

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2023

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Savoie called the meeting to order at 4:32 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, Jill Schaefer, Kammelle Radar, and Kelly Church

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Anthony Zakic, Marta Lalonde, Suzanne Lieurance, Jennifer, and Cindy

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

Kammelle Radar addressed the Committee with her concerns of the federal and state government taking away the constitutional rights of the counties and townships with regards to septic laws and gun laws She believes these issues are going to cause hardships and damage to the local person and that there is a need to 'Make a Stand' and that you cannot vote out communism.

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

Environmental Health Wage and Staffing Adjustment Proposal

The Committee reviewed the request from the Health Department Administration to create a 29-hour per week part-time clerical position at \$13.71 per hour based on the County pay scale and increase the two sanitarians wage by \$2.00 per hour (capped scale of \$26.96). These changes will be funded by new funding and based on prior year surplus from EGLE Water, Food ELPHS and EGLE Drinking Water. Commissioner Shackleton asked if County Administration agreed with the proposal, which was confirmed.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve changes for Environmental Health wage and staffing; by adding a 29 hour per week part-time positions at \$13.71 per hour and to increase the two sanitarians wage by \$2.00 per hour as presented by the HD Administration and recommended by County Administration. This change will be effective 1/1/2024. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Home Health and Hospice Non-Union and Union staff – Sick time

The Committee was given a brief update on the Home Health and Hospice staffing, with regards to the ending of the programs being provided by the CCHD staff. The Home Health and Hospice staff during a clinical meeting asked that their sick time pay be paid out in full; if they stay until the end of the program. Currently non-union receive no pay out and the three Union member would receive 50% payout after accumulating 10 years of service. As of 11/30/2023 there are 771.82 hours on the books with a payout value of \$21,964.41. Discussion followed. This request for sick time payout will include all staff members of the Home Health and Hospice programs, approximately twenty-one employees.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to authorize the request to pay out 100% of the sick time on the books for the staff of Home Health and Hospice employees, who stay until the end of the program or upon layoff, both union and non-union. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department - Rebion Purchase Agreement - \$7,995.00 Blinq (pediatric vision scanner)

The Committee reviewed the purchase order request to purchase the Rebion Blinq package from Rebisca, Inc., at the price of \$7,995.00, this is a budgeted item; that will need to have the County purchasing policy waived. The Hearing and Vision program is a mandated program; and this will be a new tool to help diagnose micro-strabismus and amblyopia (lazy eye).

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize the purchase of the Rebion Blinq package from Rebisca, inc. at the price of \$7,995.00 and to waive the County purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Defender – Legal Services Agreement Jana Mathieu (Conflict Attorney)

Upon review; the Committee noted the increase in hourly rates of pay per the MIDC; \$120/hour for misdemeanor's, \$130/hour for felonies, \$145/hour for capital cases plus mileage at \$0.655/mile. The Committee approved the additional contract as presented.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the new Legal Services contract for Jana Mathieu starting November 27, 2023 through September 30, 2024, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Department

Canteen Services Renewal – Amendment One

Johnson Controls – Annual Renewal – Fire Protection – \$11,910.00

The Committee reviewed two renewal contracts for the Sheriff's Department; one for food services showing increases between 0.08 and 0.39 cents depending on the number of inmates being served and the meal types. The renewal for Johnson Controls Fire Protection was also reviewed with the cost at \$11,910.00 to cover the OP panel fire alarm system, the wet sprinkler system, access control system, Valcom 51XX system and the CCTV system from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the renewals for both the Canteen Services; prices as presented, with increases between 0.08 and 0.39 per meal and the Johnson Controls annual renewal for fire protection covering the systems referenced above at the price of \$11,910.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems

FY2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program – Local Consent Agreement

MOA – for Endpoint Security Services (Federally Funded Services)

CISA – Assessments Service – Vulnerability Scanning

The Committee reviewed three requests from the Information Systems Department, the first seeking approval to seek grant funding through a Local Consent Agreement; to receive services for endpoint detection and response software license, cybersecurity assessments and Incident responses planning and training. The second request is to approve an MOA for Endpoint Security Services which are federally funded services an agreement between Center for Internet Security, Inc. "CIS" the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center "MS-ISAC" and the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center "EI-ISAC" for Endpoint Security Services "ESS" – the Information Systems Department will start with the election's computers. The third request is to obtain Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency "CISA" assessments services for vulnerability scanning and target discovery, to maintain enterprise awareness of the internet-accessible systems. All requests come with no additional costs.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize seeking State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, signing the MOA for Endpoint Security Services and the CISA Assessment Services, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Proposal

The Committee reviewed the information provided by Morgan Stanley regarding changing our current offerings for employee deferred compensation plans from the current four to one; which will not only be a savings for the employees through fees. Morgan Stanley will also serve as Fiduciary for the plan, the fees would reduce from 1.55% to .86%, it would simplify the investments and have zero financial impact to the County. The next steps are to lock in fee reduction with service provider, establish a transition timeline (90-120 days), coordinate with employees, with a projected completion of April 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize Morgan Stanley’s proposal to implement their services for the employees deferred compensation plans and to serve as the Fiduciary. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – OPEB Investments

The Committee was given an overview and update of the current investments and balances for the monies in trust with MERS to be used for retiree health care current and future charges. The actuarial shows that as of 12/31/2022 and the current balances that the County and the EDC would be fully funded, if there were no changes and after an upcoming deposit of \$2 million to the Health Department retiree health vehicle, they would be approximately \$1 million short. Chuck Leonhardt laid out a few different options to the Committee regarding the funds, including keeping them in the market with MERS, changing to Morgan Stanley and laddering out the investments for a twenty-five-year period in fixed accounts, using the funds to pay the annual charges for the retiree health care costs, as well as, discussing something in the middle. A lengthy discussion followed, reviewing the prior investments, the gains, and losses since 2013, investing for the long haul, flexibility, and risk tolerance. Administration will get a fees comparison between MERS and Morgan Stanley and once the updated actuarial is available, and bring this information back to the Committee. The actuarial is due by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

Administration – MMRMA 2024 Renewal (Net Asset Distribution/Renewal/Contribution)

Builder’s Risk – CCACS \$2,750 to \$3,000

The Committee reviewed the net asset distribution of \$34,539.00, which is recommended to be returned to the County’s loss fund and the proposed contribution for renewal of FY2024 for the County’s Property and Liability Insurance including the Health Department. The County’s outstanding reserves still exceed the minimum requirements of one and half times self-insured retention \$112,500.00 plus any known reserves; due to this underwriting has increased the County member loss fund contribution by \$50,000. Total premium for the year is \$334,261.00; with the CCHD portion being \$98,566. The Committee was also asked to approve a Builder’s Risk policy for the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter at a cost between \$2,750 to \$3,000.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the net asset distribution of \$34,539.00 be returned for the County’s loss fund and to approve the renewal and contribution breakdown as presented totaling \$334,261.00 to MMRMA for the County’s FY2024 Property and Liability Insurance and to approve and authorize payment for a Builder’s Risk policy for the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter’s Addition/Renovation for not greater than \$3,000.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – November – County and Health Department

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to recommend the approval of November County bills and payroll: general claims \$383,213.21, other fund claims \$1,637,921.53, payroll \$592,572.94, and Health Department claims \$298,455.31 and payroll \$222,005.36 total claims \$3,134,168.35. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED. (4-1 with Commissioner Lieurance abstaining)

Finance – Budget Amendments for FY2023

The Committee reviewed the year end budget amendments, and discussed the continued funding of MERS unfunded liability, as by paying these down, it will help reduce monthly expenditures in the future and lower our costs for general operations.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the year-end budget amendments and to include a MERS payment of \$500,000.00 from the General Fund to cover MERS divisions with unfunded liabilities. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee Comments

Commissioner Shackleton responded to the earlier public comments and through his observations – elections have consequences, that are limiting the local control in the following areas: 1) county zoning, 2) septic code, 3) how much the county must pay the public defender, 4) Right to Work, 5) gun control and 6) schools being affected by both the state and federal government. Commissioner Lieurance attended an UPCAP meeting where discussion was monopolized by State of Michigan mandates and the encroachment of control being an acute problem. Commissioner Traynor reported on the prison liaison meeting and the need for employees in the prison, as well as, Mackinac County looking to house some of the Line 5 workers, similar to what Kinross Township has done.

Chairman Comments


Chairman Savoie echoed the comments of Commissioner Shackleton; indicating that loss of the local control is leading to ineffective boards that includes the townships and school boards also.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.


Kelly J. Church, Recorder


Robert Savoie, Chairman.