

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COURTHOUSE
100 E. STATE STREET
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879-1571
989-224-5120



Chairperson
Robert Showers
Vice-Chairperson
Kenneth B. Mitchell
Members
Valerie Vail-Shirey
David W. Pohl
Bruce DeLong
John Andrews
Dwight Washington

Administrator/Controller
John F. Fuentes
Clerk of the Board
Debra A. Sutherland

DATE 1/31/2023 The Clinton County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. with Chairperson Robert Showers presiding.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Chairperson Showers called for a moment of silence. The pledge of allegiance was given to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL Roll was called with a quorum of the members in attendance:
Val Vail-Shirey, David Pohl, Bruce DeLong, Kenneth B. Mitchell, Robert Showers, John Andrews and Dwight Washington.

COUNTY PERSONNEL John Fuentes, Craig Longnecker, Todd Campbell, Stephanie Dush, Doug Riley, Cindy Moser, Lynn Cech, Lori Hyland and Phil Hanses

VISITORS Adam Stacey, Eric Cole, Peg McLeod, Jack Phillips, Katie Hafner, Kurt Wolf, Andrea Polverento, Tim Higbee, Clayton Higbee, Ron Balzer, Dan Feldpausch, Cori Feldpausch, Trevin Bernat, Martha Hoffman, Tim Hoffman, Maggie Sayles, Judy Bronson, Jeff Rademacher, Benton Heisler, Lee Eiseler, Darin Eiseler, Malissa Schutt, Jeremy Blatt, Erin Bowling, Kim Bowe, Kristina Dawkins, Adam Smiddy, Nicole Fickes and Jason Minsek

AGENDA The agenda was amended to include the following item(s):

- Special Assignment Assistant Prosecutor Contractor Agreement
- Community Development Update

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The following minutes were presented for review and approval:

- December 16, 2022 Board of Commissioners' Meeting
- January 5, 2023 Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received:

1. Alcona County Resolution Support for Economic Impact Study of Consumers Energy Dams
2. Barry County Resolution to Amend Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act
3. Watertown Township Resolution in Support of Agricultural Land

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to acknowledge receipt of the communications. Motion carried.

RETIREMENT
RECOGNITION OF
LYNN CECH

Chairperson Showers presented a retirement recognition to Lynn Cech, Senior System Support Technician in the Drain Commissioner's Office. Ms. Cech began her career with the county in 1997 in the Register of Deeds Office and then went to work in the Drain Commissioner's Office. It was noted that Ms. Cech is loved by her co-workers and visitors.

RETIREMENT
RECOGNITION OF
ADAM STACEY

Chairperson Showers presented Adam Stacey, County Commissioner with a retirement recognition for his 14 years of service to Clinton County. Mr. Stacey has been an integral part of the growth of Clinton County in terms of the ability to meet obligations and a valued member of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Mitchell and Commissioner Pohl thanked Mr. Stacey for his service and noted that he will be missed as a member of the Board of Commissioners.

RETIREMENT
RECOGNITION OF
CRAIG LONGNECKER

Chairperson Showers presented Craig Longnecker, County Administrator, with a retirement recognition for his 28 years of service to Clinton County. Mr. Longnecker has been a major contributor to maintaining a culture of fiscal responsibility and cooperation among department heads and elected officials. He is respected and admired by his colleagues and employees. Mr. Longnecker always led with honesty and integrity, and truly cares about the people of Clinton County. He will be greatly missed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

John Fuentes, County Administrator gave the following report:

- The Prosecutor's Office currently has two vacant Prosecuting Attorney positions. One position is being filled. It is proposed that the other vacancy be filled with an independent contractor agreement with a local attorney.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT
ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR
CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Vail-Shirey to approve the Special Assignment Assistant Prosecutor Contractor Agreement. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Community Development Director, Doug Riley provided the members with an update about the proposed mega site in Eagle Township.

- A development application has not been submitted for the area termed as the mega site in the southeast portion of Eagle Township;
- At the request of Eagle Township, the county is looking at amending the County Comprehensive Plan and future land use maps for that area which is currently designated as Agricultural Preservation. Because Eagle Township does not have their own zoning ordinance, it is defaulted to the County;
- Clinton County and Eagle Township have contracted with civil engineering and community planning consultant, Giffels Webster, to review the Comprehensive Plan and possible amendment;
- As part of the process a public meeting has been scheduled for March 2nd in Eagle Township at the Eagle Park Reception Hall from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. The information will be posted on Eagle Township's website as well Clinton County's website;

- There will be an opportunity for the public to provide input at the meeting and there will be an online portal available for public input, as well;
- Any potential change will be presented to the County Planning Commission first:
 - The tentative date for review by the County Planning Commission is at the April meeting;
 - If the Planning Commission agrees with the consultant's recommendation, authorization will be granted to send to agencies, adjacent jurisdictions, etc. for a 63-day public review period to obtain additional feedback;
 - Following the responses, it would be presented to the County Planning Commission and the County Board of Commissioners for a public hearing for potential adoption;
 - Following all the statutory requirements, a tentative date for adoption by the Board of Commissioners would be at the July meeting.
- Community Development Director Riley noted that he will be preparing a crib sheet with a timeline and information to be posted online.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Showers called for public comments.

- Tim Halfman, 9760 W. Grand River, Eagle Township, read a statement on behalf of his neighbor, opposing the mega site.
- Cori Feldpausch, 11780 W. State Road, Eagle, Michigan, expressed concerns about the potential mega site and the impacts. Ms. Feldpausch noted that she would like time to organize a planning board in her township. She voiced disappointment in elected officials.
- Ted Higbee, 9900 W. Eaton Highway, Eagle Township, stated that he shares bordering land with the proposed site. Mr. Higbee spoke of his concerns if this project moves forward as it will change the community and the people that live in the community.
- Nicole Fickes, 6340 Victoria Shore, Laingsburg, raised questions about broadband. She questioned what would happen if the grant funding does not come through, whether there is a contingency plan and what will be done to hold Frontier accountable.
- Clayton Higbee, a farmer in Eagle Township, stated that if the plant comes, he will be forced to sell his farm and added that he does not want to move. Mr. Higbee stated that he believes it is up to the members to keep this property zoned as agriculture. He stated if the property is rezoned to commercial, it will be a slap in Dave Morris's face, to every other farmer in the area and a disgrace to the community.
- Kristina Dawkins, 12261 W. State Road, Eagle Township. Ms. Dawkins expressed that she has a lot of questions, concerns and confusion regarding the mega site. She noted the importance of her children growing up in an environmentally safe area. Ms. Dawkins questioned how this will benefit the community. She added that she wished she didn't have to worry about this.

RETIREE HEALTH CARE
TRUST FUND ANNUAL
REPORT

Chairperson Showers introduced Brian Lee, Investment Portfolio Manager, Fifth Third Bank to provide a summary of the annual report on the performance of the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund during the 2022 calendar year. The Retiree Health Care Trust Fund has been in place for 20 years and was established for the sole purpose of funding retiree health care benefits. Mr. Lee reported that the fund is very well positioned to meet actuarial funding assumptions over the long term; what is necessary to pay all benefits for health care benefits now and into the future. He added that it is also very well positioned for shocks like last year, which was the worst year in 45 years for a balanced account such as the health care fund. The fund ended the year with a Market Value of \$15,438,617.70.

CLINTON AREA TRANSIT
SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson Showers introduced Malissa Schutt, Executive Director of Clinton Area Transit to present the annual report. Ms. Schutt noted that she sent out the first Annual Report for Clinton Transit and will be providing hard copies. Ms. Schutt emphasized that public transit matters to keep people connected. Ms. Schutt provided the members with the following update:

- Changes in 2022 included:
 - Expanded services;
 - Added Saturdays;
 - Extended weekday services;
 - Improved technology;
 - Simplified fare structures;
 - MDOT reported rural transit at 85% of pre-pandemic ridership; Clinton Transit is 27% beyond pre-pandemic ridership;
 - One seat rides with CATA and EATRAN.
- What to watch for in 2023:
 - Transit Development Plan;
 - Virtual payment options for passengers;
 - Working more closely with community health & human service partners;
 - Regional one seat rides with CATA and EATRAN will continue.

Ms. Schutt thanked the members for their support and added gratitude to residents for their support.

CLINTON CONSERVATION
DISTRICT UPDATE

Chairperson Showers introduced Andrea Polverento, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Clinton Conservation District. Ms. Polverento spoke of the value that the Conservation District brings to Clinton County as a long-term partner with the county's park system and the assistance in achieving the county master comprehensive plan goals. Ms. Polverento introduced Kurt Wolf, Executive Director of the Clinton Conservation District, and Katie Hafner, Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative Technician.

Kurt Wolf, Executive Director of the Clinton Conservation District presented the following report:

- The Conservation District typically secures approximately \$1.2 million through federal programs per year and these funds are spread out at the local level;
- During COVID, grants were not being disbursed, however the Conservation District was fortunate to rely on partnerships with the county, MSU, and Parks & Greenspace;
- They are looking forward to a large increase for grant opportunities in 2024;
- The Conservation District follows the county's comprehensive plan and looks for opportunities to potentially partner;
- They are currently working with EGLE to obtain a Section 319 grant for the upper Looking Glass to improve surface water;

- They are also looking into roughly \$1 million in grants for 2024 which typically require a 25% match. Finding the match funds can be challenging, however there is a huge return on investment;
- The annual meeting will be held June 6th at AgroLiquid;
- The annual newsletter and Spring tree sale flyers are being sent out.

Mr. Wolf thanked the members for their support and noted that he looks forward to continued partnerships.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Washington noted that the Conservation District has been a critical and valuable asset to our Parks and Greenspace and looks forward to a continued relationship.

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
UPDATE

Commissioner DeLong highlighted the report submitted by Health Officer Liz Braddock, Mid-Michigan District Health Department. The report included the following:

- **COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency:** The Federal Public Health Emergency Declaration has been extended for an additional 90 days as of January 11. The St Johns branch office will continue to offer virtual visits to WIC clients under the federal guidance. Staff are encouraging in person visits so that other services can be made available to infants and children while at the clinic.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Clinton County 1 st Quarter			
	22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN				
A. Clients Served	639	589	666	773
B. Client Visits	627	482	33	607
FAMILY PLANNING				
A. Clients Served	26	42	52	72
B. Client Visits	27	43	55	82
IMMUNIZATION				
A. Clients Served	306	543	390	245
B. Client Visits	372	713	410	263
C. Waivers Provided	20	20	N/A	N/A
D. Immunizations Administered	712	906	543	470
CHILDREN SPECIAL HEALTH CARE				
A. Clients Served	140	142	145	146
B. Billable Client Contacts	11	20	18	17
D. Non-Billable Client Contacts	301	294	310	235
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE/TB CONTROL				
A. Case Count	1969	5628	5747	170
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CONTROL				
A. Clients Served	9	11	13	13
B. Client Visits	9	11	13	13

COMMUNITY HEALTH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Clinton County 1 st Quarter			
	22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20
HEARING SCREENING				
A. # of Screenings	846	561	106	1223
VISION SCREENING				
A. # of Screenings	993	1010	140	1527
FLUORIDE VARNISH				
A. # of fluoride varnish Clients Served during Clinic	0	0	0	0
B. # of kindergarten assessments	265	N/A	N/A	N/A
BLOOD LEAD				
A. # of elevated BL levels	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
B. # in case management	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER CONTROL				
A. Clients Served	4	5	1	6
HIV SCREENING				
A. Clients Served	7	12	2	6

- Radon Action Month:** The month of January is National Radon Action Month. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. It comes from the natural decay of uranium and radium found in nearly all rocks and soils. One in every four Michigan homes is expected to have radon levels that exceed the recommended federal action level. This is alarming because radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. You can't see, smell or taste radon. The only way to know if you have elevated radon levels is to test. Free radon test kits are available at the Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Environmental Health desk. Clinton County Branch Office is located at 1307 E. Townsend Road, St. Johns. The phone number is: 989-224-2195.

The commissioners agreed to have Ms. Braddock continue reporting in person quarterly.

ZONING

Community Development Director, Doug Riley, presented the following matters:

PC-36-22 SLU APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT SUBMITTED BY EISELER OIL CO. SECTION 5, BINGHAM TOWNSHIP

PC-36-22 SLU Application for Special Land Use Permit submitted by Eiseler Oil Co. for a propane facility on the south side of Kinley Road just west of N. BR-127 (across from Worthington Ag Parts) in Section 5 of Bingham Township

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the application for Special Land Use Permit submitted by Eiseler Oil Co.

Chairperson Showers called for comments and/or questions. There were none.

Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Pohl, Andrews, DeLong, Vail-Shirey, Washington, Mitchell and Showers. Seven ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.

PC-40-22 MA APPLICATION
FOR ZONE MAP
AMENDMENT SUBMITTED
BY ERIC COLE
SECTION 20, OLIVE
TOWNSHIP

PC-40-22 MA Application for Zone Map Amendment (rezoning) submitted by Eric Cole to rezone approximately 12 acres from A-2 (General Agriculture) to RR (Rural Residential) at the location of 8251 S. DeWitt Road in Section 20 of Olive Township

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the application for Zone Map Amendment submitted by Eric Cole.

Chairperson Showers called for comments and/or questions. There were none.

Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Washington, Vail-Shirey, DeLong, Andrews, Mitchell, Pohl and Showers. Seven ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.

PC-41-22 APPLICATION FOR
SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT
SUBMITTED BY SAM
DALMAN (RED FACED
PROPERTIES)
SECTION 27, OLIVE
TOWNSHIP

PC-41-22 Application for Special Land Use Permit submitted by Sam Dalman (Red Faced Properties) for approval of a Home-Based Business – Basketball and Volleyball Gym – on vacant property located on the north side of E. Chadwick Road, just east of S. US-27 in Section 27 of Olive Township

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the application for Special Land Use Permit submitted by Sam Dalman (Red Faced Properties).

Chairperson Showers called for comments and/or questions. There were none.

Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Mitchell, Pohl, Vail-Shirey, DeLong, Andrews, Washington and Showers. Seven ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF
COMMISSIONERS'
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Commissioners' expense accounts were presented for review and approval.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl to approve the expense accounts, subject to review by the Chair and Clerk. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following are reports of Committee meetings:

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner Vail-Shirey, Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee, reported on a meeting held January 26, 2023.

ATTENDANCE AT
COMMITTEE MEETING

Members Present:

Val Vail-Shirey, HR Committee Chairperson
Dwight Washington
Bruce DeLong
Ken Mitchell
David Pohl
John Andrews
Robert Showers, Ex-Officio Member

Staff Present

John Fuentes
Craig Longnecker
Todd Campbell
Penny Goerge
Cindy Moser

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL
OF AGENDA

1. Human Resources Committee Chairperson Vail-Shirey called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
 - Addition to Agenda: County Clerk/ROD Personnel Request for Training – 3A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

2. Human Resources Committee Chairperson Vail-Shirey requested limited public comments. There were none.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION
APPOINTMENTS

3. Human Resources Committee Chairperson Vail-Shirey introduced discussion regarding appointments to various committees and commissions.

APPOINTMENT OF RYAN
BOOTS TO COUNTY
LIBRARY BOARD

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, to **recommend** appointing Ryan Boots to the County Library Board for the remainder of a five (5) year term expiring June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl to concur with the committee recommendation. Chairperson Showers called for further nominations. None were offered. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF JOHN
FUENTES TO BUILDING
AUTHORITY

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Washington moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl, to **recommend** appointing John Fuentes to the Building Authority for the remainder of a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2023. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to concur with the committee recommendation. Chairperson Showers called for further nominations. None were offered. Motion carried.

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER
OF DEEDS PERSONNEL
REQUEST FOR TRAINING

- 3A. Human Resources Committee Chairperson Vail-Shirey introduced Administrator Fuentes to discuss a personnel request from the County Clerk/Register of Deeds.
 - The County Clerk/ROD has been utilizing an experienced previous employee over the past several months (16 hours per week) for training purposes and to assist the Clerk's Office during various staffing vacancies during 2022;
 - The County Clerk/ROD is requesting to continue utilizing this previous employee through the end of May 2023 to train a new Court Clerk and assist the Clerk's Office as another full-time employee transitions to part-time;
 - Funds are available in the 2023 budget and the estimated cost is \$8,500;
 - Administration has reviewed and concurs with this request.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to **recommend** authorizing the Clerk's Office to continue utilizing an experienced previous employee for training purposes through May 31, 2023, at an amount not to exceed \$8,500, from within the current budget. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to concur with the committee recommendation. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS'
COMMENTS

4. Human Resources Committee Chairperson Vail-Shirey requested Commissioners' comments.
 - Discussion took place regarding the current labor market and the members discussed having another salary study completed for county employees;
 - Commissioner Washington provided updates on behalf of the social service committees;
 - Commissioner Pohl provided an update on behalf of the Mid-Michigan District Health Department; discussion followed regarding the first opioid settlement payments that are expected by January 31, 2023;
 - Commissioner Mitchell provided an update on behalf of the Local Emergency Planning Committee;
 - Commissioner Showers encouraged and invited all Commissioners to attend quarterly Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) meetings, and provided an update on behalf of the Capital Council of Governments, Capital Region Airport Authority, and LEAP;
 - Commissioner Vail-Shirey spoke about the importance of developing relationships with the legislators that represent Clinton County.

ADJOURNMENT OF
COMMITTEE MEETING

5. Human Resources Committee Chairperson Vail-Shirey adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

**WAYS & MEANS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Commissioner DeLong, Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee, reported on a meeting held January 26, 2023.

ATTENDANCE AT
COMMITTEE MEETING

Members Present:

Bruce DeLong, W&M Committee Chairperson
David Pohl
Dwight Washington
John Andrews
Val Vail-Shirey – Arrived at 9:06 a.m.
Ken Mitchell
Robert Showers, Ex-Officio Member

Staff Present

John Fuentes	Brenda Ondrus
Craig Longnecker	Penny Goerge
Todd Campbell	Rob Wooten
Cindy Moser	Sheriff Dush
Doug Riley	

Others Present

Emma Bostwick, LEAP
Adam Smiddy, Guidehouse
Kyle Macyda, Plante Moran
Alan McCarrick, Plante Moran
MaLissa Schutt, Clinton Area Transit
Gail Watkins, Clinton Area Transit
Kyle Mazurek, ITC Company
Patti Schafer, Eagle Township
John Clarke, Eagle Township
Cynthia Stump, ITC Company
Andrea Polverento, Watertown Charter Township
Jack Phillips, Clinton Area Transit
Dan Smith, Lebanon Township
Carolyn Brokob, Watertown Township
Dan Feldpausch

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL
OF AGENDA

1. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl, to approve the agenda as amended.

- Addition to Agenda: Planning Update – Eagle Township – 1A

PLANNING UPDATE

1A. Community Development Director Riley provided a brief update regarding a special study of an area in the southeast portion of Eagle Township:

- At the November Board of Commissioners meeting, at the request of Eagle Township, the County authorized a special study of an area in the southeast portion of Eagle Township that is currently designated as Agricultural Preservation in the County Comprehensive Plan and is zoned as agricultural;
- Giffels Webster, a civil engineering and community planning consultant, is conducting this special study that includes reviewing land use issues, gathering public input and provide guidance for future planning and zoning decisions in and around the area;
- Giffels Webster has begun their work and is following the statutory steps necessary, such as holding a public open house for public input and providing an online portal that allows people to make public comment to incorporate into the review process; It is anticipated they will report a recommendation to the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners in April at the earliest;
- There are key meetings that will take place prior to the April meetings; for example, Eagle Township is hosting a public open house workshop on March 2nd and the public is invited to attend this meeting to provide public input;
- Community Development Director Riley stated that it would be up to the landowner or applicant to request a zoning change; to date, there has not been a development application, rezoning request, or any kind of site plan or project proposed to the Planning and Zoning Department relative to this property;
- If anyone wishes to make a public comment regarding this study, they are invited to attend a Planning Commission meeting or submit their comments at the online portal that will be provided.

No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 2. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong requested limited public comments.
 - Jason Almerigi, Bath Township representative on the Clinton County Broadband Task Force, expressed his concerns regarding the decision-making process of the Task Force;
 - Mr. Almerigi has concerns about not being able to review the full proposals submitted by the vendors; as a Task Force Member, he felt he had no voice during the proposal review process;
 - Mr. Almerigi further expressed his dissatisfaction with the Task Force's final recommendation of Frontier as the chosen vendor for the Broadband Infrastructure Development Project; he questioned Frontier's financial position, customer service record, and ability to maintain their infrastructure over time.

No action taken.

TREASURER – BLANKET BOND REPORT

- 3. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Brenda Ondrus, Clinton County Deputy Treasurer, to discuss the One Million Dollar Blanket Bond covering the County Treasurer.
 - As required by Public Act 211 of 2007, Chief Deputy Treasurer Ondrus provided a copy of the Blanket Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of One Million Dollars issued to Clinton County by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority;
 - The Bond is valid for the upcoming year and meets the statutory threshold amount required by this Act.
 - It was noted this report should be provided prior to January 1st and its presentation will be adjusted in the future to meet the requirement; this does not affect bond coverage.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to **recommend** acknowledging submission of the Blanket Bond Report for 2023 as required by Public Act 211 of 2007. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl to concur with the committee recommendation. Motion carried.

FACILITY AND FLEET SERVICES – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

- 4. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Rob Wooten, Facilities and Fleet Services Director, to discuss the following capital improvement requests.

COURTHOUSE SERVER ROOM FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

- A.
 - The existing fire suppression system is 22 years old and reaching the end of its useful life;
 - The Courthouse has three special suppression systems covering the server room, 911, and 911 radio equipment room; the plan is to replace one system per year, so all systems are replaced before manufacture support is phased out.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Vail-Shirey, to authorize the replacement of the Courthouse server room fire suppression system for an amount up to \$75,000, as outlined and approved in the capital improvements section of the 2023 budget. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE AHU
HUMIDIFIER REPLACEMENT

- B.
- The existing air handling unit (AHU) humidifiers are 22 years old and have reached the end of useful life.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to authorize the replacement of the Courthouse AHU humidifiers for an amount up to \$90,000, as outlined and approved in the capital improvements section of the 2023 budget. Motion carried.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PATROL
VEHICLE

- C.
- One of the Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles was recently involved in an incident resulting in more than \$20,000 of damage; the insurer has determined that the vehicle is "totaled" (not repairable);
 - The County currently has six replacement patrol vehicles ordered; however, due to ongoing vehicle supply chain issues there are no ETAs available for any of the existing orders; it is likely these vehicles will not be delivered for several months;
 - Reassigning Deputies from the damaged vehicle to another existing patrol vehicle will result in an accelerated replacement timeline due to significantly increased usage;
 - To appropriately maintain the readiness of the patrol vehicle fleet, it is being requested that the County order an additional 2023 patrol vehicle; the insurance payment of \$16,800 will offset a portion of the replacement costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington, to **recommend** approving up to \$50,000 for the purchase of an additional 2023 patrol vehicle and increase the existing 2023 vehicle equipment budget by \$18,000 for vehicle equipment and upfitting. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to concur with the committee recommendation. Voting on the motion by roll call vote. Those voting aye were DeLong, Andrews, Washington, Vail-Shirey, Pohl, Mitchell and Showers. Seven ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.

ITC COMPANY – PROPOSED
ITC ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION LINE

5. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Kyle Mazurek and Cynthia Stump from ITC Company, to discuss a proposed ITC Electric Transmission Line in Clinton County.
- Mr. Mazurek and Ms. Stump from ITC provided background information regarding their company and presented Michigan's Long Range Electric Transmission Plan;
 - In response to the changing energy landscape and the critical imperative to maintain the long-term stability of the electric grid, ITC Holdings Corp., through its subsidiary, Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC (METC), announced its intent to construct new transmission lines, including a new double circuit 345-kV electrical transmission line in mid-Michigan;
 - The Nelson Road to Oneida Project includes approximately 40 miles of electric transmission line extending from the existing Nelson Road Substation located in Gratiot County to the existing Oneida Substation in Eaton County;
 - This section of line is anticipated to extend through Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ionia and Montcalm counties; additionally, there are eight westerly townships (Eagle, Westphalia, Dallas, Lebanon, Watertown, Riley, Bengal, and Essex) and the villages within those townships have received notice from ITC regarding their proposed project;

- The proposed line requires approximately 200-foot-wide right-of-way; structures typically range from 100-130 feet tall and are placed 700-1,000 feet apart, depending on site-specific conditions;
- ITC is currently evaluating route options and is conducting outreach to communities affected; construction will not start until after they work through the state regulatory process, the route is determined, all necessary permits and real estate rights are secured, and engineering design and procurement is completed;
- The goal is to have the projects in service by 2030;
- Discussion took place regarding easements; it is ITC's general process and first preference to work with the landowner and acquire voluntary easements; it was noted that eminent domain is considered the last option.

No action required.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
ACT OF 2021

6.

LEAP UPDATE

- A. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Emma Bostwick from LEAP to provide an update regarding the Clinton County Small Business Relief Grant Program.
- Members received a quarterly report from LEAP regarding the Clinton County Small Business Relief Grant Program; LEAP continues to aid in outreach to increase technical assistance activity;
 - LEAP is still actively engaging with programming related to the Michigan Small Business Development Center at Lansing Community College (MI-SBDC) as they make direct referrals for the restaurant resurrection grants;
 - LEAP is requesting approval to transfer \$50,000 from the allocated Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Technical Assistance budget, currently set at \$110,000, to the Restaurant Resurrection Grant; this transfer would increase the resurrection grant budget to \$150,000 and reduce the budget for the TA program to \$60,000;
 - Given the pace of technical assistance spending to date, this move will not negatively impact the ability of Clinton County small businesses to make use of the available free consulting services in 2023;
 - As a result of this transfer, between a half dozen and a dozen restaurant businesses will receive a grant in the range of \$15,000 to \$30,000;
 - It was noted that the grant recipients that have been deemed eligible have already completed an application and due diligence work has been completed; once approved, LEAP will begin issuing grant agreements and checks will be distributed on January 31, 2023.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, to **recommend** approval for the transfer of \$50,000 from the allocated Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Technical Assistance budget to the Restaurant Resurrection Grant budget. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Vail-Shirey to concur with the committee recommendation. Motion carried.

GUIDEHOUSE UPDATE

- B. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Adam Smiddy from Guidehouse to provide an update regarding Clinton County's Broadband Initiative.
- **Michigan Highspeed Internet (MIHI) Office Grant Application** - Discussion took place regarding the ROBIN (Realizing Opportunities in Broadband Infrastructure Networks) Grant:
 - The Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) Office launched the ROBIN Grant Application process on Friday, January 13th and the 60-day application window closes at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14;
 - Mr. Smiddy informed the members that MIHI narrowed their definition in the grant application to state that a fixed wireless internet service provider must be licensed to claim service capable of speeds meeting the 100 mbps download and 20 mbps upload speeds;
 - The members reviewed the MIHI maps; discussion followed about gathering speed test data for the areas that MIHI has identified as ineligible; Mr. Smiddy is exploring commercially available data to achieve this purpose.

No action required.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Broadband Update: Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced discussion regarding the Broadband Infrastructure Development Proposal.

- Kyle Macyda and Alan McCarrick from Plante Moran, and Adam Smiddy from Guidehouse, were introduced as the County's professional consultants who were contracted to assist the County with the Broadband Infrastructure Development Project;
- Retiring Administrator Longnecker provided background information regarding the due diligence that was followed within a tight timeframe when evaluating the Broadband Infrastructure Proposals:
 - The Selection Committee consisted of the County Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Finance Director, and IT Director;
 - Plante Moran provided the County with two independent consulting teams; the main consulting team provided technical analysis of the proposals received from the internet service providers, with the second independent team providing an in-depth financial analysis of the finalists;
 - Working with a highly regarded independent professional firm, the Selection Committee was able to come to a unanimous recommendation and Plante Moran presented their report to the Broadband Task Force on January 23rd;
 - As outlined in the report from Plante Moran, Frontier provided the most comprehensive solution and proved to be the vendor with the capacity to meet county requirements and ultimately the requirements of the ROBIN grant, supporting the Selection Committee's recommendation;
 - The Task Force accepted the review team's recommendation of Frontier to partner with the County on the ROBIN grant application, and recommends approval by the Board of Commissioners;

- **Broadband Infrastructure Development Presentation:** Mr. Macyda and Mr. McCarrick from Plante Moran were invited to present their full report to the Board.
 - **Background:** Mr. Macyda and Mr. McCarrick presented the goals of this project:
 - Facilitate projects that will successfully accomplish getting fiber-to-the-home internet to the unserved and underserved residents of Clinton County;
 - Provide service to the home utilizing fiber technologies that deliver a minimum 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload service upon project completion, expandable to 100 Mbps symmetric service;
 - Identify service provider(s) capable of delivering the required services to the eligible service areas;
 - Seek grant funding through the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) to offset costs to Clinton County;
- **RFP Overview:** Mr. Macyda and Mr. McCarrick notified the members that Clinton County partnered with Guidehouse to develop the RFP to solicit broadband Internet providers to build the fiber-to-the-home Internet services for the residents of Clinton County.
 - It was noted the RFP requirements were largely driven by and based on the funding and grant requirements stipulated by the State of Michigan/MIHI (ROBIN Grant) and the Federal ARPA funding; Clinton County managed the RFP solicitation process and partnered with Plante Moran to assist in the proposal evaluation process;
 - The Members reviewed and discussed the proposed broadband service areas in Clinton County that were identified in the RFP as being underserved (West, Central and East); Providers were able to propose services on one or more service areas;
 - The RFP timeline was reviewed; the RFP was released in August of 2022 and proposals were due in late September;
- **Proposal Analysis:** Mr. Macyda and Mr. McCarrick provided a summary of the proposals received:
 - Six qualified proposals were received, and analysis was conducted between October 2022 – January 2023;
 - Based on the initial scoring results, interviews were conducted with three providers in November 2022;
 - The County partnered with Plante Moran to perform additional financial due diligence for the shortlist providers which identified some areas that required further clarification;
 - Updated FCC broadband maps were published on November 18, 2022; since this information was not available at the time of the initial proposal submissions to the County, all providers were afforded the opportunity to update their proposals by December 20, 2022, with a best and final offer;
 - The members reviewed the proposal cost summary detailing the total project cost for each provider as well as percentage of provider funding, and quantity of potential households served;
 - Discussion followed regarding the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFP as well as additional considerations;
 - It was noted that the quantity of potential households served is only based on data submitted by providers through the RFP process, and the actual quantity of grant eligible households served is subject to change based on the determination of the MIHI Office;

- **Provider Selection:**
 - The provider proposals were evaluated and scored by the County RFP Selection Committee (IT Director, Finance Director, County Administrator and Deputy Administrator) with the support of Plante Moran;
 - The members reviewed the RFP scoring summary that was provided;
 - Frontier received the highest overall score in the RFP process and was the Provider with lowest cost per household capable of serving all three service areas;
 - Frontier has the potential to serve the highest number of grant eligible households across all three service areas and their proposed broadband infrastructure allows for future expansion to other areas and customers within the county (funded separately);
 - Additional considerations included Frontier’s strong financial position and their reorganized customer service division to better align with customer expectations;
 - Frontier also expressed a strong interest in serving additional areas;
 - The County performed due diligence reference checks for the proposed finalist provider and the feedback was all positive;
 - Legal counsel reviewed the contract terms and conditions from the proposed finalist provider and did not find any significant concerns;
 - Plante Moran supports the recommendation of the Clinton County RFP Selection Committee to award all three service areas (West, Central, East) to: Frontier North Inc. (d/b/a “Frontier”);
- **Project Funding:**
 - The members reviewed the project funding summary that shows a total project cost of \$25,257,611 with the Provider’s portion of the project totaling \$9,016,967 and the County’s portion of the project totaling \$16,240,644;
 - It is anticipated the County’s portion will require ROBIN grant funding in the amount of \$13,804,547 and ARPA funding in the amount of \$2,436,097;
 - No general fund dollars are being used, the project is under budget, and the acceptance of this proposal is timely to put the County first in line for grant dollars;
- **Member Discussion:**
 - Discussion followed regarding mapping and the members expressed their frustration relative to the maps provided by MIHI;
 - Discussion took place regarding additional opportunities to expand broadband capabilities in Clinton County; Frontier has indicated a strong willingness to expand beyond the areas outlined in the proposals;
 - Administration staff addressed the concerns expressed by Mr. Almerigi during public comment, and Deputy Administrator Campbell reported the positive feedback that he received from four different references regarding fiber to home projects that took place after Frontier’s restructuring; all references were very pleased with the project timelines and quality of service received;
 - The members requested that legal counsel make recommendations in the contract relating to protections for the County to limit liability; Guidehouse Consultant Smiddy assured the members that all federal funding requirements will be adhered to throughout the process;

- The members discussed the importance of keeping the local townships updated;
- The members received confirmation from the consultants that the cost to the consumer will be affordable;
- **Next Steps:**
 - Once approved at the Board of Commissioners Meeting, the County will notify the awarded Provider, and the County and Guidehouse will submit a grant application to MIHI;
 - Upon grant award, the County will begin contract negotiations with the provider (including review and validation of grant eligible households to be served) that will be reviewed by legal counsel;
 - The Provider can then begin make-ready, permit process and related construction activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl, moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to **recommend** approval of Frontier as the vendor for the Broadband Infrastructure Development Project to provide fiber-to-the-home broadband internet infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in Clinton County. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl to concur with the committee recommendation. Voting on the motion by roll call vote. Those voting aye were Andrews, Pohl, Vail-Shirey, DeLong, Mitchell, Washington and Showers. Seven ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.

CLINTON AREA TRANSIT
BUDGET APPROVAL BY2024

7. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced General Manager MaLissa Schutt and Chairperson Gail Watkins from the Clinton Area Transit System (CATS) Board to provide an update regarding the proposed 2024 budget.
 - Ms. Schutt and Mr. Watkins provided a brief overview and answered questions regarding the proposed 2024 budget;
 - The full annual report of the Clinton Area Transit System will be presented during the January 31st Board of Commissioners Meeting;
 - Administrator Fuentes briefly discussed veteran service needs and notified the members that the County is researching alternative funding sources for veteran transportation services, prior to pursuing a direct service contract agreement between the County and Clinton Transit;
 - Discussion followed regarding a regional transportation initiative for seamless transportation within the region.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Vail-Shirey moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl, to **recommend** approving the FY 2024 Budget of the Clinton Area Transit System as presented. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to concur with the committee recommendation. Motion carried.

REAPPROPRIATE 2022 PROJECTS

8. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Deputy Administrator Campbell to discuss the re-appropriation of 2022 projects.
- Deputy Administrator Campbell provided an overview of the projects that were approved in 2022 that have yet to be completed; it is recommended that these projects be carried over to 2023.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington, to **recommend** approving the re-appropriation of the 2022 projects to the 2023 Budget as presented. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Pohl to concur with the committee recommendation. Motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF MEDC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ADVISOR CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

9. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Administrator Fuentes to discuss the ratification of the MEDC Development Projects Advisor Confidentiality Agreement.
- In consultation with legal counsel, it is recommended that the Board of Commissioners ratify the confidentiality agreement with Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) that was executed by the prior Chairperson in 2022, to ensure continuity of the agreement;
 - Discussion followed and Administrator Fuentes was asked to invite the County's legal counsel to a future meeting to further explain the parameters of the agreement.

No action taken.

PLANNING UPDATE

10. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced Doug Riley, Community Development Director, to provide a planning update.
- PC-36-22 SLU – Application for a Special Land Use Permit; Planning Commission recommends approval;
 - PC-40-22 MA – Application for a Zone Map Amendment (Rezoning); Planning Commission recommends approval;
 - PC-41-22-SLU – Application for a Special Land Use Permit; Planning Commission recommends approval;

No action taken.

FEBRUARY 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

11. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced discussion regarding the February 2023 Open Meetings and Events Calendar.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Pohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to **recommend** approval of the February 2023 Open Meetings and Events Calendar. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION: Commissioner DeLong moved, seconded by Commissioner Vail-Shirey to concur with the committee recommendation. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES PAID

12. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong introduced discussion regarding the Accounts Payable Invoices Paid.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington, to approve the invoices paid from December 3, 2022, through January 6, 2023, in the amount of \$2,087,446.70. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS'
COMMENTS

13. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong requested Commissioners comments. There were none.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

14. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong requested the administrator's report from Administrator Fuentes.

- Administrator Fuentes thanked the county staff and elected officials for being so welcoming as he completes his second week at Clinton County;
- The members were notified that progress is being made on finalizing a contract for an interim Prosecutor; the intent is for the proposed contract to be presented to the members for review and approval at the January 31st Board of Commissioners meeting;
- Deputy Administrator Campbell provided an update regarding the Road Commission Facility project.

ADJOURNMENT OF
COMMITTEE MEETING

15. Ways and Means Committee Chairperson DeLong adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

**END OF COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

COMMISSIONERS'
COMMENTS

Chairperson Showers called for Commissioners' comments.

- Commissioner Mitchell stated that he represents Watertown Township and has received letters/comments from citizens with concerns about the proposed mega site.

ADJOURNMENT

BOARD ACTION: With no further business to come before the Board, Chairperson Showers adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.



Debra A. Sutherland, Clerk of the Board

NOTE: These minutes are subject to approval on February 28, 2023.