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SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
September 17, 2024 SESSION

The September Session of the Board of Commissioners of Saginaw County, Michigan convened at 5:04 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at the Saginaw County Courthouse, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602 with the Honorable Christopher S. Boyd in the Chair.

PRESENT: Christopher S. Boyd, Jack B. Tany, Lisa R. Coney, Denny M. Harris, Dennis H. Krafft, Gerald D. Little, Sheldon Matthews, Mark S. Piotrowski, Tracey L. Slodowski, Rich A. Spitzer, Michael A. Webster - **11**

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: - **11**

OTHERS: Mary Catherine Hannah, Dave Gilbert, Undersheriff Miguel Gomez, Rachel Horton, Mary McLaughlin, Undersheriff Gomez, Kelly Suppes, Darcie Totten, Reneé Johnston, Bonnie Kanicki, Katharine Tessin, Linda Harper, Karen Angers, Raluca Chludil, Walter Ribble, Jane Collins, Sam Tany, Eugene Seals Jr., Alycia Norton, Pat Ritter, Mark Rankin, Lynn Vela, Brandell Adams, Jonathan Webb, Crystal Swanson, Melissa Hayes, Tyra Walker, Maria Romo, Kevin Murphy, Allissa Specht, Kam Christopher, Tim Dempsey, Todd Williams, Heidi Schafer, Joseph Kline DVM, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Isaac Blackmon, Renee Sharkey, Catherine Hicks, Suzy Koeplinger and others

- ✚ Chairman Boyd asked for a moment of silence for the recent school shooting in Barrow County, Georgia where two students and two teachers were killed
- ✚ Chairman Boyd displayed the Spirit of Saginaw Award given to Saginaw County “In honor of those who embody the Spirit of Saginaw with soaring optimism, eagle-eyed vision and fierce determination by giving the precious gift of time” for its work to ensure the success of the Memorial Cup
- ✚ Commissioner Krafft gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the August 20, 2024 Board Session were approved as amended

PUBLIC HEARING

- ❖ A Public Hearing was held on proposed amendments to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (“PACE”) program and PACE report. Tim Dempsey, Senior Vice President at Saginaw Future, and Todd Williams, President and General Counsel of Lean & Green Michigan, spoke in support of the program.

AUDIENCES

- ❖ Vice-Chair Tany presented a Certificate of Recognition to Ron Hansen, President of Spicer Group, as it celebrates 80 years [1944 – 2024]. Mr. Hansen thanked the Board of Commissioners for the gesture.

- ❖ Eugene Seals Jr. introduced himself as the new President/CEO of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Board of Commissioners for everything Saginaw County did to ensure success of the Memorial Cup and what the county continues to do. He stated his plan is to reach out to the entire county to provide Chamber services, not just to the City of Saginaw and Saginaw Township.
- ❖ Glenn Steffens, Executive Director of Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS), provided an overview of ridership data during the Memorial Cup and next steps for potential county-wide public transit. [Presentation distributed and on file in Board Office] He also introduced Jamie Forbes, Director of External Affairs at STARS, and thanked her for her work on the presentation.
- ❖ Lynn Vela, yoga instructor, expressed an interest in teaching yoga classes to male and female inmates in the Adult Detention Center and asked the Board of Commissioners to consider funding for appropriate clothing and menstrual products.
- ❖ Alissa Specht stated that concerns she has with Saginaw County Animal Care & Control have not been addressed by Chairman Boyd, Administrator Hannah, Commissioner Slodowski nor the Animal Control Advisory Council. She has been told she is misinformed and believes her complaints have been met with hostility and condescension.
- ❖ Joseph Kline, DVM, former veterinarian at Saginaw County Animal Care & Control, advised that he believes untrained individuals at the SCACC are dispensing medications to animals in violation of MCL 333.7333 (10)(c) and that he believes he was dismissed from his position in retaliation for being a whistleblower.

FOIA APPEALS

- The Board upheld the partial disclosure denial of Attorney Mandel Allweil's FOIA appeal.
- The Board reversed the partial disclosure denial in part, upheld the partial disclosure denial in part, and directed the Sheriff's Office to complete a further review of the original FOIA request and provide an appropriate amended response to Attorney Marcel Benavides.

INITIATORY MOTIONS

None

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Certificate of Recognition to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church as it convenes the 138th session of the Michigan Annual Conference and the 127th convention of the Michigan Conference Branch of the Women's Missionary Society, September 11 – 14, 2024
- Certificate of Recognition to Bishop Hurley J. Coleman in honor of his Elevation Celebration Service on September 8, 2024
- Certificate of Recognition to the NAACP Saginaw Branch in honor of its 53rd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet
- Certificate of Recognition to Spicer Group as it celebrates 80 years [1944 – 2024]

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Approved Circuit Court establishing a Legal Self-Help Center using grant funds from the State Court Administrative Office and in-kind contributions
- Approved the FY 2025 Budget of the Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Approved FY 2024 budget amendments to various Hotel Tax accounts, as well as Investment and Auditing Services accounts for the County Treasurer
- Approved increasing the Circuit Court Probation FY 2024 Budget by \$7,000 for various line items
- Approved multiple year-end FY 2024 budget amendments for various funds submitted by the Finance Director
- Approved amendments to Draft #2 of the proposed, amended FY 2025 Budget submitted by the Finance Director
- Approved the application for use of opioid settlement funds, the disbursement process, and review of funding by the Opioid Settlement Ad Hoc Committee
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between County of Saginaw, Saginaw County Prosecuting Attorney, and UAW Local 455 – Unit 48 (Managers) and the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for an increase in salary to \$143,820, subject to approval by the union
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between County of Saginaw, Saginaw County Prosecuting Attorney, and UAW Local 455 – Unit 48 (Managers) for a retention payment to Trent Boyd (\$3,700) and Christi Lopez (\$6,300), subject to approval by the union
- Approved an increase to the Animal Care & Control FY 2024 Budget in the amount of \$125,000
- Approved a request from the Sheriff to increase its FY 2024 Motor Pool Vehicle Fund by \$25,000 funded by user departments: Law Enforcement (\$21,250); General Fund (\$2,500); Selective Enforcement (\$750); and Emergency Management (\$500)

RESOLUTIONS

- ✓ Approved Resolution 2024 – 9 - Amending Resolution “A” of October 15, 2013 Approving Establishment of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Approved Resolution "A" - FY 2024/2025 Budget (as amended)
- ◆ Approved Resolution "B" - FY 2024/2025 Salary Schedule
- ◆ Approved Resolution "C" - FY 2024/2025 Capital Improvement Plan
- ◆ Approved Resolution "D" - FY 2024/2025 Fee Schedule

APPOINTMENTS

None

ELECTIONS

None

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Chairman Boyd thanked Commissioner Matthews for coordinating a Bombas sock give-away to county employees on Monday, September 16, 2024. He also asked for ideas from commissioners on where to display the Spirit of Saginaw Award from the Chamber of Commerce and directed Administrator Hannah to coordinate with the Building Authority regarding placement of the award in the Atrium of the Dow Event Center.

- ❖ Chairman Boyd recognized the Administrator's Office on implementing New Employee Orientation and announced there will be Security Training by Lt. Przybylski from Emergency Management from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2024 at the Dow Event Center (Heritage Theatre) with lunch and the BOC Holiday Gathering to follow from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Red Room.

COMMISSIONER AUDIENCES

- ❖ Commissioner Little asked about the \$1 million allocated for housing from ARPA funds and would like the Board of Commissioners to consider partnering with Community Action Committee (CAC) on home improvement projects, such as weatherization and repairs, and if there is a study being done for use of the \$1 million he requests that CAC be part of that study.
- ❖ Commissioner Spitzer announced a Candidate Forum hosted by the Saginaw Township Business Association on September 18, 2024 in the Vasher Theater at Heritage from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; The Heritage High School Homecoming Parade is Friday, September 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.; He also stated that Dr. Kline made serious allegations about staff at SCACC and the County Administrator assured the board she will look into the matter and report back to commissioners.
- ❖ Commissioner Coney is in support of Commissioner Little's suggestion that part of the \$1 million in ARPA funding set aside for housing be used for repairs and weatherization projects; also, if it is true that the needs of female inmates in jail are not being met, that is deplorable (Commissioner Webster stated he visited the jail recently and there were feminine products on site); she asked that the issues with Animal Control go back to the Courts & Public Safety Committee; and she announced she would forward information on upcoming ribbon cuttings for the new Saginaw United High School, Thompson Middle School, and SASA and encouraged commissioners to attend.
- ❖ Commissioner Slodowski mentioned the issues with Animal Care & Control have been addressed with Chairman Boyd and Administrator Hannah multiple times and there is nothing further we can do. Chairman Boyd has asked that those who are dissatisfied to work with the county to discuss these issues and offer their knowledge and suggestions to collaborate for the betterment of Saginaw County.
- ❖ Commissioner Piotrowski asked if, with the increase in windmills and solar farms, is it possible to levy a county tax? Civil Counsel can be directed to look into it, but Chairman Boyd believes the state has usurped our authority on the matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHRISTOPHER S. BOYD, CHAIRMAN

VANESSA GUERRA, COUNTY CLERK

Prepared by: Suzy Koeplinger, Assistant Board Coordinator/Deputy Clerk