

**MINUTES OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008**

At a meeting of the **Finance Committee**, held Wednesday, May 14, 2008, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mt. Clemens, the following members were present:

Slinde-Chair, Brdak, Brown, Bruley, Camphous-Peterson, Crouchman, DeSaele, DiMaria, Doherty, Drolet, D. Flynn, J. Flynn, Gielegem, Haggerty, Lund, Mijac, Rengert, Roberts, Rocca, Sauger, Switalski, Szczepanski, Tocco, Torrice and Vosburg.

Absent and excused was Duzyj.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Slinde called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Chair Slinde requested the addition of resolutions for Reverend Jeffrey Fritz and Bethlehem Lutheran Church and indicated that a resolution was distributed for agenda item #8 (Adopt Articles of Incorporation for Macomb County Zoological Authority). She also requested that #9b (County Bridge Renovation and Replacement Program Update) be moved up after the list of bills.

MOTION

A motion was made by Roberts, supported by Torrice, to adopt the agenda, as amended (and to include #9a & b, #10 c, d & e (resolutions) and two additional travel requests). **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Rengert, supported by J. Flynn, to approve the February 13, 2008 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

LIST OF BILLS AS PREPARED BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SZCZEPANSKI, SUPPORTED BY CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE MONTHLY BILLS (WITH CORRECTIONS, DELETIONS AND/OR ADDENDA) AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT; FURTHER, TO APPROVE THE PAYROLL IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$10,474,416.72, WITH NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS TO THE APPROPRIATIONS.

Commissioner Tocco referred to the bills for attorney fees and expressed her concern with some of the fees paid to date. She asked if there is a cap established or guidelines given when an attorney is assigned to a case. Mr. Brumbaugh stated that the attorneys provide updates and those are reviewed. He said he does not feel that any bills have been unreasonable based on the case.

Commissioner Tocco said she would like to see them looked at on an individual basis and some restrictions placed on them. She also asked that more information be provided with the summaries, to include why the case is continuing, any unusual circumstances, etc.

Commissioner DeSaele suggested that guidelines be developed for cases that go over a certain number of months and that an Executive Session then be scheduled to discuss the case.

Chair Slinde called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED (WITH TOCCO ABSTAINING FROM BILLS FOR FALK AND TOCCO/FEES-DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AND TORRICE ABSTAINING FROM BILLS FOR TORRICE AND ZALEWSKI, PLLC/FEES-DEFENSE ATTORNEYS).**

**COUNTY BRIDGE RENOVATION AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE
(REFERRED FROM 5-13-08 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING)**

Committee was provided information that was requested at yesterday's Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Hoepfner stated that the information includes a tabulation of the costs that would be assigned to Macomb County if the Bridge Program was cancelled. He said he listed 15 of the structures that remain incomplete, the cost that has been charged against that project to date and the cost that would be incurred if the project was cancelled. He said they are estimates based on figures he received.

Commissioner Doherty referred to the bridges in the federal match program and asked if the County will lose the money if it is not pursued. Mr. Hoepfner explained that the County and the Road Commission share whatever funds are not covered by the federal grant. He said if the County wishes to cancel this program, he would ask the local community where the bridge is located to share the cost with them, but noted that in the

past, the communities were unable to pay their share. He said there are only four bridges on the list that are matched by federal and state sources.

He said the total cost to complete all of the projects is about 21 million dollars and the County's and Road Commission's share is approximately 15 million dollars.

Board Chair Crouchman referred to the four projects that would not cost anything to cancel and asked about transferring the bond payments to other projects within the program. Mr. Diegel explained that two series of bonds were issued for the Bridge Program and some of the remaining principle on the five million dollars series was refinanced. He said he would have to make sure the money being discussed does not relate to that five million dollars.

Board Chair Crouchman asked if this would be worth looking into and Mr. Diegel replied yes and said he would look at the four that have not started and the seven that are not federally funded to see if it makes sense to not move forward.

Commissioner Rengert encouraged Mr. Hoepfner to contact the community for whatever bridge may be delayed or removed from the list to see if there is something unique to the situation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRULEY, SUPPORTED BY SZCZEPANSKI, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DELAY ON A PERMANENT BASIS ALL OF THE BRIDGES UNDER THE COLUMN TITLED "COST TO CANCEL" THAT ARE UNDER \$36,000.

Commissioner J. Flynn felt the Board should go forward and find out which ones have federal money.

Commissioner Szczepanski asked how much money would be saved if the motion is approved. Mr. Diegel said he would have to look into that, but also indicated that a commitment is not needed at this time and could wait until next month, as long as the Road Commission makes a commitment to not do anything.

Board Chair Crouchman felt that Mr. Diegel should be given time to get the facts together to see if there are any projects that could be cancelled.

MOTION

A motion was made by Switalski, supported by Doherty, to postpone this until next month's Budget or Finance Committee meeting.

Commissioner Switalski said he would like more information before any decisions are made.

After further discussion, the following action was taken:

AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Vosburg, supported by Brown, that the following four bridges be excluded from the postponement motion: Bridgeview over Clinton River, Romeo Plank over Gloede Drain, Irwin Road over E.B. Coon Creek and 30 Mile over Healy Brook.

Commissioner Gielegem offered a friendly amendment: to direct the Finance Department to come up with a cost savings plan on bridges as part of the postponement and bring back next month. That was accepted by the maker and supporter.

Commissioner Doherty asked Corporation Counsel if a motion to postpone can be amended and Mr. Brumbaugh replied no.

Chair Slinde called for a vote on the motion to postpone and **The Motion Carried.**

APPROVE GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC. & NEXT GENERATION ENROLLMENT, INC. AS THE DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AUDIT PROVIDER

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOHERTY, SUPPORTED BY SZCZEPANSKI, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONCUR WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERVIEW EVALUATION TEAM TO SELECT GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC. & NEXT GENERATION ENROLLMENT, INC. AS THE DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AUDIT PROVIDER. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ADOPT ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE MACOMB COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

A resolution to adopt the Articles of Incorporation was distributed.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOHERTY, SUPPORTED BY J. FLYNN, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION ADOPTING MACOMB COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITY ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

AMENDMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SZCZEPANSKI, SUPPORTED BY LUND, TO AMEND PAGE 4, SECTION I, UNDER APPOINTMENT: DELETE SECOND SENTENCE OF FIRST PARAGRAPH AND REPLACE “SUBSEQUENT” WITH “THE” IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH.

Ms. Smith stated that it was set up that way because of the time constraints with the board having to meet by May 27 and the only time this Board can appoint the members is at tomorrow's Full Board meeting.

SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRULEY, SUPPORTED BY ROBERTS, TO AMEND PAGE 4, SECTION 1 UNDER APPOINTMENT, AFTER FIRST SENTENCE, TO READ AS FOLLOWS: THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. THE APPOINTMENTS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. IN THE EVENT THE VOTERS ELECT TO CREATE A COUNTY EXECUTIVE, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL MAKE THE APPOINTMENTS IN LIEU OF THE CHAIRPERSON. THE APPOINTMENTS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

AMENDMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOHERTY, SUPPORTED BY SZCZEPANSKI, TO AMEND PAGE 5, SECTION 5, UNDER VACANCY, AND DELETE THE WORDS "ANY REASON" FROM THE SECOND SENTENCE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

AMENDMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SZCZEPANSKI, SUPPORTED BY LUND, TO AMEND PAGE 4, SECTION 2, AND REMOVE THE LAST SENTENCE WHICH READS: A MEMBER MAY NOT BE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OF MACOMB COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Chair Slinde asked Ms. Smith why that sentence was added and Ms. Smith explained that it was there for an option and was included in Oakland County's.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

VOTING YES WERE DeSAELE, DROLET, LUND, RENGERT, VOSBURG, SZCZEPANSKI AND SLINDE. THERE WERE 7 "YES" VOTES.

VOTING NO WERE BRDAK, BRULEY, CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, DOHERTY, D. FLYNN, J. FLYNN, GIELEGHEM, MIJAC, ROBERTS, ROCCA, SWITALSKI, TOCCO AND TORRICE. THERE WERE 13 "NO" VOTES.

THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED.

Chair Slinde called for a vote to adopt the resolution, as amended, and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF LAW FIRM

MOTION

A motion was made by J. Flynn, supported by Vosburg, to appoint the law firm of Hardy, Lewis & Page, P.C. to represent Macomb County in the case of Robert Whitehead vs. County of Macomb and Macomb County Board of Commissioners. **The Motion Carried.**

ESTABLISH SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF "NO KILL" INITIATIVE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOHERTY, SUPPORTED BY TORRICE, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS MADE TO THE COUNTY IN SUPPORT OF THE "NO KILL" INITIATIVE; MONIES DONATED TO THE SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT CANNOT BE USED TO SUPPLANT COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER.

Commissioner DeSaele said she did not feel a special trust account was necessary because there is a line item in the Health Department's budget for donations to the Animal Shelter. She requested an explanation from Mr. Diegel.

Mr. Diegel confirmed that there is a general line item for donations, but the intent of this motion is to restrict donations for the "no kill" initiative.

Commissioner Torrice explained that individuals making donations want to make sure it goes to medications and not the facility.

Chair Slinde called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, SUPPORTED BY DROLET, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

COMMENDING CARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL (**OFFERED BY DOHERTY**);

COMMENDING MALOW JUNIOR HIGH ON BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL (**OFFERED BY LUND**);

COMMENDING POWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL (OFFERED BY LUND);

COMMENDING MARILYN RUDZINSKI – RECIPIENT OF 2008 GIRL SCOUT-OTSIKITA COUNCIL WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD (OFFERED BY D. FLYNN):

PROCLAIMING MAY 11-17, 2008 AS POLICE WEEK IN CITY OF WARREN (OFFERED BY BOARD CHAIR);

HONORING REVEREND JEFFREY FRITZ – RETIREMENT FROM BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (OFFERED BY HAGGERTY & SLINDE) AND

COMMENDING BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH – 40TH ANNIVERSARY (OFFERED BY HAGGERTY & SLINDE).

THE MOTION CARRIED.

TRAVEL REQUESTS

MOTION

A motion was made by J. Flynn, supported by Switalski, to approve the travel requests as submitted. **The Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Chair Slinde adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

**Corinne Bedard
Committee Reporter**