similar question, and that he was quoted saying that criminal justice reform was a priority, and the State of Michigan funded their priorities.

Chairperson Slaughter asked what the County could do to implement these recommendations.

Judge Boyd stated that, in 2013, he had helped to rewrite the law relating to how preliminary exams were conducted, and one of the revisions included the encouragement to accept more felony pleas in the District Court. He further stated that the County had not taken full advantage of the law. He further stated that he hoped the creation of the Screening Attorney position would address this concern.

Judge Boyd stated that he supported an increase of funding to the Corrections Medical Department, and also encouraged the Board of Commissioners to conduct studies to determine if the County was paying competitive wages to employees.
4. Animal Control
   b. Resolution to Authorize a Reorganization of the Ingham County Animal Control
      and Shelter (Discussion)

Heidi Williams, Animal Control Director, stated that the lack of a Deputy Animal Control Director
constrained her abilities to lead and oversee the Animal Control and Shelter. She further stated that
the current structure of the Department required employees to direct to numerous supervisors,
which had led to feelings of inequalities between the employees.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked what Collective Bargaining Unit consisted of the Animal Care
Giver Manager position.

Discussion.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that the position was an at-will, Managerial & Confidential
position.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he supported the resolution.

Commissioner Sebolt asked if there was a Collective Bargaining Unit involved.

Ms. Williams stated no.

Ms. Morton stated that one of the Animal Care Giver workers would be designated as lead worker.

Discussion.

Ms. Morton stated that she would forward her communication with the Capital City Labor
Program (CCLP) union to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that, because of the issues with Animal Control in 2018, he wanted to
be sure that the reorganization of the Animal Control and Shelter would continue to allow for direct
oversight from the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Williams stated that she agreed with Commissioner Sebolt. She further stated that she made
sure to include several of the animal care responsibilities in the Deputy Animal Control Director
job description.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that he supported the resolution.

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE
THE RESOLUTION.
Commissioner Sebolt stated that he would vote against approving the resolution at this time, though he supported the addition of the position, because he wanted to follow the reorganization process.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED. Yeas: Slaughter, Polsdofer, Celentino, Crenshaw, Trubac Nays: Sebolt Absent: Schafer

Discussion.

5. Law and Courts Committee – Resolution Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Special Millage for Continuing Comprehensive Emergency Telephone Services (911 Services)

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Ms. Morton stated that there was a minimal implication if the 9-1-1 Services millage were to be changed from a four-year renewal to a ten-year renewal. She further stated that it was related to the Headlee millage rollback, and while a Headlee millage rollback had not happened since 2006, she was unsure if it would pose a problem.

Commissioner Sebolt asked if the Board of Commissioners could renew the millage earlier.

Ms. Morton stated that she was unsure.

Discussion.

Commissioner Sebolt asked, when the Headlee millage override was previously approved, if it was for the General Operating millage or if it rolled back another millage.

Ms. Morton stated that it was for the General Operating millage.

Commissioner Trubac asked the Commissioners should table the Resolution and if legal counsel could provide Headlee millage clarification to the committee.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the millage language did not need to be approved until May in order to be placed on the August 2020 Election ballot.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino asked Ms. Morton to provide clarification to the Commissioners before the next Law & Courts Committee meeting.

MOVED BY CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY SEBOLT, TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION PENDING LEGAL COUNSEL CLARIFICATION ON MILLAGE RENEWAL.
THE MOTION TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Schafer.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

[Signature]

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD