OSCEOLA COUNTY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2019

The Committee meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Chairman Nehmer.


Also present: Sheriff Ed Williams, Heather Gray-Register of Deeds, Rosie McKinstry-Equalization Director, Dan Massy-Community Developer, Susan Vander Pol-County Coordinator, Karen Bluhm-County Clerk and several members of the public.

Motion by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Emig, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Brief Public Comment: None.

Employee/Board Comments: None.

Moved by Commissioner Elkins, seconded by Commissioner Custer, to approve the minutes of November 5, 2019 as presented. Motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Recommended by Commissioner Halladay, seconded by Commissioner Michell, to approve the claims of the County in the amount of $103,098.57. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Budget Amendments and Treasurer’s Journal Register for October
Commissioner Halladay reviewed the budget amendments presented for approval.

Recommended by Commissioner Halladay, seconded by Commissioner Custer, to approve the budget amendments and Treasurer’s Journal Register report for October adjustments as presented. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Undersheriff Wage/Step
Sheriff Williams spoke to Board members about his recommendation for placement on the salary scale for newly appointed Undersheriff Mark Moore. Sheriff Williams also spoke about the canine assigned to Mark Moore and the stipend paid to the handler. Since the Undersheriff position is a salaried position, he asked a stipend be awarded to the Undersheriff for the remainder of time the canine serves the department. Discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Elkins, to approve the salary classification for the Undersheriff of Level 13, step 7 effective November 17th, with a step increase in February on his anniversary date with review for compliance with the Classification and Transfer policy. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Recommended by Commissioner Emig, seconded by Commissioner Custer, to approve an annual stipend of $4,500 for canine officer maintenance for the Undersheriff position as long as the current dog is in service. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

MSHDA Home Repair Loan Payoff & Discharge of Mortgage
Dan Massy, Community Developer, asked the Board to approve releasing a lien placed on property now that the MSHDA loan has been paid in full. A brief discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Emig, seconded by Commissioner Gregory, to approve the MSHDA Home Repair Loan Payoff and Discharge of Mortgage for Polaskey as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign. Recommendation was unanimously supported.
Vendor Gregory’s Repair, Inc.
Commissioner Gregory spoke about providing service to the County through his family’s business, Gregory’s Repair, Inc., and a possible conflict of interest now that he is on the Board of Commissioners. Discussion was held, but no action was taken. This matter will be looked into further.

Board of Canvassers
Karen Bluhm, County Clerk, advised she needs to replace two (2) Democrats to the County Board of Canvassers. One will fill a vacancy, while the other will be a regular four (4) year term. A brief discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Emig, to approve the appointment of Jodi Gabert for a term ending October 2021 and Julie Seguin with a term ending October 2023 to the Board of Canvassers as Democratic Appointments. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Election Source Contract
Karen Bluhm, County Clerk, asked for Board consideration in a proposed contract with Election Source for the new election equipment. The County is already obligated to a contracted amount for the last five (5) years of the ten (10) year agreement through the State of Michigan. Election Source, the County’s vendor, is offering to spread that five-year amount beginning now and stretching the payments through 2027 in an effort to help ease cost burdens on local units of government annually. Discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Elkins, to approve the contract with Election Source for support services, State of Michigan Contract No. 071B7700117 for $1,948 per year through 2027. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Letter Regarding Governor’s Cuts in 2020 State Budget
Commissioners discussed sending a letter to the Governor regarding the State’s recent budget cuts.

Recommended by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Custer, to approve the letter to the Governor regarding the State withholding funding. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Date for Employee Service Recognition
Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, asked for direction in setting a date for annual employee service recognition. After discussion, it was decided to hold at the Board’s second meeting in January 2020.

West MI Regional Sobriety Court Funding Request
Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, shared correspondence from the West MI Regional Sobriety Court. She wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the funding and discrepancy she reads in their correspondence. A brief discussion was held.

Employee/Board Comments: Commissioner Michell asked if the Board is still considering combination of the Clerk and Register of Deeds position. Discussion was held.

Extended Public Comment: None.

Moved by Commissioner Emig, seconded by Commissioner Gregory, to adjourn at 11:22 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Karen J. Bluhm, County Clerk Jack Nehmer, Chairman