

# FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2024

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Savoie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was available via Zoom.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Savoie, Jim Martin, Scott Shackleton, Jim Traynor, and Damon Lieurance

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Karen Senkus, DJ Welton, Cady Bauers, Ken Talsma, ATCO, Tracey Holt, and Kelly Church

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Anthony Zakic.

## Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

## Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

## Correspondence and Informational Items

The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's Investment reports, the VISA billing, travel requests, and the Home Health and Hospice report. No action required.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### Health Department – Audit Presentation and Approval FYE 9-30-2023 (Anderson Tackman & Co)

Ken Talsma from Anderson, Tackman and Company provided a presentation of the Chippewa County Health Department audit and financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. The audit indicates that the financial statements and reports follow the government auditing standards and is classified as an unmodified opinion, a clean audit. The Health Department did show a loss of \$811,078, leaving the unrestricted fund balance of \$1,072,123.00. There were no findings and Mr. Talsma spoke about the Home Health and Hospice losses a couple of times, regarding a potential letter from the State of Michigan, if there is a loss for a third year in a row and he spoke about the fund balance; which should be between 10%-15% of the following years expenditures.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the Chippewa County Health Department Audit FYE 9/30/2023 as presented and to publish and release where necessary. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

### Health Department – Annual Write-offs - \$168,038.60

- Environmental Health - \$394.00
- Public Health - \$9,841.88
- SHACC - \$5,456.82
- Hospice - \$35,312.85
- Home Health - \$116,804.05
- SHACC dental - \$229.00

The Committee reviewed the annual write-offs for the Health Department; these write-offs are for services provided through 9/30/2023 (more than 365 days old). The write-off is lower this year due less immunizations. The Committee reviewed these and prior years write-offs; noting that these write-offs are being monitored and assuring these are not the systemic issues that the Health Department previously had.

**It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the Chippewa County Health Department write-offs for services provided through 9/30/2023 as follows: Environmental Health \$394.00, Public Health Insight \$9,841.88; SHACC \$5,456.82; Hospice \$35,312.85; Home Health \$116,804.05; and SHACC dental \$229.00 for a total of \$168,038.60. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Office of Emergency Services – 800mhz Pager Project – Title III Funds**

Office of Emergency Services Director Greg Postma ask the Committee to review a 800mhz Pager Project utilizing Title III Funds; to help the Townships migrate to the MPSCS 800mhz system which is critical to emergency communications within the County. The Title III funds would be used as follows: \$24,000.00 for pager talk group fee through MPSCS (16 Fire Departments @\$1,500.00 each) and \$77,400.00 for 129 pagers at \$600.00 per pager. The plans for future Title III for 2025 and 2026, 40 pagers and 39 pagers respectfully.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the Title III 800mhz Pager project as presented for FY2024; \$24,000.00 for fire department pager talk group (16 Fire Departments at \$1,500/department) and \$77,400.00 to purchase 129 pagers at \$600.00 per pager. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Public Defender – Whisper Room \$16,121.00 (waive policy)**

The Committee reviewed the invoice for the MIDC requested Whisper Room that will be installed into the back of the District Courtroom at a total price of \$16,121.00 which will be paid through the MIDC Grant; the Committee was asked to waive the County purchasing policy.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize the invoice from Whisper Room, Inc, in the amount of \$16,121.00 and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Sheriff's Office – Public Works Agreement with the City of Sault Ste. Marie**

The Committee reviewed the updated Public Work Agreement between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Chippewa County Sheriff Office, to provide public work crew through community correction, this Agreement will have an automatic renewal on July 1<sup>st</sup> for up to five (5) year, unless terminated by either party with a 90-day notice.

**It was moved by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the public works agreement between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sheriff's Office. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Sheriff's Office – Rudyard School Resource Officer Program**

The Committee reviewed a request from Sheriff Bitnar regarding Rudyard Area Schools having a full-time School Resource Officer, which Rudyard would be will to reimburse the County 10 months of the wages, fringes, including equipment costs and a new vehicle.

**It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize a new full-time Road Deputy position, if needed and approved by Rudyard Area School, to be the School Resource Officer at Rudyard Area Schools, with Rudyard Area Schools reimbursing the County for 10 months of the wages, fringes, and equipment expenses related to the position. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Sheriff’s Office – Sheriff’s Storage Building Change Order – sand/gravel - \$33,900.00**

The Committee reviewed the change order presented through U.P. Engineers from contractor Arbic Construction, Inc. for additional sand and gravel extensions of 15’ to the north, west and east sides of the project; based on the new site plan provided by UPEA on March 4, 2024. A total cost of \$33,900.00

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the sand and gravel change order, as presented for \$33,900.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Sheriff’s Office – Police Package Patrol Truck \$51,522.00 from Fund 232 (waive & budget)**

The Committee reviewed a request from Sheriff Bitnar to purchase a 2024 Silverado Police Package Truck, which was not budgeted for in FY2024, the Sheriff is trying to work around the delays in delivery of vehicles which the County has gone through, as we are still waiting for delivery of a truck that was approved for purchase in October 2022. We are told delivery will be in the next 4 to 6 weeks. The state bid price from Berger Chevy from Grand Rapids is \$51,522.00; the Sheriff is requesting that the County purchasing policy be waived and that a budget amendment be approve to purchase the vehicle from Fund 232.

**It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize, the purchase of a 2024 Silverado Police Package Truck from Berger Chevy for \$51,522.00; to waive the County’s purchasing policy and to authorize a budget amendment for Fund 232 for the purchase. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Sheriff’s Office – Approve (2) SUV’s bid - \$88,970.00**

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the two (2) Dodge Durango Police/Pursuit package SUV’s, which are AWD; one timely bid was received from O’Connor’s Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in the amount of \$88,970 (\$44,485 per vehicle). A second bid was received late and not opened.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the bid from O’Connor’s Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram to purchase two (2) Dodge Durango, Police/Pursuit package SUVs, at the price of \$88,970.00 (\$44,485 per vehicle) as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Animal Control – Animal Protection Millage Language**

The Committee reviewed the Animal Protection Millage Proposal, not a renewal, but an increase from .100 mills to .175 mills; which will generate approximately \$230,700 annually, this language was reviewed by legal.

**It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the Animal Protection Millage Proposal for the August 2024 election as follows:**

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTION MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

(This proposal, if approved by the voters, will permit the COUNTY to fund the Chippewa County Animal Shelter to be used solely as a facility that does not euthanize for space, and, as such, the funding will be used to provide medical and supplemental care for the health, safety, and well-being of the animals housed and cared for at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter as well as pet adoption assistance, including spaying and neutering, to Chippewa County community members.)

Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN be increased by .175 mill (\$0.175 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of six years, being 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030, inclusive to provide operating funds to the Chippewa County Animal Shelter to be used exclusively to allow the facility to not euthanize for space, and to provide medical and supplemental care for the health, safety, and well-being of the animals housed and cared for at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter as well as provide financial assistance to Chippewa County community members, who income qualify, for spay and neuter, and shall the County levy such millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year (2025) an estimated \$230,770?

YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

**On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Administration – Nationwide Deferred Compensation Transfer Documents (Authorize)**

- **Administrative Services Agreement (County and Health Department)**
- **Transition Kit (County and Health Department)**
- **Fixed Applications (County and Health Department)**
- **Fixed Applications (County and Health Department)**
- **Morgan Stanley – Consulting Agreement**

The Committee reviewed the required documents to continue the process of moving the County Employee's to one deferred compensation plan with Nationwide through Morgan Stanley.

**It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to authorize and approved signatures for the Nationwide Deferred Compensation Plan transfer documents for Nationwide and Morgan Stanley, as presented and referred above. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Administration – Release RFQ for Copier Machines (Clerk and Public Defender)**

The Committee reviewed the RFQ for copiers for the Clerk's Office and the Public Defender.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the request for quotations for two copiers to be released, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Finance - Claims and Accounts – February – County and Health Department**

**It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend the approval of February County bills and payroll: general claims \$279,989.31, other fund claims \$1,120,321.96, payroll \$604,645.00, and Health Department claims \$398,003.89 and payroll \$225,308.17 total claims \$2,628,268.33. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Committee Comments**

Commissioner Martin spoke about the efforts to fight against the Legislation that is preempting local control for solar and wind developments; and a bipartisan effort to gather signature to restore local control of zoning regulations. The Committee also spoke about the Small Business Loans being offered for the drought of 2023; and that nothing is being done for the lack of snow for the small business, a declaration must come from the governor; many of these smaller businesses were already affected by the closure of the National Parks in 2023. Discussion followed

### **Chairman Comments**

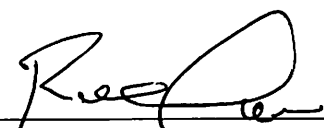
Chairman Savoie let the Committee know that a similar HB (5278); which is no longer under consideration; was looking at a similar legislation to eliminate local control.

### **Adjourn**

**It was moved by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Traynor to adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

  
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Kelly J. Church, Recorder

  
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Robert Savoie, Chairman.