

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 8:24 a.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Finance Chair Michael Stafford, Board Chair Patti Peretto, Commissioners Tim Aho, Ray Coates, and Sharon Leonoff.

Also present: Sheriff Mark Valesano, Undersheriff Ryan Boehmke, Prosecutor Melissa Powell, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Chamber Alliance Executive Director Paul Schuytema, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Lyndsay Arcand, MSU Extension Program Coordinator Deb Divoky, and Deputy Clerk Tara Peterson.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

Board Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment three times. No comments voiced.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Stafford met with most department heads. Stafford provided copies of two proposals. One proposal without state funding and one proposal with state funding. Stafford stated the county currently has a budget deficit of \$292,105.00 as of 09/30/19. Stafford also would recommend deferring Mers & Courthouse repairs until 3rd quarter to manage cash flow and change minimum fund balance rules for a 4 year period of 14% rather than the 17% fund balance. Stafford was asking the commissioner to come to the next BOC meeting with suggestions.

Aho spoke and said he is not worried about state funding. Aho presented Exhibit A to the board including two millage requests one for Central Dispatch and one for the Veterans program. Aho calculated a budget deficit of \$344,105.00 as of 10/22/19.

Stafford recommended that he and Aho come together and work on a budget for the next BOC meeting. Aho disagreed and feels the board should start acting now.

Aho presented a motion to the board along with "Exhibit A"

Moved by Coates, supported by Leonoff to amend the 2020 budget working document date 09/10/19 to include the adjustments as shown on Exhibit A, dated 10/22/19, and also the Personnel Committee start negotiations with the unions affected by this motion as to furlough days, at meeting times established by the Personnel Chair.

Also, that civil council to work on ballot language for the BOC to consider at its November 12, 2019 meeting regarding potential millage for both the Central Dispatch, and the Veterans Program. Roll Call taken. Ayes: Coates, Aho, Leonoff

Nays: Stafford, Peretto

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Bloomberg spoke on concerns with how the board was handling the budget. She felt it was wrong to discuss employee wages, along with negotiating with the union in an open meeting while there was a substantial fund equity balance

Margee Brennan spoke questioning why three board members seemed to be aware of the motion submitted by Aho and the other two board members seemed to know nothing. She said the "surprise motions" need to stop.

Dave Frailing spoke and said if the Commissioners cared about the county then the Commissioners should give back their wages which would give the County approximately \$32,000.

Adam Holroyd from Contrast Coffee expressed he was shocked that the Commissioners have not been meeting with their constituents and felt the constituents should have been asked about supporting the raising of taxes due to more millages before a motion was passed.

Aho said the voters would decide for themselves and with the opportunity to vote on the millages.

Chris Kent asked why MSU and ICECA millages were not included in Aho's motion.

Leonoff expressed the tough decisions the board has to make and some decisions need to go to the voters.

Aho explained the millages he presented were to support the General Fund. If ICECA would be interested in a millage than they need come to the board and follow the proper procedure.

Peretto asked for public comment two more times. No more comments voiced.

Moved by Coates, supported by Leonoff, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Board Chairperson Patti Peretto
Finance Chairperson Michael Stafford

Deputy Clerk Tara Peterson