

Arenac County Committee Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2019

Commissioners Present: **Burke, Salgat, Mrozinski, Woolhiser, (10:13am) Kroczaleski**
Commissioners Absent:

10:00 a.m. Meeting opened.

Public Comment: Sheriff Jim Mosciski and Undersheriff Don McIntyre conveyed their concerns of the Road Patrol M.E.R.S. payment obligation. Undersheriff McIntyre stressed wage scale, staff retention and training cost. Sheriff Mosciski added the M.E.R.S. payment for the Road Patrol obligation can't be sustained with the current budget. He asked why the Road Patrol had not been included in the recent actuarial. Mr. Kroczaleski explained that this problem was concealed until the separation of the union department, sheriff, corrections and 911, adding everyone missed it. Mr. Woolhiser added that 2 current employees can't support the 22 retirees that are receiving benefits. Sheriff Mosciski meet with Budget & Finance to review status of obligation and budget. He also requested an actuarial study be done for possible extension of payments. Mr. Kroczaleski explained that the current obligation drops to a lower payment in 2022. Mr. Kroczaleski asked the Sheriff to develop a budgetary plan, to provide additional funding for M.E.R.S. payment. Undersheriff McIntyre questioned if some funds that are being spent on special projects could be used to fix the M.E.R.S. problem. Mr. Kroczaleski pointed out that all current special projects are being funded with grants that are restricted to only those projects. He added this problem has been developing for years. A previous Board, Sheriff's department and 911, had a corrective plan that was not followed through. Steps need to be taken to correct the issue, all options should be on the table. Mr. Woolhiser requested another meeting with Budget & Finance once the new M.E.R.S. report was received. Ms. Mrozinski requested that a General Fund loan be given to the Sheriff's department to subsidize the payment obligation until 2022. Discussion continued.

Nancy Selle, Planning Commission Chair, presented Spicer Groups Master and Recreational plan proposal. She stressed to need for a comprehensive plan development and the firm's familiarity with area, Spicer has developed many of the plans in the County. Spicer would complete the recreation plan before the April 1, 2020 DNR grant deadline, and would assist in the grant writing process. Ms. Selle requested the Board award the project to the Spicer Group.

Ms. Selle, GIS Committee, questioned whether the villages are separate, of encompassed in the townships for the GIS Authority. She stated the overall negative opinion of an 18 member GIS Authority. Mr. Kroczaleski stated that a smaller executive committee could be formed within the GIS Authority. Ms. Selle also reported that Turner Township GIS laptop computer is broken, and she had directed them to request a new unit from the fall 2% Tribal grant.

Lee Ann Fischer, Housing Department presented the Annual Housing Preservation Grant. The \$ 25,000.00 grant will be used for repairs and improvement for low income homeowners. Ms. Fischer outlined the grants use, administrative fees and guidelines. She stated that the grant mailing deadline is July 3rd. Mr. Rockwell pointed out that Bay

County Habitat for Humanity has encompassed Arenac County, and they are looking for locations in the County.

Mischelle Warner MSU-E director, presented upcoming program Fiscally Ready Communities and discussed the MSU-E extension office server onboarding invoice from NetSource One. Mr. Kroczaleski asked that Ms. Warner prepare a letter to outline the issues and clearly state this project was requested by MSU, not Arenac County.

11:08 a.m. Two Minute Break

Mr. Kroczaleski continued the discussion of the Sheriff's M.E.R.S. obligation, stating that the 2018 report was due at the end of June. This will provide the newest data to address the issue. He added that an actuarial study takes several months and will not correct the problem for this current year's budget. He added that he was reviewing a 3 year department payroll study. The Road Patrol is a special fund and the liability needs to be paid, the problem has been decades in the making. Ms. Burke reminded the Board of the training cost and the loss of staff due to wage scale in the department. Ms. Salgat stated the error of the millage using new money to pay old bills. Ms. Burke said this was a County problem, not just a department problem. Mr. Kroczaleski stated that once the report is received, showing clear numbers, a meeting would be scheduled with M.E.R.S. account representative, Matt Taylor. Ms. Mrozinski suggested an outline of different four year loan options and repayment from the General Fund. She stated the need for open communications, teamwork and transparency to resolve the problem.

Mr. Jeff Trombley, Arenac County Drain Commissioner, informed the Board of the repair needed on the pump at the drain lift station in the AuGres River. The pump has not been needed since 1996, and was no longer operational. The pump has been sent for repairs with cost estimated at \$5,900.00, which will be assessed to the drain district.

County Affairs: Ms. Mrozinski presented the Arenac Transit Procurement Policy and Drug and Alcohol Policy. She further reported that the ISD contract was awarded to Deans Transportation of Ohio. Ms. Mrozinski stated AOI was working toward an Arenac Transit Authority Board. AOI Board is meeting weekly, operations are looking better. A chicken dinner fund raiser will take place November 7th at the Pinconning K of C Hall, including raffle items and silent auction. Mr. Woolhiser stated AOI was to be money in/money out, now the County is involved in creating policy, does this open the County up for liability. Mr. Kroczaleski replied that Arenac County is the governing body for Arenac Transit.

Ms. Mrozinski spoke with Mr. Hazeltine of the Road Commission regarding the crushed asphalt needed for Oasis Lake. Ms. Mrozinski inquired as to how much was needed to complete the project, of the pavilion ADA walkways. She asked about the timeline for the project. The project is scheduled for 2020.

Budget & Finance: Mr. Woolhiser requested the Board to approve the Spicer proposal, stating how important a successful, Master and Recreation plan are to the County. He added with the Fairground project and the possible DRN and Opportunity Zone funding.

Health & Safety: Ms. Burke reported on the City of AuGres Independence Day celebration, taking place July 3rd 4:30-6:00pm, with food and concert at the city campground. She added the Fireworks on Saturday July 6th, 2019.

Ms. Burke reported on the My Career Quest conference for children 8-12 grade, with 10,000 participants exploring hundreds of occupations in high demand industries.

Ms. Burke stated that the 911 fiber lines are installed into the building. She also said a malfunction caused the emergency sirens to go off at 6:00am on Sunday morning.

Ms. Burke & Ms. Salgat attended the MAC Regional Summit in which spotlighted need to address connection between mental health and incarceration. She added the need for Arenac County to develop a Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Burke pointed out the importance of an accurate count for the 2020 Census, for every person missed it will cost the area \$1,800.00.

Judicial & Legal: Ms. Salgat stated that only Arenac County attends the SBRD&D meetings. She added that a new member with fresh ideas has just joined. Ms. Salgat informed the Board that Mr. Jim Hergott will be retiring.

Ms. Salgat attended the MI Works meeting, and she was surprised at all they do.

Building & Grounds:

Unfinished Business:

Public Comment:

Ms. Valley asked if Youngman Park would be set up as working rustic campground.

12:17 p.m. meeting adjourned

Sincerely,

Jeri Klabis, Board Secretary