

BOARD LEADERSHIP WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020 AT 6:00 PM. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY <https://ingham.zoom.us/j/91082340124>

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of the June 4, 2020 Minutes

Additions to the Agenda

Limited Public Comment

1. Update on Controller's Recommended Budget

Public Comment

Adjournment

A QUORUM OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

BOARD LEADERSHIP MEETING

June 4, 2020

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Celentino, Crenshaw, Grebner, Koenig, Maiville, Morgan (arrived at 6:09 p.m.) Naeyaert, Polsdofer, Sebolt, Slaughter, Stivers (arrived at 6:00 p.m.), Tennis, and Trubac.

Members Absent: Schafer.

Others Present: Clerk Barb Byrum, Prosecutor Carol Siemon, Treasurer Eric Schertzing, Jared Cypher, Teri Morton, Michael Townsend, Becky Bennett, Lindsey McKeever, Jill Bauer, Elizabeth Noel, and Michael Tanis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Crenshaw at 6:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-75 regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Stivers arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the January 28, 2020 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. KOENIG, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CELENTINO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2020 BOARD LEADERSHIP MEETING.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Morgan and Schafer

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

1. Update on 2020 and 2021 Budget

Jared Cypher, interim County Controller, stated that his staff prepared a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board of Commissioners on the 2020 and 2021 budget. He further stated that he had emailed the presentation to their County emails.

Mr. Cypher updated the Board of Commissioners on the 2020 and 2021 budget.

Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:09 p.m.

Chairperson Crenshaw thanked Mr. Cypher for the thorough presentation.

Commissioner Tennis asked if the funds that went to Community Mental Health (CMH) were from the Health Services Millage or another source.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that that was the general fund portion and did not include the Health Services Millage.

Commissioner Tennis stated that, regarding the increased revenue from the Health Department, he assumed that most of that revenue came from the adoption of the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

Commissioner Tennis stated that, if that was the case, he had concerns because the program was under siege in Washington, D.C. based on the notion that it was being used to fund non-health related things rather than to help populations that required health care. He further stated that it was created under the Medicaid program to help expand access to primary care and pharmaceutical services for critical populations.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the County needed to tread lightly so as not to put a target on their backs from Washington, D.C. saying that they were taking in those funds for one purpose and using them for something else.

Michael Townsend, Budget Director, stated that they had discussions with the Health Department. He further stated that they recognized and separated those funds, so they would not be used for other activities.

Mr. Townsend stated that, in terms of the 340B Drug Pricing Program, they had discussions at the end of last year to decide what those funds would be used for at that time. He further stated that they would most definitely do the same thing this year.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he appreciated all of the information provided tonight. He further stated that they were presented a lot of different options, and hopefully, they could utilize the best of all of those options to spread out of the pain as much as possible.

Commissioner Polsdofer asked Mr. Cypher if he could provide the Board of Commissioners with a breakdown of the \$400,000 to Cooperative Extension to see what was entailed.

Mr. Cypher asked if he wanted that information emailed out to the Commissioners, or if he sought an immediate answer.

Commissioner Polsdofer stated that an email was sufficient.

Commissioner Naeyaert thanked Mr. Cypher as she liked the simplified format that was presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she was not as devastated as she thought she would be. She further stated that, in terms of the Budget Review meetings with the committees, she thought that the County could make this work.

Commissioner Slaughter asked Mr. Cypher, in terms of communication that would be received from the State of Michigan regarding their budget process, if he had any sense of a timeline that involved information on revenue-sharing.

Mr. Cypher stated that he had not heard a lot from the State of Michigan or Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), even though it would be nice to have that security in terms of the budget. He further stated that if any of the Commissioners had any related contacts, it would be appreciated.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he would suggest to the Controller's Office to contact former County Commissioner and current State Representative Sarah Anthony. He further stated that she served on the Appropriations Committee in the Michigan House of Representatives, and would have some of that information for the County.

Mr. Cypher thanked Chairperson Crenshaw for that information.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he felt it to be necessary to provide a discussion of history. He further stated that the strategy that had been used over the past 15 to 30 years was that the County had less money all the time, and then broke apart functions that could be funded through millages.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he did not see any functions that could be funded alone in the next twelve months, but it was a strategy that the Board of Commissioners ought to keep in mind. He further stated that the County had a cash position that allowed them to get out of the current emergency, but in the long-term, the State of Michigan needed to give them more revenue sources or find another function that could be funded through a millage.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he thought the County would not see any statutory revenue-sharing with the State of Michigan. He further stated that Democrats in the Michigan Legislature would be the last people to be told what the budget package would be.

Commissioner Grebner stated that he thought that the State of Michigan's budget problems were worse than reported. He further stated that the County happened to be fortunate because they were dependent on property taxes, and those happened to be stable.

2. Update on Ingham County Fair

Mr. Cypher updated the Board of Commissioners on the Ingham County Fair.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that, as it could be imagined for someone who grew up with the Ingham County Fair, she was thrilled to have Lindsey McKeever, Fairgrounds Events Director, on board. She further stated that, while this plan was different, she believed that Ms. McKeever had ideas so that the County was not dependent on one week of the year to fund the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she looked forward to seeing what Ms. McKeever brought to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he understood how important the Ingham County Fair was to the County, but he acknowledged that a lot of events that people enjoyed were being cancelled due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Celentino asked if there would be a social distance plan in place, because while the Governor relaxed restrictions, she still encouraged residents to social distance.

Commissioner Celentino asked if the Fair Board and Human Services Committee were confident that the Ingham County Fair would pay for itself even though it consisted of livestock showings.

Commissioner Celentino asked if Ingham County 4-H was involved with the livestock showings since he had read in the Human Services Committee minutes that they did not want to participate.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that he had conversations with Health Officer Linda Vail until the time of this meeting, and the idea of her doing a walk-through of the Fairgrounds came about. He further stated that she was not familiar with the layout of the Fairgrounds, so he had encouraged Ms. Vail and the Controller's Office to have Ms. McKeever set a time for a walk-through to see if the County could be compliant.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that, to his recollection, some of those areas were tight. He further stated that Ms. Vail needed to see that set-up.

Ms. McKeever stated that she thought the Fairgrounds could do some social distancing because it would look nothing like what the Ingham County Fair had looked in the past. She further stated that the animals would be moved to different barns, and they did not plan to have the livestock showings inside the Main Arena, instead using the Shirley Clark Pavilion, Midway Pavilion, and the Dairy Feeders Barn.

Ms. McKeever stated that the animals would be in the commercial space, and those were larger buildings. She further stated that the MSU Extension had cancelled activities until September 1, 2020, and so that only thing that had changed was that the label of Ingham County 4-H would not be included, but the Fair Foundation would be sponsoring the livestock showings.

Ms. McKeever stated that the Fair Foundation was fundraising to cover the costs of this event. She further stated that they hoped to cover all the expenses associated with it through their fundraising efforts, including the judges and ribbons.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that, in spreading the events outside, it opened it up to many more buildings and square footage of space in that area. She further stated that she received a message from Ms. Vail saying that she could meet Ms. McKeever at the Fairgrounds on June 7, 2020, and that she was happy to attend.

Ms. McKeever stated that whenever Ms. Vail was available, she would meet with her.

Commissioner Koenig stated that a concern for the Ingham County Fair was the social distancing as not to cause a COVID-19 outbreak, but their second concern was, even though it seemed to be cost-neutral thanks to the Fair Foundation, there would be no income from their normal sources. She further stated that, similar to things that had been done in the past, ever since the Ingham County Fair became self-sufficient, every 4 to 5 years, the County had to add \$50,000 to \$150,000 to prop up the fair.

Commissioner Koenig stated that there was no question the Ingham County Fair would be self-sufficient this year, because there would not be revenue. She further stated that it was something to think about as the County moved forward.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that, while she heard what Commissioner Koenig said, people had to stop their week-long mentality of the Fairgrounds and the funding for the Ingham County Fair. She further stated that she thought the County had changed their direction when they hired Ms. McKeever, and she would take the Fairgrounds into a different direction that made the County not be dependent on one week of the year for the Fair's revenue.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that it was no secret that he had concerns that the Ingham County Fair had gone over budget, and he appreciated Commissioner Koenig for bringing that up. He further stated that he was thinking back to Ms. McKeever's interview and some of her innovative ideas, and knowing that the County had a large outdoor space, there might be the potential to generate revenue outside of the Ingham County Fair.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he knew some yoga studios had looked to find parks where people could meet. He further stated that the creative thinking that Ms. McKeever showed in her interview could pay off and be useful.

Ms. McKeever stated that it had been made clear to her that this was supposed to be a facility that had year-round events, rather than only used for the Ingham County Fair. She further stated that, for as horrible as it was, this gave her the opportunity to make that happen.

Ms. McKeever stated that she had a phone call with a company that did pumpkin installations, and so it would be a drive-thru Halloween experience around the Fairgrounds. She further stated that while it was expensive, they could charge a lot of money and would not be subject to cancellation.

Ms. McKeever stated that this experience reminded her that they had an obligation to serve their community, and if they had to reimagine and pivot, they should do so. She further stated that she thought they could do it.

Mr. Cypher stated that it was obvious that this fiscal year revenues would not match expenditures for the Ingham County Fair. He further stated that Ms. McKeever was doing the best that she could to chip away at that shortfall.

Mr. Cypher stated that they had lost a third of the off-season revenue due to COVID-19. He further stated that the good news with the Ingham County Fair was that there were usually a bunch of expenditures involved, and because they would not be spending any money this year, that number would get reduced to a net number.

Mr. Cypher stated that they learned recently that the Ingham County Fair had a large fund balance at the end of 2019. He further stated that the Ingham County Fair was in a much better financial position than they thought.

Mr. Cypher stated that whether or not that fund balance was enough to cover the shortfall at the end of this year was still unknown. He further stated that, with Ms. McKeever thinking of these creative ideas to make money over the summer, he was more hopeful now than he was a week ago about making that happen.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.