



Justice & Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 100 – Otsego County Building
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Roll call – Present: Doug Johnson, Paul Liss, Mike Hyde, John Burt

Excused –Erma Backenstose

Others present: Sheriff McBride, Rudi Edel, Angel Oppermann, Vicki Courterier, Judge Pat Morse, Kyle Legel, Rachel Frisch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Liss to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2009 Justice & Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Animal Control Facility

Mr. Burt explained to the Committee the idea of moving the Animal Shelter to the location of the Cross Street Building (currently occupied by Land Use Services and Equalization); the existing building would be torn down and a new shelter constructed.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that he has talked to the City officials, and they are fine with the idea of the move. The City owns the building that houses the current shelter.

Mr. Burt noted that Ms. Backenstose, who is absent, emailed her support for moving the shelter to the Cross Street location and constructing a new building.

Ms. Oppermann explained that there is a separate Animal Shelter Building Fund, which has approximately \$50,000 in it (including donated funds from the Schmidt Estate). Ms. Frisch stated that the current fund balance of the Animal Control Operating Fund is very large - \$650,000 and grows substantially each year. Mr. Burt, Ms. Oppermann and Ms. Frisch had met previously to discuss the idea of moving some excess fund balance over to the Animal Shelter Building Fund, to present a clearer picture of how much money was available to put toward a building. Their recommendation was to transfer \$500,000.

Motion by Mr. Hyde to recommend to the Budget & Finance Committee to transfer \$500,000 from the Animal Control Operating Fund (fund 212) to the Animal Shelter Building Fund (fund 413). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Edel to recommend to the County Infrastructure Committee to proceed with plans to move the Animal Shelter to the Cross Street location. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Department Updates

Prosecuting Attorney

Mr. Legel reported that his office has hired a new Assistant Prosecuting Attorney who will start on 4/29/09.

Courts

Mr. Edel informed the Committee that Vicki Courterier has been selected as his replacement. Mr. Edel will retire on 6/30/09, and Ms. Courterier will begin her new duties on 7/1/09.

Mr. Edel reported that the courts health insurance premiums, which are separate from the county, are increasing approximately 11% on 6/28/09. He has met with Brian Cote from Cadillac Insurance to discuss options to reduce costs.

Mr. Edel reported that they are interviewing for a replacement for Ms. Courterier's position. 104 resumes were received. He hopes to have the position filled by mid-June.

Mr. Edel also explained that he is working to apply for the drug court grant for the next fiscal year (10/1/08 – 9/30/10). He and Judge Morse discussed how the courts are working with Mental Health to effectively administer the program.

Sheriff

Sheriff McBride did not have anything to report to the Committee at this time.

Mr. Johnson set the next meeting for Tuesday June 16, 2009 at 10:00 am in Room 100.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.