THE COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017
AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE PERSONNEL CONFERENCE ROOM (D & E), HUMAN SERVICES
BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

NOTE CHANGE IN DATE

Agenda

Call to Order
Approval of the August 15, 2017 Minutes
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

1. Budget Hearings
   a. Tri-County Regional Planning ................................................................. 3-160
   b. Treasurer ................................................................................................. 3-147
   c. Road Department ...................................................................................... 3-140
   d. Register of Deeds ...................................................................................... 3-132
   e. Purchasing ................................................................................................. 3-127
   f. Potter Park Zoo .......................................................................................... 3-118
   g. Parks ........................................................................................................... 3-108
   h. Innovation and Technology ....................................................................... 3-102
   i. Human Resources ....................................................................................... 3-98
   j. Housing Commission .................................................................................. 3-95
   k. Hotel/Motel ................................................................................................. 3-93
   l. Financial Services ....................................................................................... 3-87
   m. Farmland and Open Space Preservation Millage ....................................... 3-84
   n. Fair .............................................................................................................. 3-74
   o. Facilities ..................................................................................................... 3-59
   p. Equalization ............................................................................................... 3-53
   q. Economic Development .............................................................................. 3-47
   r. Drain Commissioner ................................................................................... 3-32
   s. County Clerk ............................................................................................... 3-17
   t. County Attorney .......................................................................................... 3-14
   u. Controller/Administrator .......................................................................... 3-8
   v. Board of Commissioners ............................................................................ 3-3
   w. Advisory Boards
      1. Women’s Commission ............................................................................. 3-1
      2. Historical Commission ............................................................................ 3-1
      3. Equal Opportunity Committee ............................................................... 3-1
2. Ingham Conservation District

3. Final Ranking

Announcements
Public Comment
Adjournment

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES OR SET TO MUTE OR VIBRATE TO AVOID DISRUPTION DURING THE MEETING

The County of Ingham will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) working days notice to the County of Ingham. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Ingham in writing or by calling the following: Ingham County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 319, Mason, MI 48854 Phone: (517) 676-7200. A quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be in attendance at this meeting. Meeting information is also available on line at www.ingham.org.
Members Present: Celentino, Crenshaw, Grebner, Koenig (arrived at 6:01 p.m.), Nolan, Maiville, and Sebolt

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Wayne Sieloff, Chris Holman, Rick Terrill, Brian Fisher, Mark Fergason, Sandy Gower, Tim Morgan, Deb Fett, Sally Auer, Bill Conklin, Pamela Parker, Tim Dolehanaty, Travis Parsons, Becky Bennett, Liz Kane, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Celentino at 6:00 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the July 18, 2017 Open and Closed Session Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO APPROVE THE OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2017 COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Koenig

Additions to the Agenda

10. Resolution to Assign Accounting Responsibilities for a Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program

Removed –

5. Road Department
   f. Resolution to Authorize the Reclassification of the Public Relations Coordinator Position

Substitute –

8. Human Resources
   c. Resolution to Approve Implementation of Everbridge Alert System with Capital City Labor Program Inc. – Corrections Non-Supervisory Unit

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:01 p.m.
Limited Public Comment

Sally Auer, UAW Representative, stated the UAW supported the LOU between them and the County. She thanked Travis Parsons, Human Resources Director, and Jill Rhode, Financial Services Director, for working with the UAW to fix the internal problem, and she stated she appreciated the Board of Commissioners’ willingness to help with the matter.

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. GREBNER, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

2. Economic Development – Resolution to Set a Public Hearing for a Brownfield Plan

3. Innovation and Technology – Resolution to Approve the Purchase of SAN Components Upgrade

4. Facilities
   a. Resolution to Award a Contract for Generator Services for Various Back-Up Generators
   b. Resolution to Award a Contract for Elevator and Dumbwaiter Repair and Maintenance
   c. Resolution to Authorize the Renewal of the Service Agreement for Maintenance on the X-Ray Screening Machines
   d. Notice of Emergency Purchase Order
   e. Resolution to Award a Contract for Window Cleaning Services

5. Road Department
   a. Resolution to Approve Local Road Agreement with Alaeidon, Ingham, Leroy, Onondaga, Wheatfield, and White Oak Townships
   b. Resolution to Support Safe Routes to School Program Funding Application
   c. Resolution to Support Meridian Transportation Alternatives Program Funded Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon Installation
   d. Resolution to Approve the Special and Routine Permits for the Ingham County Road Department
   e. Resolution of Commitment for Transportation Alternatives Program Funds

6. Parks Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize Deer Hunting at Lake Lansing Park-North and the Ingham County Farm
   b. Resolution to Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with Mid-Michigan Mountain Bike Association
   e. Resolution to Authorize the Acceptance of the Project Agreement for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

7. Potter Park Zoo – Resolution to Authorize an Additional Weekend for the Potter Park Zoo “Boo at the Zoo” Event

(2)
8. **Human Resources**
   a. Resolution to Certify Representatives for the MERS Annual Conference
   b. Resolution to Authorize the Establishment of a MERS Hybrid Plan for New Road Department Managerial and Professional Employees
   c. Resolution to Approve Implementation of Everbridge Alert System with Capital City Labor Program Inc. – Corrections Non-Supervisory Unit
   e. Resolution to Authorize a Letter of Understanding with OPEIU Local #512

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. **Capital Region International Airport** – Presentation from Airport Director

Chris Holman, Airport Authority Board of Directors Chairman, thanked the Board of Commissioners for appointing him to the Authority Board of Directors. He stated after a long application process, he believed they hit a home run in hiring Wayne Sieloff as CEO.

Wayne Sieloff, Capital Region Airport Authority CEO, thanked the County for supporting the airport. He stated Lansing was lucky to have a great airport board, in part because of the Board of Commissioners’ appointments to the board.

Mr. Sieloff presented the report to the Committee.

Commissioner Grebner stated he looked at the map and noticed the airport still owned property above State Road. He asked how active the plan to move the whole airport across State Road was.

Mr. Holman stated it was still an idea on their wall.

Commissioner Grebner asked if they were buying property there.

Mr. Sieloff stated the airport was not currently buying property, but the airport did own a lot of property and some would be needed for the air field. He further stated the plan to build a new airport was still in the master plan that was developed many years ago, but he did not think moving the airport would work with the current plans and financials.

Commissioner Grebner stated the airport owned at least a square mile of land that was worth at least tens of million dollars.

Mr. Sieloff stated some of the property was support space for cargo, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulated that runways had to have certain specifications that made it difficult to plan.

Discussion.
Mr. Sieloff stated the airport was currently looking at their land acquisition and had recently met with the FAA regarding the options for their current property. He further stated that he could not say right now that the airport needed all of the bought property, and if not then they could put out for proper use compatible with the airport.

Mr. Sieloff stated it was a little too soon to make those determinations. He further stated if the airport did not need the land, then they would not keep it.

Commissioner Grebner asked if the airport changed their mind about using the land, they would let the Board of Commissioners know early, rather than waiting until someone asked a question.

Mr. Sieloff stated he was developing short-term and long-term strategies, and he would like to come back to report those to the Committee.

Commissioner Grebner stated much of the land only made sense for making runways, so any other facilities would not need to be included in those plans.

Mr. Sieloff stated there was a drawing for a runway on the north portion of the land. He further stated he thought it was a very long time before anything else came about.

Commissioner Grebner asked if there were still thoughts about using the property for an airport.

Mr. Sieloff stated it was in the initial plans that were approved by the FAA, and now they were in the early stages of analyzing and adjusting that plan again.

Discussion.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated he noticed when he had taken the direct flight from Lansing to Washington, D.C., the plane had been full. He asked if that was common for the flights to be full since the direct flights were introduced last July.

Mr. Sieloff stated most airlines require their planes to be 85% full, so they had to reduce the size of the plane to be more efficient. He further stated it would be easy to get a larger plane if the airline needed it at some point.

Commissioner Maiville stated he noticed when his wife flew to Dallas-Fort Worth, it was cheaper to fly out of the Lansing airport than the Detroit airport. He further stated he was pleasantly surprised with the result, and the County should make sure people from the area were searching for trips from Lansing first.

Commissioner Maiville asked if Allegiant Airlines would ever come to Lansing.

Mr. Sieloff stated the airport was in constant communication with potential airlines that could come to Lansing, and he met with Allegiant a few times per year. He further stated he did not get
the sense that Allegiant would be the first airline to join in Lansing, but they did have a good meeting with Southwest Airlines.

Commissioner Koenig welcomed Mr. Sieloff to the meeting. She stated she hoped he would come back and keep the Committee updated about his initiatives, because as the new CEO, she expected him to take the airport in new directions.

Commissioner Grebner stated in the past, the Lansing airport had been on par with the Flint and Grand Rapids airport, but he thought they had pulled ahead in the ranks. He further stated he now thought Lansing was closer in ranks to airports like the Capitol Cherry Airport.

Commissioner Grebner stated he believed the Lansing airport was now a “third tier” airport in the State. He further stated the location of the airport and population around the area affected its popularity.

Mr. Sieloff stated he would not consider Lansing to be a third tier airport, but he acknowledged that it was not a big hub like Detroit. He further stated he thought Lansing was still competitive with Saginaw and Cherry Capital Airport, but they had a job to do to advertise it better.

Mr. Sieloff stated there were many things in the Lansing airport that could be improved, including the concessions, layout and décor, and customer satisfaction. He further stated that he believed Lansing airport was one of the oldest terminals in Michigan, so they were trying to attract new air service and get feedback to keep up with newer airports.

Commissioner Grebner asked if there was any plan in place to announce a new terminal within five years.

Mr. Sieloff stated that a new terminal would be nice, but it was not possible with the current mill levy and income.

Commissioner Grebner clarified that there was interest in building a new terminal, but a funding source would be needed. He stated this was the first time he had heard that.

Mr. Sieloff stated he did believe there needed to be improvements made to the terminal and air field, but there were a lot of rocks to turn over before that could happen.

Commissioner Grebner asked if improvements to the terminal could be a new carpet in the existing terminal.

Mr. Sieloff stated the terminal needed more improvements than just a new rug.

Commissioner Grebner asked if they were looking to build a new terminal.

Mr. Sieloff stated he thought it would be best to renovate or improve the existing structure, rather than move it to a completely new facility.
Mr. Holman stated Commissioner Grebner was not going to pin down a solid answer, because there was nothing to pin down yet. He further stated that Mr. Sieloff had only been CEO for eight months, so there would be plenty of time for improvements.

Commissioner Koenig asked if the cost of a renovation or replacement of the terminal was included in his presentation.

Mr. Sieloff stated that cost was not included, because some funds would come from the terminal, but most would come from the FAA.

Mr. Holman stated about 90% of the funding for a renovation or replacement of the terminal would come from the federal government.

Commissioner Maiville asked how Lansing compared with other airports in the state for cargo.

Mr. Sieloff stated Lansing was about fourth or fifth in the state for cargo services, which was about where they were for passenger services as well. He further stated that moving things by air was expensive, unless there was an event that threatened the economic activity in the area and the company needed to bring a part or something in by plane to make sure the activity did not halt.

Mr. Sieloff stated he would like to focus more time on the organic growth with businesses in the Lansing area, rather than just have large aircraft move product through the state without it having a real economic impact on the area. He stated even though the local growth might be slower, it would be more sustainable.

6. Parks Department
   c. Resolution to Authorize an Amendment to Agreements for Trails and Parks Millage Funding

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAWS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. GREBNER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Maiville clarified that the funding adjustment for this project would be committing money from next year’s pool of trails and parks millage money. He asked if a decision had been made by the Parks Commission regarding this adjustment.

Tim Morgan, Parks Director, introduced Wendy Longpre, East Lansing Parks, Recreation & Arts Assistant Director, to the Committee. He stated that the adjusted project would take another $437,589 out of the trails and parks millage funding.

Mr. Morgan stated the issue had not come before the Parks Commission, as it had come up quickly and he wanted it to be the test project, to see how they would like to deal with scenarios such as this because this was the first one.
Commissioner Nolan stated she was leaning toward voting against the resolution, because she wanted the Parks Commission to be involved in the process. She further stated she would also like an update on the Parks Coordinator position, because she thought it would be nice to have someone solely focused on this trails and parks millage.

Commissioner Maiville stated the Parks Coordinator was the next resolution on the agenda.

Commissioner Nolan stated she understood there would be overruns on projects and the process might hold the project up, but the Parks Commission worked hard to process the applications for the trails and parks millage and she would like to include them.

Commissioner Grebner asked what the original estimate for the total cost for the project had been.

Mr. Morgan stated there had been two allotments of funds initially, one for $198,000 for general repairs and one for $890,000 for bridge work. He further stated the total cost was about $1.11 million, so they were over their original estimate by about 40%.

Commissioner Grebner asked if there was a reason why they went over their estimated costs so much.

Ms. Longpre stated the City of East Lansing was looking into the influence of the cost of this project, and from the time the application had been submitted, to the time the grant was bid, there had been issues that arose. She further stated aside from the natural degradation of the trail, they had also found more culverts and bridge work that needed to be repaired.

Commissioner Maiville stated he understood the application process took into account matching funds.

Commissioner Grebner stated there had not been matching funds for the initially approved project.

Mr. Morgan stated there were no matching funds because they had wanted to get things going on the repair projects for the first round of trails and parks millage applications.

Commissioner Koenig stated her first reaction was that this needed to go to the Parks Commission for further review, because if the Board of Commissioners just approved it, it would set a policy for dealing with similar issues in the future.

Discussion.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked how much time had passed between the initial assessment and when the projects were bid.
Ms. Longpre stated it was about three years in total. She further stated the engineers East Lansing had on their staff had gone out and done their own assessment on the trails, and suggested they double the amount of funding that Mannick and Smith had advised they request.

Ms. Longpre stated since they had initially gone out and done the design for the trails, the price had doubled again. She further stated they had done their best to estimate how much they would need, but there was greater degradation of the trails than initially realized.

Commissioner Crenshaw clarified that it was essentially a one-year period from when they got the grant in 2016 to the present. He asked when they put the bid out.

Ms. Longpre stated they had put the bid out in April or May of 2017. She further stated their first round of bids was $600,000 over budget.

Ms. Longpre stated they adjusted the project to bring the bid down, and it brought it to $400,000 over budget. She further stated the bridge work was going to be more substantial than they had originally assumed.

Commissioner Sebolt stated he was kind of shocked by the fact that the cost had quadrupled since their first assessment, which made him think the first assessment was not as thorough as it should have been. He asked that since this would come out of the next pool of trails and parks millage applicants’ money, how much was available for this round of projects.

Mr. Morgan stated that there was about $3.4 million for the trails and parks millage annually. He further stated a little more than $3 million would be available when the consultant and the potential Parks Coordinator position were taken into account, as well as multi-year funding projects.

Mr. Morgan stated there would be about $9 million over the next four years that this would be taken out of.

Commissioner Sebolt asked if East Lansing had additional applications they were submitting for this round.

Ms. Longpre stated East Lansing had submitted an application to add fencing along the northern trail, which was an extension of the current project.

Commissioner Sebolt stated he knew the Parks Commission was looking for match money in this round of applications. He asked if this would be considered match funding.

Mr. Morgan stated it could be considered match funding.

 Commissioner Grebner asked what the impact would be if they held off making this decision for two months.
Ms. Longpre stated some of the work could be done in the winter, so they would not be missing out on a complete construction season. She further stated if the decision was extended for two months, it would be past the timeline of when the contractor was required to hold their bid price, but since the contractor bid on the project twice, she was hopeful they would not increase their price.

Commissioner Grebner stated it would not be terrible if they waited for two months to decide on this project. He further stated that there wasoodles of cash for the trails and parks millage lying around, as only $1.5 million had been spent of the $10.5 million available.

Commissioner Grebner stated this adjustment would not prevent other projects from happening. He further stated that East Lansing had engineers on staff and they were making these mistakes, so he would expect they would run into more under- or over-estimated costs from smaller communities that did not have the available staff.

Commissioner Koenig stated this adjustment included work not initially approved in the application process, which she thought meant it was a different project.

Commissioner Maiville stated as a courtesy to the Parks Commission, he did not want to short circuit this decision.

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO REFER THE RESOLUTION TO THE PARKS COMMISSION.

A discussion ensued regarding the scope of trails and parks projects.

THE MOTION TO REFER THE RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion.

Commissioner Grebner stated the Committee should let the Parks Commission know that this decision should be expedited.

6. Parks Department
   d. Resolution to Authorize the Creation of a Trails and Parks Millage Program Coordinator

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

Commissioner Maiville stated that this being a full-time position with benefits ended up being a substantial amount of money. He asked if it had always been envisioned to be a full-time position.
Mr. Morgan stated the full-time position was needed in the Parks Department, as they had laid out a list of about twenty tasks that could fall under this job’s description. He further stated that they had removed more of the technical requirements of the job when they decided to contract with Spicer Group.

Mr. Morgan stated even with the consultant managing the technical aspects, there was still a need for a staff person with expertise, but they would not need to be an engineer. He further stated that Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, had told him it was not uncommon for about 10% of a millage to be allocated for the administration of the millage, and this was less than 10% per year.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked Travis Parsons, Human Resources Director, if they had checked with legal counsel to figure out if they could use trails and parks millage money to pay for this position.

Mr. Morgan stated they had checked with legal counsel way back before they hired Spicer Group to see if it would be possible to use funds for an employee or consultant.

Commissioner Grebner stated he was pleased to see that this person would be required to experience the County trails system, as he believed they should know what it was like, and possibly even experience trails not part of the system yet. He further stated he hoped the staff member would report what their findings were.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Grebner left at 7:14 p.m.

8. Human Resources
   d. Resolution to Approve a Letter of Understanding with the United Automobile Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America

MOVED BY COMM. CRENshaw, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Koenig stated she had asked for additional information during their Closed Session meeting, and she had not seen that yet. She asked Mr. Parsons to include the financial impact of the agreement and how much it would cost the County.

Mr. Parsons stated that since costs were reimbursed, Commissioner Koenig was concerned about the loss of productivity.

Commissioner Koenig stated Mr. Parsons was correct.

Mr. Parsons stated the County would lose 85 days of productivity if everyone took all of their allowed union leave time. He further stated each officer received ten days of union leave, except for the Chair, who received 25 days of union leave.
Commissioner Koenig asked what would happen in the Chair’s department if they took 25 days. She further asked if the department would need to hire a temporary worker.

Ms. Auer stated no one did her job when she was gone, regardless of whether she was gone on vacation or union time.

Commissioner Grebner returned at 7:17 p.m.

Commissioner Koenig clarified that the union officers could end up taking vacation time on top of union time, so they would have more days away from their job in a year.

Ms. Auer stated the department head had the ability to deny the request for leave if it was an unreasonable amount of time gone.

Discussion.

Ms. Auer stated the business they were talking about in the letter was strictly union business, not county business.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Koenig and Becky Bennett, Board of Commissioners Office Director, left at 7:19 p.m.

9.  Controller’s Office – Resolution to Amend Resolution #17-207 Updating Various Fees for County Services

MOVED BY COMM. GREBNER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Grebner asked if there were any interesting fee increases in the resolution.

Tim Dolehanty, Controller, stated the parking fees for the Potter Park Zoo increased by a dollar.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Koenig

10. Resolution to Assign Accounting Responsibilities for a Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. GREBNER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Koenig returned at 7:21 p.m.

Commissioner Maiville asked if this grant was historically administered through the Treasurer.
Mr. Dolehanty stated it was usually run through the Treasurer, which was why the resolution was before the Board of Commissioners. He further stated in the fourth paragraph, it outlined that the Controller was the chief accounting officer for the County, which was why it could be pulled under the Controller.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked why the Controller was pulling the duty away from the Treasurer and putting it under the Controller’s purview.

Mr. Dolehanty stated during the process of doing day-to-day work, they had found challenges that they did not need to find. He further stated the situation needed to be cleaned up now, because it was working on State and Federal fiscal year, which ended on September 30.

Mr. Dolehanty stated there would be a companion resolution that would go before the Finance Committee creating a budget for the program.

Commissioner Crenshaw asked if the Treasurer approved of the responsibility moving out of his office.

Mr. Dolehanty stated the Treasurer was eager to get rid of the responsibility.

Commissioner Nolan asked if this would be an audit exception. She further asked Mr. Dolehanty for more specifics on the issue.

Mr. Dolehanty stated it was not an audit exception yet, but it would be for 2017. He further stated there were just some things that needed to be better accounted for.

Commissioner Grebner asked if this issue was just the tip of the iceberg, or if it was the whole ice cube.

Ms. Bennett returned at 7:23 p.m.

Mr. Dolehanty stated he hoped it was not just the tip of the iceberg. He further stated he was concerned.

Commissioner Grebner asked if there were other programs parallel to this one that might be in similar situations.

Mr. Dolehanty stated he was concerned. He further stated it was completely unexpected, when they found some issues two weeks ago.

Commissioner Sebolt asked if this was addressing concerns already identified, or if it was a new concern.

Mr. Dolehanty stated it was a new concern.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment

Pamela Parker, Delhi Charter Township resident, asked where she could get more information about the Support Safe Routes to School Program. She further stated on one plan, she had seen there would be a crosswalk across Washington Road, but she had spoken to someone who did not have a record of that plan.

Commissioner Maiville stated Tracy Miller, Delhi Township Director of Community Development, would have information on the program.

Ms. Parker stated she had spoken to Ms. Miller, and there was a crosswalk planned in front of her house, but there was nothing on that map.

Commissioner Grebner stated the Road Department could also have information on the plans.

Chairperson Celentino stated the Controller could get Ms. Parker an answer from someone at the Road Department.

Discussion.

Ms. Parker stated she supported the program of walking to schools, but she also owned the property where they would be putting in the crosswalk. She asked if someone would be coming to talk to homeowners who would be affected by the construction.

Commissioner Nolan stated they might put an informational letter or flyer on their door, but they would probably not talk to them about it.

Ms. Parker stated she was concerned about the ditch in front of her house being affected by the construction.

Discussion.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.
MEMORANDUM

To: Ingham County Board of Commissioners

From: Michelle Beloskur, Executive Director

Date: August 17, 2017

Subject: Z Fund Request for Ingham Conservation District Operations

The Ingham Conservation District (ICD) has requested $7,954.00 to support core functions of the ICD and provide County residents continued service in 2018.

Nearly 70% of county funds received support ICD staff. County funding is key to maintaining staffing consistency when most of ICD’s funding comes from competitive grants and fundraising.

Since county funding was restored in 2014, it has been possible to devote more staff hours to bringing new programs and funding to Ingham County that directly benefit the county and its residents.

In 2012 and 2013 the ICD only housed one grant program and two staff members and was reaching about 2,000 residents per year. Since 2014, the ICD has implemented 8 new state and federal grant-funded programs bringing a total of $264,652 to Ingham County to address invasive species, local stream/river quality, wildlife habitat restoration, tire recycling, river cleanups, public hunting access, and forestry health. The ICD now has 4 staff members, an intern and a full board and we reach over 8,000 residents per year though events and activities that benefit our shared natural resources. The investment the county is making in the ICD is paying for itself many times over. For example, invasive species management costs the State of Michigan billions of dollars each year. Meridian Township alone this year committed over $10,000 to invasive species management. The work the ICD is doing in creating and managing the Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area will have a long-term benefit of reducing these costs currently borne by townships and Ingham County.

Grant and project development takes time and the support we have received from the county has been the critical element to providing for the staff time necessary for these accomplishments.

The other 30% of county funds help us maintain day-to-day core operations which grants, especially smaller grants, often do not cover. Simple items such as paper and toner are sometimes difficult to afford. This funding also assists with public outreach efforts and maintenance of 200 acres of publically accessible green space that serves educational purposes including river, prairie and forestry monitoring and demonstrations. Without the county’s support, the ICD will have to reduce its outreach and educational efforts both in the community and in the field.

These activities, and the many more spearheaded and/or supported by the ICD, help to achieve the County’s goals of a thriving economy, a high quality of life for residents and a clean and protected environment. We hope you will recognize the value of the ICD and continue to provide funding support in 2018. Thank you for all you do to make Ingham County a vibrant place to live and work.

Michelle Beloskur, Executive Director
Ingham Conservation District