HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 5, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Banas, Koenig (arrived at 6:53 p.m.), Tennis, Sebolt, and Nolan

Members Absent: Naeyaert

Others Present: David Mittleman, Paul Novak, LuAnn Maisner, Tim Potter, Jane Southwell, Younes Ishraidi, Tim Morgan, Matt Bennett, Linda Vail, Sandra Dargatz, Sue Chamberlain, Amie Ostrander, Stanley Jordan, Matt Nordfjord, Jared Cypher, Liz Noel and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Banas at 6:30 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the January 22, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2018 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING.

The minutes were amended as follows:

2. Parks Department
   b. Resolution to Authorize Updates to the Trails & Parks Millage Program Coordinator Job Description

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT TENNIS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Melissa Buzzard, Trails and Parks Millage Coordinator, stated it the position would initially be doing the community outreach, and a plan would be formulated for a transition to delegate those duties and other duties as assigned.

Commissioner Grebner Nolan stated she was impressed with the layers of the plan, right down to colorblindness colors. She further stated that the presenters were professionals that really dove deep, and she looked forward to the QR Code because she thought the County could get good feedback if there was personnel to monitor and respond to it in a timely fashion.

Chairperson Banas stated that the presentation tonight was more about information that would be presented on signs and how it would look, and the next step would be more detailed.
These were considered friendly amendments.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Koenig and Naeyaert

Additions to the Agenda –

None.

Supporting Material –

1. Health Services Millage – Future of the Health Services Millage (Discussion)

Limited Public Comment

David Mittleman, Church & Wyble, P.C. Trial Lawyer, addressed the Committee about Agenda Item No. 8. He stated that he, Mark Bernstein and Paul Novak had presented to the Committee regarding opioid litigation previously.

Mr. Mittleman stated he understood that Commissioners could not do everything on their own and relied on the advice of staff, but he did not want them to be pennywise and a pound foolish in regards to who they chose to represent the County in the opioid litigation. He further stated his firm would be representing about two dozen municipalities in Michigan and intended to represent about 30, whereas The Miller Law Firm only represented about four.

Mr. Mittleman stated when looking at the global costs of litigation, it would be much better for the County to spread those costs included if there was a recovery with thirty municipalities as opposed to five. He further stated by going with a firm that did not represent as many municipalities, the County could lose more in litigation costs than they could possibly gain by 5%.

Mr. Mittleman stated that his firm would be representing the City of Lansing and City of East Lansing, and he knew Clinton and Eaton Counties were also interested and were waiting on Ingham County’s decision. He further stated that he had been a resident of Ingham County for 31 years and would be available locally to attend to Commissioners, and he asked if anyone from The Miller Law Firm had come to present anything to the Committee.

Mr. Mittleman stated he had asked his firm if they could match the contingency number quoted by The Miller Law Firm, but since they already had contracts with many municipalities in Michigan, it would not be fair in terms of the percentage. He further stated he had even asked if he could use his personal percentage of the cost, and he could not.

Mr. Mittleman stated his colleague would address some of the concerns regarding cost. He further stated in Michigan, the client always had the ultimate responsibility for costs, but he had never pursued a client for those costs in the event that there was no recovery.
Paul Novak, Weitz & Luxenberg Managing Attorney, addressed the Committee regarding Agenda Item No. 8. He stated that he thought The Miller Law Firm was a fine firm and they were co-counsel on litigation involving Wolverine.

Mr. Novak stated there was only one law firm that had an office in Michigan that had been selected by the Opioid Multidistrict Litigation Court in Cleveland, Ohio to be a participant in the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee, and that was Weitz & Luxenberg. He further stated there was typically a leadership structure in the federal cases that could help direct the litigation.

Mr. Novak stated Weitz & Luxenberg had already been retained by Grand Rapids, Detroit, Macomb County, Genesee County, and Saginaw County, and provided a full list of all of the municipalities that had retained his firm. He further stated if the County was looking at sharing litigation expenses, there would be some economies of scale in terms of sharing expenses, meaning the amount of expenses would likely be less if shared by more municipalities.

Mr. Novak stated he thought there were some benefits to coordination of litigation with the City of Lansing, as there would be some issues where the factual nexus of liability related to the various manufacturers, distributors and retailers would be identical between the two entities. He further stated that there had been some criminal prosecutions of pill mills in this community over the past few years, and those issues might be a common factual core for the entities’ litigations.

Mr. Novak stated it was not the practice of Weitz & Luxenberg to go after a client in litigation for expenses in the event it was unsuccessful. He further stated that Michigan Court Rules and Michigan Rules of Professional Ethics required any attorney to indicate that it was ultimately the client’s responsibility for expenses, but it had not been their practice to seek reimbursement of expenses they anticipated advancing in this litigation in the event that the litigation was unsuccessful.

LuAnn Maisner, Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Director, addressed the Committee about Agenda Item No. 4b and distributed materials outlining the project in question. She stated that the Park Commission had voted not to recommend the boardwalk project along Okemos Road that Meridian Township had submitted for Trails and Parks Millage funding with a 10% local match of funds.

Ms. Maisner stated that the boardwalk would connect the MSU Trail to the Lake Lansing Trail in Phase 2 of the project and would connect to existing Meridian Township pathways. She further stated that the gap was a major safety issue in the community, and this section was already engineered and ready to go for construction.

Ms. Maisner stated this would be a highly visible and meaningful project in terms of the County’s goal of connectivity between trails. She further stated that Phase 2 of the project would then connect to the Lake Lansing Trail.

Ms. Maisner stated one question from the Park Commission had been why Meridian Township had only provided a 10% local match for the project. She further stated when Meridian Township had looked at the scoring criteria, 10% to 49% local match received the same amount of points,
and they have since gone back and identified that Meridian Township could increase their funding to 25% local match.

Ms. Maisner stated if Meridian Township provided 25% local match for the project, it would decrease the County’s portion from $1.3 million to $975,000. She further stated Meridian Township had received tons of public support for the boardwalk project and she requested that it be added to the recommended list.

Tim Potter, Meridian Township resident, addressed the Committee regarding Agenda Item No. 4b. He stated that one of the pedestrian fatalities in the town had occurred at this area in 2004, and it was a dangerous area.

Mr. Potter stated that annual flooding also often caused the roadway to be closed. He further stated the boardwalk width was required to be 14 feet to meet State guidelines, but Meridian Township already had boardwalks that were 7 feet in width and had the materials to maintain that size boardwalk, if Meridian Township was able to get an exemption from the standards to reduce the size.

Younes Ishraidi, Meridian Township Planning Department, addressed the Committee regarding Agenda Item No. 4b. He stated that local match could be increased to $325,000.

Mr. Ishraidi stated that area was currently a gap in the trail system that did not allow people to walk in a safe way. He further stated that the bridge on Okemos Road was a choke point and it flooded frequently.

Mr. Ishraidi stated the boardwalk would be designed with flooding in mind, and it would create a safe environment for non-motorized travelers. He further stated he felt this project was worthy of the County’s Trails and Parks Millage funding.

Jane Southwell, Call Center Supervisor and MNA Representative, stated she was concerned about patient safety. She further stated that she knew of one nurse who had many doctors assigned to her triage line, and she was told to go home after eight hours of work when there were still calls that had gone unanswered.

Ms. Southwell stated that she noticed the Community Health Center had hired a nurse at Birch Health Center after not hiring nurses for a long time. She further stated that calls she received at the call center were patients whose calls had not been answered two or three times, which was concerning to her.

Ms. Southwell stated that the Medical Assistants’ certifications had taken place and there had been some work on that, but Registered Nurses were still the ones that were taken out of work to check the Medical Assistant’s work and the Registered Nurses had not received a $1,000 bonus like the Medical Assistants had.

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:53 p.m.
MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO APPROVE A
CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

2.  Big Brothers Big Sisters – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Big Brothers Big Sisters
    Michigan Capital Region to Provide Administrative Oversight and Programming Leadership
to the Capital Area Mentoring Partnership Program for 2018

3.  Community Mental Health – Resolution to Authorize a Contract with the Community
    Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties (CMH) for Health Services
    Millage Eligible Services

4.  Parks Department
    a.  Resolution Clarifying Design Standards for Trails and Parks Millage Projects

5.  Ingham County Fair
    a.  Resolution Directing the Fair Board to Develop a Plan to Reach Out to Urban Areas
to Participate in the 2018 Ingham County Fair

6.  Health Department
    a.  Resolution to Amend Resolution #17-356
    b.  Resolution to Authorize Contract with Institute for Cultural Affairs to Carry Out
    Leadership Development Training
    c.  Resolution to Amend Resolution #17-265

7.  Facilities – Resolution to Authorize Structural Renovations at the Human Services Building

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Naeyaert

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Naeyaert

4.  Parks Department
    b.  Resolution to Authorize Contracts for Trails and Parks Millage Applications

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG, TO APPROVE THE
RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Tennis addressed the Committee in regards to the testimony heard during Limited
Public Comment regarding the application for a boardwalk Meridian Township had submitted
for millage funding. He asked if the County had funds available in the millage fund balance to
grant the request, without reducing allocations to other recommendations, and why it did not
make it in the initial recommendations.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, explained the handout of funds available for the Trails and
Parks Millage, and stated there were unallocated funds that could be used for this purpose.
Chairperson Banas stated that the application process for the Trails and Parks Millage funding this year had been different, in that it had allocated funds for multiple years of projects, not just one year. She further stated the Park Commission had worked hard on the application process and had had a five hour meeting to review eighteen applications, and the Meridian Township’s boardwalk project had been split 5-5.

Tim Morgan, Parks Director, stated the County’s staff had prepared everything for the Park Commission meeting. He referred to the Park Commission minutes from the December 2017 meeting in which the vote took place.

Discussion.

Mr. Morgan introduced Matt Bennett, Park Commission Chairperson, to the Committee.

Mr. Bennett stated that one of the issues with Meridian Township’s application was that they had only offered a 10% local match to the Trails and Parks Millage funds. He further stated Meridian Township had also offered to increase their local match amount at the Park Commission meeting, but the Park Commission’s policy was that municipalities could not change their local match amount after the application had been submitted.

Mr. Bennett stated another issue with Meridian Township’s boardwalk project application was that there was a concern that the boardwalk did not connect to the potential MSU Trail or any other trail outside of Meridian Township’s own trail and park system. He further stated that it had seemed to the Park Commission that Meridian Township was trying to use County money to make a connection within their trail system that they should be making themselves.

Commissioner Nolan asked for clarification about the Park Commission’s process for reviewing applications. She asked if 10% local match and 49% local match received the same amount of points in the evaluation of an application.

Mr. Morgan stated the point system had been approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Nolan stated she thought that the application scoring system needed to change, as it was not working. She asked what the motivation was for anyone to provide half of the funding from local match if it was the same amount of points for 10% local match.

Commissioner Nolan stated she would like to see the application process be discussed at a later Committee meeting, as it was never the intention of the original Committee. She further stated she would like to see the unallocated Trails and Parks Millage funds be spent down to fund Meridian Township’s project.

Chairperson Banas stated she understood the Park Commission’s concerns regarding the change to local match amounts during the application review process. She further stated she would be interested in allowing those unsuccessful in the last round to re-submit their applications by March 15 for reconsideration.
Commissioner Nolan stated she disagreed, as she would like to see the policy change, though she was not interested in seeing that policy change done tonight. She further stated that as Commissioners, they had the prerogative to include projects they wanted to be funded.

Commissioner Nolan stated ultimately, the Board of Commissioners decided which projects were approved, and they rarely messed with the Park Commission’s recommendations. She further stated she recommended that the County use the unallocated fund balance and spend down the amount on those projects.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas stated she commended the Park Commission for their work on the applications, but as with any new program, they should make some adjustments as they went along.

Commissioner Sebolt pointed out that Delhi Charter Township had a higher scoring application during the Park Commission review, so if Delhi Charter Township also re-submitted their application, they could possibly be awarded the funding in the second round.

Chairperson Banas stated the ultimate goal of the Trails and Parks Millage was to connect trails with other trails. She further stated that Delhi Charter Township did not provide any local match funding for their project.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas stated that local match provided buy-in from local communities and stretched the Trails and Parks Millage dollars.

MOVED BY COMM. NOLAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP’S BOARDWALK PROJECT.

Commissioner Nolan stated she would like to see the boardwalk reduced from 14 feet to 8 feet in size.

Mr. Morgan read from the Trails and Parks Millage application, in which it explains that any exception to design standards would be reviewed by the County on a case-by-case basis. He stated Paul Pratt had worked on Agenda Item 4a, which would allow the standards to be more flexible.

Commissioner Nolan withdrew her motion to amend the resolution to include Meridian Township’s project in the resolution.

Discussion.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Naeyaert
Mr. Morgan thanked the Committee for moving the resolution forward as-is, as there were many municipalities who were relying on April 1 deadlines for their projects. He further asked if the applications would go back to the Park Commission.

Mr. Cypher stated the resolution as it was written would come back to the Board of Commissioners.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas explained the reasoning for the scoring of applications for local match amounts.

Mr. Bennett stated the intent was to reward people for at least a 50% local match and that was why 10% to 49% local match was awarded one low point amount and everything above 50% local match received more points.

Mr. Morgan stated the scoring of the applications had been discussed previously, and he thought it needed to be reevaluated.

Commissioner Nolan stated she hoped that Mr. Morgan would contact all municipalities that had unsuccessful applications in this round, to allow them to reapply by the March 15, 2018 deadline.

Mr. Morgan asked if he should wait until the resolution was approved by the full Board of Commissioners.

Chairperson Banas stated she thought they could be courteous and let the municipalities know as soon as possible.

6. Health Department
d. Resolution to Authorize Conversion of Nurse Assessor Position

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Tennis asked for clarification on where the additional cost for the position change from Registered urse to Nurse Practitioner would be covered from.

Linda Vail, County Health Officer, stated most of the cost of the position would be covered by billable revenue, and then Family Court allocated the Health Department $62,520. She further stated the change in the Registered Nurse position to a Nurse Practitioner position was the cause for the change in salary.

Ms. Vail stated that change in position would allow the Youth Center to have a health care provider, as well as a Nurse Practitioner that could work in the STI Clinic for billable revenue. She further stated that the budget adjustment issue was if the Health Department should fall short
of revenue projections for the STI Clinic, the Health Department would do a budget adjustment of its own budget.

Commissioner Tennis asked if this position change was because the division needed a Nurse Practitioner there anyway, and this was a way to do it in which Medicaid would pay for it.

Ms. Vail stated the Health Department did not need to have a Nurse Practitioner there, but she thought it would be beneficial, especially with the Youth Center there. She further stated she recalled the change from Nurse Practitioner to Nurse Assessor had been made a few years ago.

Discussion.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent Commissioner Naeyaert

8. Human Services Committee – Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Miller Law Firm, P.C. to Represent Ingham County in Litigation Against Manufacturers and Wholesale Distributors of Opioids

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION

Commissioner Tennis stated he had a lot of respect for the staff in the work they did to prepare the bids from the firms. He further stated he thought it was important for the County to have representation from a firm that was already on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee, and he would prefer the County to retain Weitz & Luxenberg for the litigation.

Commissioner Nolan stated she supported hiring Weitz & Luxenberg for the County’s representation in the litigation. She further stated the situation reminded her of the decision on the Law & Courts Committee to go with the cheaper Motorola radios, and now they were paying more in making up for their shortfalls.

Commissioner Nolan stated she did not want the County to choose a firm to represent it based on a lower contingency fee, because that firm was not on the Plaintiff’s Executive Committee and was not at the heart of the issue and did not have the list of clients that Weitz & Luxenberg did.

Commissioner Koenig asked if the County Attorneys had looked into the matter. She stated this was massive litigation going on across the country with dozens of entities involved, and she would defer to legal counsel on the matter. She asked why Weitz & Luxenberg did not match the 25% contingency fee.

Commissioner Sebolt stated Weitz & Luxenberg had already gone at the 30% rate with all of their other clients in the litigation.

Commissioner Koenig stated the County would be a different client, with the ability to draw a different contract.
Commissioner Sebolt stated he thought there was a benefit to being represented by the same law firm as the City of Lansing.

Chairperson Banas asked the staff why it had recommended going with The Miller Law Firm as opposed to Weitz & Luxenberg.

Mr. Cypher stated the decision was an issue of economics, where both firms had bid on a contingency basis, and one firm bid at a 25% contingency rate and the other bid at a 30% contingency rate. He further stated the staff had thought that based on the size of the award from litigation, the 5% difference in contingency fees could be significant.

Matt Nordfjord, County Attorney, stated he had an attorney-client privileged opinion that he would like to share with the Committee. He asked the Committee to consider going into Closed Session to discuss the attorney-client privileged information, as he was also one of three people on the panel that reviewed the applications.

MOVED BY COMM. KOENIG, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 7:28 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE. Absent: Commissioner Naeyaert

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 7:39 P.M.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Naeyaert

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION UNTIL THE NEXT HUMAN SERVICES MEETING.

THE MOTION TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Naeyaert

1. Health Services Millage – Future of the Health Services Millage (Discussion)

Chairperson Banas explained the reason for including a discussion about the Health Services Millage on the Committee’s agenda. She stated the renewal of the millage would be up for reconsideration in 2019, and she was aware that the current language was not sufficient.

Chairperson Banas stated the Committee could explore ideas like helping to keep senior citizens in their homes, mental health treatment, and addressing homelessness as they reconsidered the millage's future scope. She further stated the current Health Services Millage was .52 mills, but
the County was not collecting the full amount because the needs for Ingham Health Plan had changed since the Health Services Millage was last renewed.

Chairperson Banas stated she would like to know what categories the Committee would like to explore adding to the Health Services Millage, and determine if the County would need a community needs assessment to see where a Health Services Millage could most impact citizens of the County.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated the Committee had talked over the past few years about the restrictive nature of the language in the current Health Services Millage. He further stated he would be happy to talk about extending health services to a broader group of people in Ingham County, but he would be hesitant to extend the Health Services Millage to include other types of human service issues.

Commissioner Tennis stated he wanted to make sure that the Health Services Millage did not get too far off field from what the stated goal of it was so citizens could have confidence in approving it. He further stated he was afraid if the Health Services Millage were to broaden too much, then it would be watered down.

Commissioner Tennis stated he would be in favor of expanding who could receive this millage for reimbursement so it was more than Ingham Health Plan and the jail.

Chairperson Banas asked if Commissioner Tennis would include mental health treatment in his consideration of the use of Health Services Millage funds.

Commissioner Tennis stated he would include both mental and physical health as important aspects of people's health. He further stated in light of the discussion regarding opioid litigation, it was important to also note that behavioral health and addiction services were important to address.

Discussion.

Commissioner Koenig asked who Commissioner Tennis was thinking of covering if they broadened the scope of the Health Services Millage. She stated the County was currently limited by the language of the millage in who they could include.

Commissioner Tennis stated the Health Services Millage language was very clear that there was an income maximum that could be served. He related an example of his son who did not make under $28,000, but did not make enough money to buy adequate health insurance on his own.

Commissioner Tennis stated he thought there were thousands of residents who would fall into that gap, which the Affordable Care Act did not cover.

Discussion.
Commissioner Nolan stated she had always been supportive of the Health Services Millage, and she had been on the Committee for many years. She further stated that the problem she saw was financial, as the County was already not levying roughly $1 million of the available millage funds, but that would not provide services to many more people.

Commissioner Nolan stated if the County expanded the Health Services Millage, it would have to be careful as it could not expand too much. She further stated that she did not think the Committee could have a free-ranging discussion because there was not a lot of money left over in the current Health Services Millage, and unless the County wanted to ask the voters to increase the millage to 1 mill, the discussion had parameters.

Chairperson Banas asked if the Committee agreed with Commissioner Nolan. She asked if there was any indication from the Committee on increasing the Health Services Millage to 1 mill at some point.

Commissioner Tennis stated he would not be eager to increase the amount of the Health Services Millage, but he would have the discussion.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated he did not think there was a lot of extra room to play with, as there was only about $1 million left on the table. He further stated the County could look at some specific programming issues or specific benefits, but he expected that funding would only barely scratch the surface.

Chairperson Banas stated she would like to know the amount of people who were in the middle of being eligible for the Ingham Health Plan and being able to afford quality insurance on their own.

Commissioner Nolan stated that data was available.

Commissioner Tennis stated he thought more people would be let in to the Ingham Health Plan if the maximum income was increased to more than $28,000 per year.

Chairperson Banas explained the handout she provided from Healthy Michigan regarding the increase in enrollees in the plan from Ingham County. She further stated she did not think there was much desire to change the plan at the State level.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the legislation that had passed in Michigan to expand Medicaid had come with a large fishhook, in that if the State was going to pay more with expanded Medicaid that it would have without expanded Medicaid, then the legislation would automatically be repealed. He further stated it was likely that the State would hit that threshold in the coming years, and the legislature would have to decide if the State should amend the law to extend the program or let it continue as-is.
Discussion.

Commissioner Sebolt stated in any consideration of the renewal of the Health Services Millage, he would like to see the change of a specific dollar amount for income eligibility to a percentage of the poverty rate, as it would give more flexibility in reflecting the realities of inflation.

Commissioner Koenig stated it was likely that the County could have two scenarios, based on whether expanded Medicaid coverage went away, or not.

Chairperson Banas asked when the millage language would have to be ready to put on the ballot.

Mr. Cypher stated that the Health Services Millage funding went through the 2020 Fiscal Year, so the millage could be placed on the ballot in 2020.

Discussion.

Mr. Cypher stated the Health Services Millage funds were collected on the winter of 2019 tax bill, so the funds would be available in the 2020 budget.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that having a summary of uninsured individuals living in the County would be helpful. He further stated that the Ingham Health Plan had been designed to address people who did not have access to primary care and how to deliver that service to them.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas stated another idea would be to explore utilizing Community Health Centers to provide specialized services to serve more residents of the County.

Commissioner Sebolt stated he thought the Committee should keep an open mind to increasing the Health Services Millage rate if the expanded Medicaid coverage went away or something else happened to health care under the current administration, because that could cause for a health crisis.

Chairperson Banas stated the Committee could possibly explore what it would look like from a County perspective if expanded Medicaid was repealed.

Commissioner Koenig stated the County was going to have to change the Health Services Millage language no matter what, because the current state did not serve the County in the way it was originally intended, and they should make it more proactive.

Discussion.
Commissioner Nolan stated she would like to see through a discussion at a Board Leadership meeting a sense of Commissioners that would be willing to increase the Health Services Millage, because she was not interested in that.

Commissioner Koenig stated there needed to be a specific project or reason to increase the Health Services Millage, otherwise she would not be in favor of increasing it.

Discussion.

5. Ingham County Fair
   b. Fair Manager Position (Discussion)

Chairperson Banas stated Sandra Dargatz, Fair Manager, was leaving the County. She further stated the Committee had to look hiring a replacement, and she wanted to get a sense of the capabilities and skills that they should look for in hiring the next Fair Manager.

Mr. Cypher stated he would also like to discuss the hiring process, as he would like to post the job opening as soon as possible.

Chairperson Banas asked if the job would be posted internally first.

Mr. Cypher stated the Fair Manager job, would be posted internally for five days and then it would be posted externally.

Ms. Dargatz stated it had been an honor to serve as the Fair Manager. She further stated it had been a wild ride, as she had brought a business background to the position but had not had a lot of the long-standing relationships with stakeholders initially, which was both good and a challenge.

Ms. Dargatz stated there was a balance between having the long-standing relationships and a level playing field, so she could maintain the Fair’s true course.

Discussion.

Stanley Jordan, Fair Board President, stated he was very sad when Ms. Dargatz announced she was leaving. He further stated that the Fair Board needed to be a team with the Fair Manager, and for some reason they had lost some team members along the way.

Mr. Jordan stated that the problem with any fair was that Mother Nature ruled, and a few bad nights could take a toll on the fair. He further stated that communication was very important, as was comradery to get people to understand one another.

Mr. Jordan stated some members of the Fair Board had agendas, so the Fair Manager needed to be a people person and be willing to work with a team.

Discussion.
Sue Chamberlain, Fair Board Secretary, stated she had been asked during her Fair Board interview about how many times she had attended the Ingham County Fair, which she liked. She further stated the Fair Manager should be asked why they were applying to be a Fair Manager, if they had experience being at the Fair, if they were a good manager, and if they could deal with passionate people, as the Fair was a whole commitment for the whole County.

Ms. Chamberlain stated she had questions regarding renting out the Fairgrounds not only for the week of the Fair, but all year-round.

Discussion.

Amie Ostrander, former Fair Board President, stated she had recently resigned from the Fair Board due to too many political aspects. She further stated the next person who was hired to be the Fair Manager needed to know about fairs, but they did not necessarily have to have ties to Ingham County.

Ms. Ostrander stated there were cliques and huge bias on the Fair Board. She further stated that part of the problem was that members of the Fair Board had their own agendas and they were not working as a team.

Chairperson Banas stated the Committee should review how they sought members of the Fair Board.

Discussion.

Ms. Ostrander stated some people had been on the Fair Board for years, and did not bring any new perspective.

Discussion.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that the urban area representatives to the Fair Board were not in attendance, especially since there was a recent resolution that was passed in regard to them.

Discussion.

Commissioner Koenig stated she was terribly disappointed that Ms. Dargatz was leaving the Fair, as she had done more than other Fair Managers and had held the position for longer than others.

Discussion.

Commissioner Koenig stated Ms. Dargatz was the first Fair Manager with a vision that was able to execute that vision. She further stated Ms. Dargatz had put in a lot of hard work and she knew their heart was in it.
Commissioner Koenig thanked Ms. Dargatz for her work and stated she knew she cared about the Fair. She further stated it was hard to judge that type of character from an interview.

Commissioner Koenig asked if there was anything that needed to change in the Fair Manager’s position.

Ms. Dargatz stated that marketing and community outreach should be more prominent, as it was not just “relationship building” as the job description said, and that should be higher in priority on the job description.

Discussion.

Ms. Dargatz stated she did not want to see good working relationships for the County go away, as she had built those over the past six years and the reciprocal nature of the relationships was good for the County.

Discussion.

Chairperson Banas asked what the Committee would advise Mr. Cypher in looking for skills and qualities for a new Fair Manager.

Commissioner Koenig stated she would also say that social media skills should be included, but they should not be too high of a priority because it was more about building relationships.

Discussion.

Commissioner Nolan thanked the Fair Board and Ms. Dargatz for their feedback. She further stated she was concerned about the makeup of the Fair Board, which was on the Board of Commissioners, as they sent a Commissioner to Fair Board meetings to take care of that.

Discussion.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that the Fair Manager should also feel comfortable being a sales person.

Mr. Cypher asked if the Committee was satisfied with the process that had been used in hiring the Fair Manager the last time, in which there would be a panel of interviewers for the qualified applicants before the candidate was referred to the Fair Board and the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Ostrander stated she thought it was important to know if an applicant had worked with boards and commissions before, as sometimes the Fair Board could be difficult to work with.

Discussion.

Ms. Dargatz updated the Committee regarding the urban agriculture initiatives. She outlined all of the connections made and potential partnerships for the Fair with groups in the urban areas of the County.
Discussion.

Chairperson Banas stated Commissioner Naeyaert had asked her to pass along her appreciation for the outreach Ms. Dargatz had done in the Mason area and she thought that was an important skill that needed to continue. She further stated Commissioner Naeyaert thought the next Fair Manager should have strong financial acumen.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD