

The Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners met on this date in the Commissioner's Chambers, Ogemaw County Building, West Branch, Michigan. Present – Scott, Reetz, Vaughn (via phone), Neubecker, and David.

Chairman Reetz declared a public hearing open at 5:15 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive comment concerning the proposed 2019-2020 General and Special Funds budgets.

Commissioner Vaughn called into the meeting. Communication is clear both ways. He will be participating in meeting activities.

Bev Scott stated Revolving Fund was to be used as savings account for property improvements. She credited Maggie Robinson for the growth of the Revolving Fund and becoming self-funded. She commented about the board decision to use a simple majority vote to use the Revolving Fund for budgetary purposes. She commended Commissioners Scott and David for trying to make budget reductions.

Dave Ryan also commended Commissioners Scott and David for their efforts to balance the budgets. He stated maybe the state of Michigan should come in and look at the county budget. More meetings should have been held to balance the budget(s).

Maggie Robinson referenced budgets when she was the County Treasurer. She suggested the board adopt continuation budgets. Board obligation is budgetary in nature.

Brenda Simmons stated the proposed transfer from the Revolving Fund is the highest amount ever used. A county administrator cannot work miracles. The budget process should not be rushed. The budget needs to be decreased. She commented elected official budgets cannot be reduced during the fiscal year once adopted. Removing the 2/3 super majority vote requirement was under handed. A continuation budget should be adopted.

Jim Delahanty stated when the county liability insurance was bid out the last time the commissioners did not go with the low bid. It cost the county and additional \$16,000. He asked a question regarding the county drain commissioner cost of retirement. Ms. Piglowski addressed his question.

Chairman Reetz suggested reductions have been made. Revenues did not come in as high as needed to meet a small budgetary expenditure increase.

Brenda Simmons stated labor increases were because of contract negotiations. She believes the budgetary planning process was rushed.

Vice-chairman Scott thanked the audience and stated they have done their research concerning the Revolving Fund and cost of borrowing. The department "wish" lists were submitted in May and not much has changed. We will have to borrow funds for tax settlement because decisions are not being made regarding budgetary cuts.

Chairman Reetz stated staffing has been reduced. The county has borrowed for tax settlement in the past. The county treasurer is absent tonight but has stated the Revolving Fund had balances anywhere from \$3 million to \$5 million.

Chairman Reetz adjourned the public hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Chairman Reetz called a regular session of the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners to order at 5:43 p.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers, West Branch, Michigan on this date of September 26, 2019. Everyone stood for the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Roll call: Present – Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David.

Commissioner David requested a motion be presented for a "continuation" 2019-2020 General/Special funds budgets per the county auditor suggestion.

**Motion by Scott, second by David, the meeting agenda be approved with additions as noted. Roll call vote. Ayes – Reetz, Scott, David, Vaughn, and Neubecker. Motion carried. [9-4-#1]**

**Motion by Reetz, second by Scott, the minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting be approved. Roll call vote. Ayes – Scott, David, Vaughn, Neubecker, and Reetz. Motion carried. [9-4-#2]**

**Motion by David, second by Reetz, the minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting be approved. Roll call vote. Ayes – David, Vaughn, Neubecker, Reetz, and Scott. Motion carried. [9-4-#3]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Reetz, the minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting with correction as noted. Roll call vote. Ayes – Vaughn, Neubecker, Reetz, Scott, and David. Motion carried. [9-4-#4]**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lee Ann Fischer informed the board a Housing Preservation Grant application has been approved. It was for \$25,000 and the approved amount was \$152,734.91. The grant paperwork needs to be signed by the board chairman. Chairman Reetz signed the paperwork.

Rich Cassle, Consumers Energy Community Affairs Manager, introduced himself to the board. He distributed information to board members. He will make contact with Ogemaw County MTA.

Sue Delahanty, EDC Board Chairman, requested Katherine Kohr be appointed to the EDC Board. **Motion by Reetz, second by David, Katherine Kohr be appointed to the Ogemaw County EDC Board. Roll call vote. Ayes – Neubecker, Reetz, Scott, David, and Vaughn. Motion carried. [9-4-#5]** She also reminded the board about the upcoming EDC Economic Outlook symposium.

Maggie Robinson stated the Revolving Fund balance should be available at all times. Commissioner David asked Ms. Piglowski what the Revolving Fund balance was at this time. Ms. Piglowski stated the county treasurer is absent tonight. He has stated at times it was \$3 million to \$5 million. Commission Neubecker shared the iPad county treasurer report as of September 12, 2019 and the Revolving Fund balance is \$2.5 million. Brenda Simmons stated the board should be sure about this fund's balance.

Dave Ryan asked if a phone vote is legal. He was told it is legal.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion by Scott, second by David, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners appoint Dale Sheltroun to the Ogemaw County Board of County Canvassers. Roll call vote. Ayes – Reetz, Scott, David, Vaughn, Neubecker. Motion carried. [9-4-#6]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners appoint Donnie Boursaw to the Ogemaw County Board of County Canvassers. Roll call vote. Ayes – Scott, David, Vaughn, Neubecker, and Reetz. Motion carried. [9-4-#7]**

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION:**

**Motion by Reetz, second by Scott, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners adopt the County General Fund budget adjustments as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes – David, Vaughn, Neubecker, Reetz, and Scott. Motion carried. [9-4-#8]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners adopt the County Special Funds budget adjustments as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes – Vaughn, Neubecker, Reetz, Scott, and David. Motion carried. [9-4-#9]**

**Motion by Scott, second by David, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners adopt the Contingency adjustments as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes – Neubecker, Reetz, Scott, David, and Vaughn. Motion carried. [9-4-#10]**

**Motion by Reetz, second by David, a support letter for NEMCSA be drafted and sent to the agency. Roll call vote. Ayes – Reetz, Scott, David, Vaughn, and Neubecker. Motion carried. [9-4-#11]**

**Motion by David, second by Scott, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners adopt a continuation of the current 2019-2020 General Fund & Special Fund budgets including approved budget adjustment tonight to become the beginning budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Pay increase schedules for October 1, 2019 shall be given. Roll call vote. Ayes – Scott, David, and Neubecker. Nay – Vaughn and Reetz. Motion carried. [9-4-#12].** Chairman Reetz stated he believes budget cuts have been made. Commissioner David disagrees.

Commissioner Vaughn stated cuts were discussed at the last board meeting. The consensus was the budget needs to be approved and hard work needs to be done on the next budget. Public safety cuts should not be done.

**Motion by Reetz, second by Vaughn, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners adopt a proposed 2019-2020 Preliminary County General Fund budget with \$736,981 be transferred from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund. Motion and support withdrawn for motion [9-4-#13]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Reetz, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners approve overtime pay for Caren Piglowski to process budgetary figures related to the adopted continuation budget. Roll call vote. Ayes – Vaughn, Neubecker, Reetz, Scott, and David. Motion carried. [9-4-#14]**

**Motion by Scott, second by Reetz, the claims in the amount of \$151,169.22 be approved for payment. Roll call vote. Ayes – Neubecker, Reetz, Scott, David, and Vaughn. Motion carried. [9-4-#15]**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commissioner David reminded all the Economic Outlook is fast approaching. She met with Probate Judge Lambourn. A press release has been sent to the Ogemaw County Herald regarding a Day Treatment Program. Building renovation costs for the program need to be discussed. *Bridges* will be able to staff the program.

Vice-Chairman Scott attended the Airport board meeting. The board is considering renovation to a hangar. He stated E911 Authority is in the employee contract negotiation process.

Commissioner Neubecker attended the Airport board meeting. A property dispute was settled regarding tree removal.

Chairman Reetz attended an EMS board meeting. The authority is working on their proposed budget. He attended an Insurance Committee meeting. The liability policy premium was discussed. The annual cost is \$169,123. The committee did not put out for bids this year.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brenda Simmons stated the insurance policy should have been put out for bids. Too much money is being spent on the liability insurance.

Matt Polzin asked who approves the budget. He was told the commissioners approve the budget.

Dave Ryan asked if he should remind the commissioners about reviewing the county insurance when it is time to renew it.

Bev Scott stated the commissioners made the right decision about adopting a “continuation” budget. Cuts can be made and you are elected to manage the budgets.

Chairman Reetz thanked everyone for attending tonight’s public hearing and board meeting.

**Motion by Scott, second by David, the meeting be adjourned. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [9-4-#16]**

Chairman Reetz adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes by Caren Piglowski, Chief Deputy County Clerk  
Minutes transcribed by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk  
Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.