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SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 16, 2021 SESSION

The November Session of the Board of Commissioners of Saginaw County, Michigan convened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at the Saginaw County Courthouse, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602 with the Honorable Carl E. Ruth in the Chair.

Present: Christopher S. Boyd, Carol E. Ewing, Kyle R. Harris, Dennis H. Krafft, Gerald D. Little, Sheldon Matthews, Carl E. Ruth, Jack B. Tany, Michael A. Webster, Cynthia Winiecke – 10

Absent: James G. Theisen – 1

Others: Vanessa Guerra, Robert Belleman, Dave Gilbert, Bill Smith, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Connie Scherzer, Julie Roggow, Kyle Bostwick, Mike Thompson, Blair Stevenson, Christi Lopez, Mark Gaertner, Norm Bamberger, Lee Peterson, Krystal Irvine, Koren Thurston, Leah Puskar, Terry Beagle, Steve Jonas, Brian Smith, Annie Rummel, Amy Deford, Denise Babbitt, Isaac Blackmon, Julie Flory, Jean Owens, Jessica Sargent, Hannah Olsen, Suzy Koeplinger, Cindy Louchart, and others

✚ Commissioner Boyd gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Board Session, October 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole, and October 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole were approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

- A Public Hearing was held to consider the adoption of a Brownfield Plan for 235 W. Saginaw St. and 135 S. Eddy St., Village of Merrill, MI pursuant to the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

AUDIENCES

- Michael Thompson, Public Libraries of Saginaw Trustee, requested the opportunity to present a proposal for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for \$20,000 from Saginaw County to establish a “Library of Things.”
- Brian Keenan-Lechel provided public comment regarding proposed changes to the County’s healthcare options. As he stated to the Labor Relations Committee last week, what the Board of Commissioners (BOC) is considering today represents a significant commitment from employees to consolidate healthcare plans to one manageable plan, one of the only tools available to the healthcare committee and employees to try and head off ballooning healthcare costs. He asked commissioners to consider utilizing some of the multiple tools available to the BOC to offset these significant increases and plan consolidations.

INITIATORY MOTIONS

None

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Certificates of Recognition to Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame inductees into its Class of 2020 Outstanding Athletes/Teams:
 - * *Bill Agresta* * *Larry Brethauer* * *Beth Bull (Spencer)* * *Robb Cook*
 - * *George Kubiak* * *Eugene Seals Jr.* * *Roy Manning Jr.*
 - * *St. Stephens State Champion Basketball Team (1968 - 1969)*
- Certificate of Recognition to Alpha Phi Alpha
- Certificate of Recognition to Iota Chi Lambda

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Approved an increase in pay for the Sobriety Treatment Court Program Defense Counsel from \$55/hour - \$16,000/annual to \$90/hour - \$26,182.20/annual utilizing \$10,182.20 from fund balance
- Approved the Saginaw County Convention & Visitors Bureau 2022 Budget
- Approved modifications of County Policy #422 – “Administrative Policy on Cellular Telephones”
- Approved creation of a temporary PCN to allow for training of a new Probate Court Register/Administrator and increase the Probate Court budget up to \$52,581
- Approved an increase to the Motor Pool Fund up to \$30,000 from fund balance to cover the purchase of a “sign out” vehicle for county employee business use
- Approved directing the proper Saginaw County representatives to apply for \$140,000 in funding from the State of Michigan Veterans Services
- Approved a Reorganization Plan for the Prosecutor’s Office that includes a shift in duties of the Chief Assistant, merging APA II and APA IV positions to create two (2) APA III positions, and expanding the Financial Investigator position to a new Director of Operations
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the promotion of two (2) Public Health Nurses
- Approved three (3) Memorandums of Understanding regarding \$100 gift cards for “Public Health Thank You Day”
- Approved creation of a temporary PCN in the Controller’s Office to allow for training a new Retirement and Benefits Administrator and use of \$10,722 from General Fund fund balance
- Approved offering all employees four (4) hours of PTO if 100% of department employees complete the Employee Engagement Survey developed by the Saginaw Wellness Action Team (S.W.A.T)
- Approved a recommendation from the Union/Management Benefit Committee to opt out of the Hard Cap provision in accordance with Public Act 152 of 2011 for the 2022 plan year, to offer a single high deductible plan using ARPA funds to offset premium share, and to eliminate the county’s contribution to Health Savings Accounts (HSA) accounts and use those funds to reduce claims; amended to include the addition of \$500 to the Health Savings Account (HSA) of each employee who is on the County’s health plan at a total cost of approximately \$176,000
- Approved (retroactively) closure of the Saginaw County Courthouse and Governmental Center and related county facilities on Friday, November 12, 2021 as Veterans Day falls on Thursday
- Approved the recommendation to allow county officials to facilitate the purchase of a ham for each Saginaw County employee for the 2021 holiday season
- Approved application of \$442,870 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funding toward 2022 employee healthcare to reduce the employee contribution amount; whilst reserving judgment on the balance of \$557,130, with the understanding that rates would not change for at least one year, and the county will move forward on utilizing the \$442,870
- Approved engagement of Guidehouse for consultant services pertaining to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funding proposals
- Approved Committee Compensation Reports 11-16-21.1 and 11-16-21.2

RESOLUTIONS

- Approved Res. “A” – Resolution Approving a Brownfield Plan Located at 235 W. Saginaw and 135 S. Eddy St., Village of Merrill, Saginaw County, Pursuant to and in Accordance with the Provision of Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as Amended
- Approved Res. “B” – Resolution of Exemption from the Requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

APPOINTMENTS

None

ELECTIONS

- ✓ Elected Brian Wellman, Jenean Coughlin, and Dr. Waheed Akbar to the **HealthSource Saginaw, Inc./Saginaw Community Healthcare Services Corporation** to 3-year terms to expire December 31, 2024

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chairman Ruth thanked Commissioner Krafft for hosting the last Committee of the Whole meeting regarding ARPA funding at Uptown North Main in Frankenmuth, MI. The next Committee of the Whole meeting regarding ARPA funding is on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the YMCA.

COMMISSIONER AUDIENCES

- Commissioner Krafft announced the Frankenmuth Tree Lighting on November 26, 2021 and to visit the new Frankenmuth Ice Rink located in Zehnder Park (Tickets/\$10, Skates/\$3)
- Commissioner Ewing announced a Food Drive in Birch Run at Don’s Foodland on December 17, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. where they will accept food, clothes and gifts for charity
- Commissioner Boyd suggested that Saginaw County consider extending the date of the \$500 employee vaccination incentive to the end of the year, due to variants and increased cases. No action.
- Commissioner Webster lauded Commissioner Tany for his hard work and dedication to the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame and congratulated him on its 19th anniversary

Respectfully Submitted,

SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CARL E. RUTH, CHAIRMAN

VANESSA GUERRA, COUNTY CLERK

Prepared by: Suzy Koeplinger, Deputy County Clerk