

# FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2023

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 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, Jill Schaefer, Carrie Elizabeth Clow, Jaime VanderBusch, Kathy Daily, Sheri Ailing, Anita Weizrick, Deborah Colbert, Elizabeth Curtis, Theresa Curtis, Andrew Curtis, Janet & Chris Lightfoot, Carrie Raynard, Susan Brown, Marty Grobaski, Colleen Lavey, Patty Ewing, Missy Pingatore, Patricia Ordiway, Duane Ordiway, Sam Garlinghouse, Andrea Schwab, Dolores Carruthers, Tracey Holt, Dolores Kivi, Diane McDonald, Lana Wilderspin, Colleen Myotte, Devin Berry, Kim Smith, Vishnu Chander, Patty Meehan, Kelly Church (there were two names I could not decipher.)

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Anthony Zakic, Justine Moss, hhintake, Tom Fornicola, Bridget B, Suzanne Lieurance, Frank, Lori Miller, Julia Merchard, Stephanie Woods, Kris Skogen, DHill, S Woolever (and various iPads)

### Approval of the Agenda

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

### Public Comment

The Finance Committee received two letters requesting the Home Health and Hospice programs remain open. The Committee heard comments from Tracey Holt, Kevin Kalchik, Carrie Clow, Colleen Myotte, Tracy Osborne, Dolores Kivi and Dr V. Chander whom all spoke about the importance of the Home Health and Hospice; Ms. Holt appreciates the conversations and understands the tough decisions that need to be made and is hoping for a smooth transition and said that sometimes change can be good; Mr. Kalchik thanked the HD Administration for providing information and will be working with staff to make a recommendation and hopes that no decision would be made tonight; Carrie Clow spoke about her experience with hospice and the needs of community; how good the staff was helping with her family's needs; Tracy Osborn spoke about her 4<sup>th</sup> Graders and a grant written where each student was able to choose an item to be donated to the Hospice House, she read one of the letters from a student and she spoke of the sense of community that hospice brings; Dolores Kivi spoke about home health care and the role the nurses have in the community with physical therapy, post-surgical care with the ability to recover at home and not returning back to the hospital and Dr. V. Chander spoke about home health being a bridge for the community members between the hospital and the patients homes; and that it is an important resources, allowing patients to keep their independence.

### Correspondence and Informational Items

The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's Investment report, the VISA billing, travel requests, the MERS RHFV Contributions and Earnings quarterly report and the Home Health and Hospice report. No action required.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### Home Health and Hospice Programs Options

The Committee held a lengthy conversation and contributed many thoughts and gave background regarding the home health and hospice programs. Commissioner Shackleton starting by thanking everyone for being at the meeting and paying attention. He let everyone know that the Committee is aware of the amazing services offered through the Home Health and Hospices programs and that no one here wants to make this cut; and that Chippewa County Health Department is the last County left in the State of Michigan offering these services with a great staff; but that the finances no longer work; with reduction Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

Chippewa County is too small of rural County to be able to lose \$500,000 - \$800,000 annually; but he wanted everyone to know that we would go slow, give time to explore options and resources; making sure the important thing is that the services be available to the county residents and that if necessary he would like to commit to maintain the programs through the end of FY24, and is willing to have the County take the financial hit – to try to find resources to keep the services and find out how and who is available and working together to find a solution. He ended with a reminder that Chippewa County has very little to do with the Hospice Houses of the EUP and that the County provides the nursing services through Health Department; but that Hospice is its own entity. Commissioner Savoie commented next stating the Hospice Homes are not the County; they are not a county role and that in County government there are certain things we must provide that are mandated by law and statute. Home Health and Hospice is not a mandated obligation to the County; but that these programs are precious to not only to him but to the community. That he also is willing to have the County take the financial hit to run the programs up to 12/31/2024, but obligations of the Commission are to maintain the mandated programs at a serviceable level and these monetary losses are putting the County into a real bind. He appreciated the comments from Mrs. Tracey Holy that changes are coming; that the Committee has been monitoring the program for over the past seven years and that he is hopeful that MyMichigan will be able to offer the services; and each County before that has cut county run or operated home health and hospice still have the services available. Commissioner Taynor has reached out to communities and all have home health and hospice, some have three and four options for services in one community and thinks extending the time for the current services and to look for resolutions for the services for the constituents, is the way to go. Commissioner Martin agrees with everything that is being said that change can be good; and that no one wants to get rid of the home health and hospice programs but that it is not sustainable, nor fiscally responsible. No new revenue options have been brought forward to help maintain the programs and that he moved his mother here because of these exact services; and that this was a decision not made lightly or suddenly. Commissioner Lieurance indicated that no one came in here today to shutter the doors immediately; and if the trends continue, he is not sure if we will have enough money. Further conversation and comments ensued.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, that the County continue home health and home hospice care until upto the end of 2024. The County will use that time to investigate all solutions and attempt to make sure these important services are available to our county residents. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

Finance Chair Savoie took a couple minute recess giving an option to those that wanted to exit the meeting.

#### **Health Department Quality Assurance Program Improvement (QAPI) Monitoring**

- **Hospice**
- **Home Health**
- **Home Care/Private Duty**

The Committee received and reviewed the programming data for the Hospice, Home Health and Home Care/Private Duty for the period covering July 2023 to September 2023. The five 2022-2023 Hospice Performance Improvement Plans from the CHAP deficiencies. The five Hospice PIP's from 2022-2023, three were at 100%, one at 90% and another averaged 86%. The seven Hospice PIP's initiated in May 2023 showed that six of the seven at 100% compliant and the last averaged 95%. Private Duty's one PIP from 2022-2023 was 100% compliant for the three months. The six Home Health PIP's from 2022-2023 had five in compliance at 100% and the last averaged 80%. There were four PIP's from 2023-2024 Home Health and they were all 100% compliant. This is a quarterly review by the Board to provide oversight to the Health Department. Commissioner Savoie thanked Health Officer Senkus and all the staff for their hard work; as it was not that long ago that the accreditation process almost shut down the program and now, we are almost 100% compliant in most areas.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to acknowledge oversight and the programming updates for Home Health, Home Care/Private Duty and Hospice services provided by the CCHD between July 2023 through September 2023 have been reviewed. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Health Department – Pink Ribbon Request 23-01 - \$1,296.96**

The Committee reviewed Pink Ribbon request #23-01 in the amount of \$1,296.96 for approval. Commissioner Shackleton gave a quick review of the funds and how they are utilized for community members battling cancer.

**It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize payment for Pink Ribbon request #23-01 in the amount of \$1,296.96. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Office of Emergency Services – Add back-up Point-to-Point Connection with PFN**

The Committee reviewed a request from Director Postma, regarding a point-to-point, fiber line called 10M Layer 2 PTP to allow for a redundant connection to the 800MHZ system; rather than relying on only one connection. The cost would be \$425.00 per month plus an initial set up fee of \$775.00.

**It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize the PFN quote to add a 10M Layer 2 PTP; as the monthly cost of \$425.00 and initial set up fee of \$775.00; so that OES can have redundancy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Surveyor – Grant No. BCC 24-17 - \$112,027.00 Grant County contributions \$15,000.00**

The committee reviewed Grant No. BCC 24-17 between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Chippewa County; and the 2024 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation. The grant is from 1-1-2024 to 12-31-2024, in the amount of \$97,027.00 with Chippewa County contributing \$15,000 for a total FY2024 project amount of \$112,027.00. 50 corners will be completed in FY2024; a couple questions will be sent to the Surveyor regarding the lower amount, and if monies can be used for maintenance of programs where the County's Remonumentation is already completed.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize signatures for Grant No. BCC 24-17 between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Chippewa County; and the 2024 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation in the amount of \$97,027.00 with Chippewa County contributing \$15,000.00 for County Remonumentation total grant \$112,027.00. On a voice vote the motion CARRIED.**

**Information Systems – Prosecuting Attorney Scanner (waive County policy and authorize budget amendment) \$5,180.00**

The Committee reviewed a request from Information Systems to replace a problematic scanner in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office; the request is to purchase a Canon G2110 Scanner from ImageSoft LLC in the amount of \$5,180.00; the request also asks the County purchasing policy be waived and that a budget amendment be approved for the purchase.

**It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve purchase of a Canon G2110 Scanner from ImageSoft LLC, for an amount not to exceed \$5,180.00, to waive the County purchasing policy and approve a budget amendment for the purchase. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Administration – GASB 75 Report Update – Jefferson Solutions \$4,950.00**

The Committee reviewed the request to update the County's GASB 75 report for the year ending December 31, 2023 by Jefferson Solutions, Inc. at the cost of \$4,950.00, this is the report for the retiree healthcare needs.

**It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve and authorize Jefferson Solutions, Inc. to complete the County's GASB 75 reporting for the period ending December 31, 2023 at the cost of \$4,950.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Administration – 44 North Health Care Renewal**

- **Line of Business**
- **RxReins – Stop Loss Renewal - \$19,530.00**

The Committee reviewed the information provided by 44North including the line of business; the increase of health care costs for FY2024 is on average 14.95% per contract; the County has 223 contracts; in addition, Administration has added an additional 3% because utilization has been averaging higher than expected and in the past two years the County’s general fund had needed to cover shortages in this special fund. The second portion of the agenda item is the renewal of the RxReins – Stop Loss with an annual premium of \$19,530.00.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the FY2024 Line of Business for Group 007003433 Line of Business as presented, including the additional 3% increase to cover year-end shortages and to approve the RxReins – Stop Loss Renewal at the cost of \$19,530.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Finance - Claims and Accounts –October – County and Health Department**

**It was moved by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend the approval of October County bills and payroll: general claims \$251,562.65, other fund claims \$4,746,264.22, payroll \$622,028.39, and Health Department claims \$441,753.33 and payroll \$217,234.75 total claims \$6,278,843.34. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

**Finance – FY2024 Budget General Fund and Special Funds**

**Contracts within budget**

- 1) **MSUE 4-H Agent - \$53,652.00**
- 2) **Probate -Family Court Legal Contracts (3) - \$135,762.00 (\$45,254.00 each)**
- 3) **Motorola Solutions \$26,526.13**
- 4) **Colligo GIS - \$3,000.00**
- 5) **CHC – Inmate Health Care \$454,786.96**

**Annual Software Support \$279,375.16**

**Information Systems requests \$171,825.00**

**Equipment Requests**

**General Fund \$186,488.20**

**Special Funds \$988,121.00**

**FY24 Non-Union Pay scale**

**Grade Changes for District Court, Administration, Jail and (2) Animal Control and Medical Examiner**

**Fee Increases**

**Animal Control**

**Addressing (Equalization Department)**

The Committee was given an overview of the proposed FY2024 Budget; the general fund budget was presented with a request to utilize \$58,885.20 of fund balance for FY2024. The Committee was updated on changes and expenditures that were variances from prior years. The equipment listing, annual software support and special funds projects were discussed. Contacts from within the budget were also discussed including the MSUE 4-H agent contract and the (3) Legal services contracts from Probate-Family Court; Motorola Solutions, Colligo – GIS and the CHC – Inmate Health Care contract which were discussed. Personnel changes for FY2024 were included on the Non-Union pay scale for approval. The budget also includes fees increase for the Animal Shelter and to get a new address through the Equalization Department. It was noted that the County will continue to look for new revenues and continue looking to reduce expenditures to maintain the necessary staffing and to provide the necessary services to the County. The FY2024 Budget Resolution will be presented to the full Board for final approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the FY2024 Budgets for the General Fund and Special Funds, as presented, acknowledging the contracts (as referenced above), annual software support, hardware and software requests, equipment requests, Non-Union Pay Scale with Grade changes District Court, Administration, Jail and Animal Control (2) and Medical Examiner and fines and fees increases for Animal Control and Addressing (Equalization Department) as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

**Committee Comments**

Commissioner Shackleton wanted to thank the public for their engagement over this issue; Commissioner Lieurance gave an update on an UPCAP meeting he attended; noting that septic code and solar and wind overreach by the State of Michigan were the hot topics and Commissioner Martin comment that the involvement of the community was good, but that the State of Michigan’s taking of local control is a problem for the solar, wind and septic code.

**Chairman Comments**

Wanted to echo what was said by the other Commissioners; indicating that changes are necessary, but not in a manner that will disrupt the home health and hospice services to the community.

**Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

  
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Kelly J. Church, Recorder

  
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Robert Savoie, Chairman.