

**Muskegon County
Ways & Means Committee
October 2, 2014
4:00 p.m.
Hall of Justice
990 Terrace
Muskegon, MI**

Susie Hughes, Chair

Charles Nash, Vice-Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Hughes at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ben Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Kenneth Mahoney, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo, Robert Scolnik [arrived at 4:04 p.m.], Rillastine Wilkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Cross, supported by Mahoney, to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2014 meeting as written. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (On an agenda item)

None.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

WM14/10 – 123 It was moved by Engle, supported by Wilkins, to approve payment of the accounts payable of \$2,338,681.50 covering the period of September 13, 2014 through September 22, 2014 as presented by the County Clerk. Motion carried.

WM14/10 – 124 It was moved by Cross, supported by Mahoney, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, effective October 1, 2014, with Lakeshore Regional Partners for the use and return of the County's PA2 funds. Motion carried.

WM14/10 – 125 It was moved by Wilkins, supported by Engle, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Lakeshore Regional Partners, effective October 1, 2014, for Substance Abuse Treatment and Service pending the Lakeshore Regional Partners acceptance of the Memorandum of Understanding for the use and return of the County's PA2 funds.

Discussion ensued regarding the membership of the Oversight Policy Board in that Kent County will have a membership on the Board of five, while Muskegon will have two and smaller counties such as Lake, Mason and Oceana will have one.

Corporate Counsel was asked to review any statutes specific to this membership and also to discuss with the Oversight Policy Board Chair Mr. I. John Snider and also Ms. Julia Rupp, CMH Director, prior to Full Board meeting of Tuesday, October 14th.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried.

WM14/10 – 126

It was moved by Engle, supported by Mahoney, to approve a \$750 lump sum payment for eligible employees in the employee class designations of BD, EE, ND, NF, NH, NT, NU, XF, XH and XW effective the first full pay period following October 1, 2014 and also authorize to a wage increase of 50¢ per hour added to each step of the current range for eligible employees in the employee class designations of BD, EE, ND, NF, NH, NT, NU, XF, XH and XW effective the first full pay period following October 1, 2015. (excluding County Commissioners)
Motion carried.

WM14/10 – 127

It was moved by Engle, supported by Cross, to approve after an open enrollment period, eligible employees (excluding hourly employees) enrolled in Muskegon County Medical Plan HD shall pay an employee contribution of 10% of the monthly premium equivalent for the employee and applicable dependents and if the employee selects Muskegon County Medical Plan RM or 2P, the employee shall pay the additional employee copay cost of this coverage in excess of the copay cost of Muskegon County Medical Plan HD in addition to the employee contribution of 15% of the monthly premium equivalent of Muskegon County Medical Plans RM or 2P for the employee and applicable dependents.

Commissioner Engle inquired if this medical plan coverage was the same for bargaining staff and non-bargaining staff. Ms. Groeneveld, HR Director, noted it was the same coverage and cost.

Commissioner Sabo noted the wage increases and rising insurance costs are not leveling out. He noted employees are taking on more responsibilities and they're getting less compensation and are now being asked to contribute more to their medical coverage. He expressed his dissatisfaction. Commissioner Hughes echoed Commissioner Sabo's comments.

Commissioner Cross noted the increase would be easier to accept if the wage increase was enough to offset the rising cost and he noted his dissatisfaction and also noted, staff compensation should be moving forward, not backward.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried.

WM14/10 – 128 It was moved by Engle, supported by Mahoney, to approve, after an open enrollment period, eligible non bargaining employees (excluding hourly employees) will contribute 15% of the premium for vision coverage, if they elect coverage. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

WM14/10 – 129 It was recommended by Chairman Mahoney, moved by Wilkins, supported by Sabo, to approve the start time of the Community Development/Strategic Planning Committee and Transportation Committee meetings on Thursday, October 16th, 2014, of 4:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sabo discussed Public Health issues regarding environmental health regulations and septic permits being issued only then to have the inspector deny the final inspection permit after the home owner invested in the project. Commissioner Cross noted he also heard from a home owner who recently had the same issue.

Interim Administrator James Elwell was asked to follow-up with Public Health administration.

Commissioner Hughes discussed the success of the community event sponsored by the Rotary and the City of Muskegon Heights recently.

Commissioner Scolnik thanked those who participated and those who volunteered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following employees of the County of Muskegon addressed the Board regarding their dissatisfaction in the recommended insurance medical plan changes:

Chery Helsen, Facilities Management
Chrisie Workman, Equalization
Janice Collins, Family Court
Lee Burley, Facilities Management
Becky Katzenbach, Family Court
Steve Holke, Facilities Management

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Ways & Means Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.