

FINANCE, PERSONNEL, & RULES COMMITTEE

May 21, 2024

9:00 AM

Meeting will be at the conference room at the Mason County Airport Terminal

- A. Roll Call**
- B. Approval of the Agenda**
- C. Approval of the Minutes**
- D. Reading of Correspondence**
- E. Limited Public Comments**
- F. Committee Work**
 - 1. Consideration of Finance, Personnel, and Rules Committee transfers
 - 2. Consideration of a resolution request
- G. Limited Public Comments**
- H. Any other business**
- I. Adjournment**

Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee Meeting
May 7, 2024
Mason County Airport

Commissioner Andersen called the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee Meeting (FPR) to order at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Mason County Airport. Members present: Commissioners: Andersen, Bacon, and Hull. Absent: None. Others present: Deputy Administrator Szczypka, Administrator Knizacky, Prosecutor Kreinbrink, Assistant Prosecutor Hand, Building and Zoning Director Sanders, and Clerk Kelly. Public: None.

Motion by Bacon and seconded by Hull to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Hull and seconded by Bacon to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024, meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Chair Andersen was handed a letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, along with a plaque with MAC seals to display.

Limited Public Comment: None.

Committee Work:

Consideration of a concept of using contracted attorneys in the Prosecutor's office: Prosecutor Kreinbrink informed the Committee of her resignation date of May 31, 2024, at 5 p.m. She is requesting that the salaries from the two attorney vacancies be made available in the budget to contract with outside attorneys to assist over the summer. Motion by Hull and seconded by Bacon to approve the concept of a consideration of using contracted attorneys in the Prosecutor's office. Motion carried.

Consideration of a request to purchase a Zoning vehicle from the Equipment Replacement Fund: Building and Zoning Director Sanders reviewed her request to purchase a vehicle. Specifically, the 2021 Chevrolet Equinox out of Traverse City, at a cost of \$20,864.00. Motion by Bacon and seconded by Hull to send the Consideration of a request to purchase a Zoning vehicle from the Equipment Replacement Fund to the full Board with funds to come from Equipment Replacement and with the attached budget amendment to cover the costs. Motion carried. Director Sanders was requested to contact the Traverse City Dealership and let them know of the interest.

Consideration of a request for part-time clerical assistance: Clerk Kelly reviewed the request to hire a part-time clerical staff member (student intern) for the summer to assist with scanning loose court filings dating back to the 1980's and preparing/scanning of old court files prior to the 1940's to send to the State Archives to assist with the spacing issues in the Clerk Vault and at the additional storage facility. Currently there are over 150 banker boxes that need attention with regards to scanning prior to sending to the State Archives. Motion by Hull and seconded by Bacon to send the Consideration of a request for part-time clerical assistance to the full Board with funds to come from contingency. Motion carried.

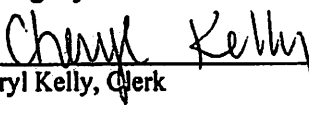
Consideration of a request to purchase a table and chairs from the Equipment Replacement Fund: Clerk Kelly reviewed the request for a new table and chairs in the meeting room due to the table formica being broken and the chairs, whose wheels are in bad shape or nonexistent, which may present a safety hazard. Interphase, who holds the State contract, quoted \$2,229.25 for a new table and six chairs with wheels. Motion by Hull and seconded by Bacon to send to the full Board for Consideration the request to purchase a table and chairs from the Equipment Replacement Fund. Motion carried.

Consideration of a proposal to provide Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Actuarial Services: Administrator Knizacky noted this is a requirement due to the County offering retiree health insurance. Standard service. Motion by Bacon and seconded by Hull to send to the full Board for Consideration the proposal to provide Other Post Employment Benefits Actuarial Services from GRS. Motion carried.

Limited Public Comment: None.

Any other business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.


Cheryl Kelly, Clerk



Mason County Board of Commissioners

5300 W. US10, Ludington, Michigan 49431
(P) (231) 843-7999 • (F) (231) 843-1972
www.masoncounty.net

Janet S. Andersen
Chair

Steven Hull
Vice Chair

Cheryl Kelly
County Clerk

Fabian L. Knizacky
Administrator

Nick Krieger
District 1

Les Johnson
District 2

Jody Hartley
District 3

Lewis G. Squires, D.C.
District 4

Steven Hull
District 5

Janet S. Andersen
District 6

Ron Bacon
District 7

APPROVAL OF FINANCE, PERSONNEL, & RULES COMMITTEE TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee has reviewed the transfers for June 11, 2024.

THEREFORE, we, your Finance, Personnel, & Rules Committee, request your approval of the following transfers:

Road Patrol	\$213,525.00
Jail Operations	\$168,250.00

Moved for your approval.

Knizacky, Fabian

From: Dani McGarry <dani.mcgarry@macd.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 12:22 PM
To: Knizacky, Fabian; Szczyпка, Kaitlyn
Cc: Cathy Schindler; Tom Grabowski; Tom Bell; Deb Del Zoppo
Subject: Resolution to share with Mason County Commissioners
Attachments: CD Resolution FY2025 Budget-Mason.docx

CAUTION: This email originated outside of Mason County's networks. Do not click links, reply or open attachments unless you have verified its authenticity.

Hi Fabian,

I've attached a resolution that I'm hoping you will consider bringing before the County Commissioners.

The Governor's proposed budget has drastically altered some major grants and programs that we utilize to deliver services to our community. The Michigan Ag Environmental Assurance Program, MAEAP, is a program that we have successfully implemented for over two decades, helping our farms to make voluntary improvements and protecting our water resources. The proposed budgets would eliminate the grant that funds this program and our technician, pulling this work out of local control and turning it over to new state employees to implement the program. In turn, the state would also reappropriate an additional \$10million to pay their new employees higher wages and benefits than what we've been able to pay staff through our grant.

In addition, we have had an operations grant of \$40,000 (\$3 million statewide for all Conservation Districts) in recent years, which is being cut by 1/3 in the proposed budget. In our District, we use these funds to help cover things like office utilities, insurance, administrative staff time, technical staff time to bridge between grants, community workshops and educational events that can't otherwise be covered by grants. Our state association (Michigan Association of Conservation Districts) has been requesting an increase in these funds, to reflect what our surrounding states are investing in Conservation District's in their states, but this year's proposed budget does the opposite.

If you or the Commissioners have any questions, I would be happy to help answer those or attend a meeting.

On behalf of our Board of Directors (advocacy committee cc'd here) and myself, thank you in advance for considering,

Dani McGarry
Executive Director
Mason-Lake Conservation District
(231) 757-3707 ext 102
655 N. Scottville Rd., Scottville, MI 49454

Resolution 2024 – 00

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE FY 2025 GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF OPERATIONAL FUNDING TO THE MICHIGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE ELIMINATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP)

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2024, Governor Whitmer released her Executive Budget Recommendation for fiscal year 2025 which included under the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) recommended budget a \$1,000,000.00 cut to Michigan Conservation District's operating budget.

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2025 budget recommendation for MDARD also recommended the termination of local Conservation District Technicians who administer the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and replace them with 24 State employees.

WHEREAS, this recommendation undermines the local conservation delivery system led by local Conservation Districts covering all 83 Michigan counties using the voluntary, non-regulatory, educational approach used all across the country to address natural resources concerns at the local level.

WHEREAS, Michigan passed Public Act 297 of 1937 to establish Conservation District's as local units of State Government to work with landowners in every county to address natural resource concerns driven by a five member publicly elected Board of Directors. These Boards establish conservation priorities based on their local needs and voluntarily work with landowners to address critical natural resource concerns, the only organization that can do this on private land with the trust of the landowner.

WHEREAS, Michigan Conservation Districts have been critically underfunded for decades. This has left many Conservation Districts without staff to implement programs or provide assistance. Because of this, Michigan Conservation Districts experience high employee turnover which undermines the success of programs and the ability to administer assistance to the public.

WHEREAS, Michigan cannot effectively allocate federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Title II of the Farm Bill due to the lack of funding provided by the State of Michigan. This leaves critical federal dollars on the table that is reallocated to other States that can deliver Farm Bill dollars more effectively.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Mason requests that the FY 2025 budget maintain the operational budget for Michigan Conservation District's at \$3,000,000.00 and maintain the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) at its current capacity with local technicians employed by Conservation Districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county of Mason implores the legislature to properly fund Michigan Conservation Districts and work with MDARD and the Michigan Association of

Conservation Districts (MACD) to find or develop a restricted funding source to provide Conservation District's with a yearly allocation of \$13,000,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senators John DaMoose and Ed McBroom, Representatives David Prestin and Niel Friske as well as the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director Tim Boring and Deputy Director Kathy Angerer and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Signed By: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____