

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Budget Work Session

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

1:00 PM

The budget work session was called to order by Vice-Chairman Petersen at 1:00 p.m.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Baker, Johnston, Petersen, Carr and Kohn. Members absent: Commissioner Painter and Mahar.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, Andrea Krause, Deb Ballard, Mike Williams and Elisabeth Waldon.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

The purpose of the meeting was the FY2024 Budget discussion. Vice-Chairman Petersen stated that he wanted to jump right into the Department Head and Elected Officials requests starting on page 94.

The consensus of the board was to approve the following personnel reclassification request:

- District Court to reclassify Jennifer Nester to a Clerk II position which is an increase of \$6,000.
- District Court to reclassify the salaried Magistrate/Probation Officer to a unionized Probation Officer with is a decrease of \$12,500.
- Prosecutor's Office asked for Jamie VanSykle from an Office Assistant to an Administrative Aide which is an increase of \$2,080.
- District Court to increase Brian Wagner's salary by \$4,200 due to increased responsibilities.
- Deb Ballard's request to move to the top (3 year) of the pay scale due to improving efficiencies within the office which is an increase of \$4,524.
- Medical Examiner's request to increase the Deputy ME Investigators.

Discussion took place on the Sheriff's request to reclassify Andrew Powell for the purposes of his pension from the defined contribution (DC) plan to the defined benefit (DB) plan, which would be the same as the COAM DB plan, which would be an increase of \$14,412. Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, explained that she talked with MERS and it is not an easy transition since Mr. Powell is currently in the DC plan.

Consensus was to ask the Controller/Administrator to contact MERS to gather more information regarding moving a nonunion, supervisory employee into the defined benefit plan.

Discussion took place on the Prosecutor's wage requests and the Sheriff's request to increase the COAM and POAM employees of the Sheriff's Department by 14% to help increase employee retention. Discussion also took place on the Sheriff/Jail Administrators request to increase the wage for Corrections Officers in the jail.

The consensus of the Board was to invite the Prosecutor, Indigent Defense, the Sheriff and Jail Administrator to attend the Budget Workshop on July 19<sup>th</sup> to share their justifications for their requests.

Discussion took place on the Equipment Capital Outlay Requests from the Law Enforcement Fund. Pg 121

The consensus of the Board is to approve the Sheriff's requests in the amount of \$152,934 for:

- Patrol/Marine truck w/upfit
- Patrol Carr/SUV w/upfit

- Sea Egle Inflatable Rescue Board
- 9 AED's

But to remove the Interview Room Camera System request in the amount of \$10,100.

Discussion took place on the EMS Fund Equipment Capital Outlay Requests. The consensus of the Board was to approve the EMS requests in the amount of \$775,000 for:

- 5 Lucas CPR Devices
- 3 Ambulance Remounts
- 1 new Rescue Unit

Discussion took place on District Court's Computer Related Requests. The consensus of the Board was to approve the District Court request in the amount of \$4,200 for:

- 12 Desktop Scanners

Discussion took place on the Ambulance Departments request for Capital Improvement Project Requests for a canopy over the fueling station. The consensus of the Board was to approve the following request in the amount of the \$50,000:

- Canopy over fueling station

Ms. Taeter stated that Commissioner Painter will be available for next weeks meeting.

Ms. Taeter stated that before the tentative approvals today there was a \$10,200 surplus but that was after using \$200,000 in interested revenue and \$200,000 from Fund Balance.

Discussion took place on JoAnne Vukin, County Treasurer, no longer contributing any of the delinquent tax fund to the General Fund. It was decided that once the shortfall was determined, the Board would request for her to declare that amount as a surplus and transfer it into the General Fund. Ms. Taeter informed the Board that she reached out to fellow administrators and some counties just take money from the Delinquent Tax Fund without talking to the Treasurer; some counties have agreements with the Treasurer on how much will be transferred annually; and some counties have a formula that they use every year. Discussion took place on asking John Ax if he could come and give the board an honest assessment as to what could be done with the Delinquent Tax Funds. Ms. Taeter will reach out to him.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Petersen stated that he sent an email to the Board members after the last Planning Commission meeting asking how the board members would like to see the Planning Commission proceed. He would appreciate feedback.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Carr to adjourn at 2:36 p.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, County Clerk

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Adam Petersen, Vice-Chairman