LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE
July 16, 2020
Minutes

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Gregg Todd, Teri Morton, Matt Nordfjord, Janice Dooley, Greg Feamster, Debbie Edokpolo, Major Darin Southworth, Cynthia Johnson, Mary Sabaj, KC Brown, Sarah Osburn, and Michael Tanis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Slaughter at 6:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-129 regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Approval of the June 11, 2020 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2020 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additions to the Agenda

Late –
4. 9-1-1 Attorney-Client Communication

Limited Public Comment

None.

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

1. Sheriff’s Office – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Mid-Michigan Police K9 to Purchase and Train a Replacement Canine Dog for the Sheriff’s Office

2. 9-1-1 Dispatch Center – Resolution to Authorize the Conversion of the 9-1-1 Radio System Administrator from Part-Time to Three-Quarter Time

3. Law & Court Committee
c. Resolution Honoring Nicholas Matthew Rubeck
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

3. Law & Court Committee
   a. Resolution to Adopt the 2021 Juvenile Justice Community Agency Process Calendar

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND TO ALLOCATE $125,000 FOR THE 2021 JUVENILE JUSTICE MILLAGE COMMUNITY AGENCY PROCESS.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Law & Court Committee

Debbie Edokpolo, Deputy Health Officer, presented her report to the Law & Courts Committee.

Darin Southworth, Corrections Major, presented his report to the Law & Courts Committee.

KC Brown, CATS Program Supervisor, presented her report to the Law & Courts Committee.

Cynthia Johnson, Sheriff's Office Intake Referral Coordinator, presented her report to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Lansing School District had passed their fiscal year budget and that began on July 1, 2020. He asked Ms. Johnson if Lansing School District did not allocate money for a full-time equivalent (FTE) for the Ingham County Jail as they had before.

Ms. Johnson stated that it was her understanding that Lansing School District did not have money for summer school. She further stated that she had been working becoming a General Educational Development (GED) tester so that there was an additional person to test people, but she would not be able to do that as she had thought.

Commissioner Celentino stated that, in 2020, $1,024,000 was allocated for programming from the Justice Millage, and for 2021, a total allocation of $1,043,456 was requested. He further stated that, since this was the first year these services were offered and due to the interruption of COVID-19, he wanted to give them another chance to see what else they could do.

Commissioner Celentino asked Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, in terms of the unspent funds from the previous year, if that would be enough to issue another Request for Proposal (RFP) for an additional service.
Ms. Morton stated that, in the first year, many of the programs started mid-year, and so only about $500,000 of the $1,000,000 was spent. She further stated that, this year, most of the money was allocated, but she was not sure how much would be spent.

Ms. Morton stated that one of her only issues with issuing another RFP for additional services was that the County would not necessarily have that surplus every year. She further stated that once the County bonded for the Justice Complex project, they would know how much their payments would be.

Ms. Morton stated that Major Southworth had brought up to her about whether or not there should be a process for the rest of that money because the money was not going anywhere. She further stated that she wondered if any of the attendees had ideas for what could be done.

Ms. Morton stated that Mary Sabaj, Community Corrections Director, could touch on the fact that there was an increase on electronic monitoring this year because of less people being in the Ingham County Jail due to COVID-19. She further stated that the County might receive reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but the Board of Commissioners had approved a resolution to use some of the surplus money to cover the costs of electronic monitoring.

Ms. Sabaj stated that her department had been fortunate to have this resource for the increased use of electronic monitoring due to COVID-19. She further stated that her department began to allow indigent funding when people were losing their jobs, had reduced hours at their work, or Judges deciding that being in the community was a safe option.

Ms. Sabaj stated that she saw her department needing additional funding to get to the end of December 2020 if they wanted to maintain their ability to provide services at the levels they were being used.

Ms. Sabaj presented her report to the Law & Courts Committee.

Greg Feamster, Circuit Court Pretrial Services, presented his report to the Law & Courts Committee.

Janice Dooley, Deputy Court Administrator, presented her report to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Crenshaw thanked all of the attendees at the meeting tonight. He stated that when the Board of Commissioners pondered putting the Justice Millage on the ballot several years prior, the Commissioners heard that programming was going to be important to sell this to the voters. He further stated that the work of the attendees had shown that it was a great investment in our community.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he wanted to thank the attendees for their hard work. He further stated that he knew COVID-19 had changed the situation for the County, but the attendees continued to persevere to provide those services to their constituents.
Commissioner Crenshaw stated that, as a recommendation, the County might want to put together a report to the community on what the impact of services had been since the Justice Millage passed. He further stated that he thought the community wanted to see what they were getting for their tax dollars.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that he agreed with Commissioner Crenshaw’s recommendation. He further stated that he appreciated the attendees for coming before the Law & Courts Committee tonight and wanted to thank all of them for their work.

4. 9-1-1 Attorney-Client Communication

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT, TO ACCEPT THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE 9-1-1 TOWER EQUIPMENT UPGRADE ISSUE FOR THE TOWER LOCATED IN LESLIE TOWNSHIP OF INGHAM COUNTY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PROCEED IN THIS MATTER CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Announcements

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that Gregg Todd, County Controller designate, was on the Law & Courts Committee meeting tonight. He further stated that he wanted to acknowledge his presence.

Public Comment

Controller designate Todd thanked the Law & Courts Committee for inviting him to this meeting tonight. He stated that he looked forward to moving North in the coming weeks to join their team.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD