

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw, MI 48602

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE PER

PA 228 & PA 254 of 2020

Present: James Theisen – Chair, Michael Webster – Vice-Chair, Kathy Dwan, Gerald Little, Carl Ruth
Others: Robert Belleman, Dave Gilbert, Jennifer Broadfoot, Vanessa Guerra, Bill Stanuszek, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Meaghan Gass, Benjamin Phillips, Christina Harrington, Mark Rankin, Sheldon Matthews, Jack Tany, Suzy Koeplinger, Cindy Louchart

***The Human Services Committee meeting was held via Zoom.
As the County Building is closed to the public, the meeting was open remotely
to allow participation during the public portion of the meeting.***

I. Call to order---**Jim Theisen at 4:00 p.m.**

Roll-call by County Clerk Vanessa Guerra as follows:

Commissioner Dwan – Freeland, MI

Commissioner Little – Saginaw, MI

Commissioner Ruth – Saginaw, MI

Vice-Chair Webster – Saginaw, MI

Chair Theisen – Spaulding Twp., MI

II. Welcome

III. Public comment---**None**

IV. Agenda

1. Approval of 2021 Committee and Board Session Calendar

---Moved by Dwan, seconded by Little, to approve the 2021 Committee and Board Session Calendar. Motion carried.

2. **William W. Stanuszek, Director, Mosquito Abatement Commission**, re:

▪ **1-19-1** Presenting its 2020 Annual Report for review and discussion

---Mr. Stanuszek provided a presentation of the 2020 Annual Report of the Mosquito Abatement Commission via Zoom shared screen, highlighting the challenges of providing services with the presence of COVID-19 and the floods that resulted from the failure of the Edenville and Sanford dams in May of 2020. While the pandemic affected many of the individual services, community operations were very successful. Surveillance noted higher than average mosquito-borne disease activity with West Nile virus found in multiple mosquito samples. SCMAC met the challenges posed by mosquitoes and the pandemic utilizing unique solutions to ensure the safety of staff and the public.

---Moved by Webster, seconded by Little, to receive and file. Motion carried.

3. **Mark J. Rankin, Dist. 9 Coordinator, MSU Ext.; Meaghan Gass, Ben Phillips, & Tom Wenzel, re:**
- **1-19-2** Presenting information on its Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute (AABI) as well as its Community, Environment, and Food Institute (CEFI) Programs available in Saginaw County

---Mark Rankin introduced Meaghan Gass, Ben Phillips, and Tom Wenzel who shared information about programs available in Saginaw County.

---Tom Wenzel provided information regarding the Sugar Beet Advancement Research and Educations which assists farms with better beet growth and noted the challenges COVID19 created with sugar beet trials.

---Ben Phillips provided information regarding the MSUE research farm and his work with vegetable growers, adding that this (2020) was the best season for home gardeners as many people were home during the pandemic and able to start and tend home gardens. Commercial growers did not fare as well because the demand for supply (restaurants and schools) was absent due to the pandemic. Additionally the pandemic caused issues with the labor force used by commercial growers. Prior to the pandemic, there was an interest in Urban Agriculture for vacant lots in Saginaw. Similar programs exist in Lansing, Detroit and Flint. A bus tour was originally planned to transport interested Saginaw County residents and administrators, however a caravan of cars would now be necessary and would cause parking issues as many of the urban garden areas have limited parking available.

---Meaghan Gass provided information regarding the protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes, highlighting programs and events, past and upcoming in the Saginaw area. Ms. Gass pointed out the White Pine elementary school pilot program where they raise Lake Sturgeon in the classroom, which are then released into the system. She also suggested, for anyone that has never seen a Lake Sturgeon, the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland has one that will be released into the Tittabawassee River later this year. No action.

4. **Christina Harrington, Health Officer, Saginaw Health Department, re:**

- County COVID Update
- County Vaccination Update

---Ms. Harrington provided an update on the COVID-19 numbers and shared where Public Health was at with vaccine distribution. Six-thousand (6,000) doses were provided through the Health Department, Covenant and St. Mary's. Great Lakes Bay Health Center and the VA Hospital will also be vaccinating. More will be done when additional vaccine doses are released. You can visit the Vaccine page on the Health Department website to determine when a particular group is able to register to receive the vaccine. The Health Department has partnered with the Commission on Aging to assist the 65 and older population that may need assistance with the process due to limited access to computers and limited technical abilities. Ms. Harrington answered questions regarding types of vaccines available and number of doses being requested. No action.

V. Miscellaneous---None

VI. Adjournment---**Moved by Dwan, seconded by Little, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:54 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
James Theisen, Committee Chair
Vanessa Guerra, County Clerk
Suzy Koeplinger, Committee Clerk

1-12-21/sea/sek