

**Warren County Commissioners
Work Session
Commissioners Conference Room
May 23, 2022, 12:00 p.m.**

Commissioner Tricia Durbin called the Work Session of the Warren County Commissioners to order with Commissioner Jeff Eggleston present, noting that Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin was present by phone

Staff Present: Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk, Reilly Enlow, Kaylan Miller, Attorney Nathaniel Schmidt, Phil Gilbert, Director of Tax Claim, and Kenneth McCarrison, Public Safety Director

Citizens Present: Josh Cottom (WTO), Paul Pascuzzi and Jane Dunshie

Announcements: Commissioner Tricia Durbin announced that the meeting is being

Public Hearings: None

Public Comment: None

New Items of Discussion:

Agreement with Tyler Tech. for A/P Automation: Reilly Enlow stated that this module part of our current Tyler Technologies agreement and will not be any extra cost. We just need to activate this A/P automation portion.

This will allow for a third party to process our payments as we dictate. This is cheaper than doing it ourselves and will then reduce personnel time and postage cost.

ADP Recruitment Module: Kaylan Miller, Employee Benefits & Risk Administrator stated that with the cost of indeed being approximately \$100 per month there are other charges on top of that such as the cost of the job posting and \$70 per applicant.

ADP recruitment module will put jobs out to 25,000 plus sites, send out letters to the applicants as needed, and it keeps track of the industry and geographic compensation benchmarks. The cost is \$5,103.00 per year.

Both of the above items will be on the agenda for Wednesday's public meeting.

DECD Fire Service Study: Kenneth McCarrison, Public Safety Director and Paul Pascuzzi gave a brief overview of the report provided by DCED on the county's fire service. Ken stated that the report is stating that resources need to be consolidated. They also are recommending that a Community Risk Reduction Plan be done.

Ken stated that he did reach out the MCM and this is something they can do.

Paul stated that a plan at the county level is a good thing and requested that the county fund the ability to get this plan completed.

Ken went on to state that and IGA has been put into place between Cherry Grove, Sheffield, Clarendon, Mead and Pleasant to do their best to keep that area covered.

Paul stated that each component will be discussed at COG meetings. The fire study was done first and they will be working in an EMS study in the future.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin asked that Ken get a quote from MCM as to what it will cost for the Community Risk Reduction Plan to be done.

EMS Funding for Regional Response and the Support letter for HB 2434 supporting EMS: Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that the regional response and the support letter goes together.

He stated that this letter will support HB 2434 which addresses the Medicare reimbursement rates that are very low and the VFD to have a paid service for EMS is not feasible. He then requested that the letter of support be approved at Wednesday's meeting this will support HB 2434.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston further stated that the EMS system is on the verge of collapse. He attended a meeting last week where Emergycare presented the situation.

He stated that it is time to discuss funding on the county end to help. He then reviewed his proposal on what could be done.

This proposal included using 1.4 million of the county's ARPA funds over a two-year period (2023 & 2024) to fund some type of EMS program. Towards the end of 2024 a review would need to be done and if it worked, the county could increase taxes by 1.5 mil to address EMS.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that she is not sure what the county role should be. The county should not be the starting with an overall tax increase; the municipalities should be increasing their own taxes.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that there is no way to address this without additional funding whether it be State or Federal.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that there is disparity in dropped calls. She stated that she believes that each municipality should have skin in the game. For instance, the City of Warren already imposes a fire tax to the residents of the city; why should the residents have to pay higher taxes for services outside the city limits?

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that at the end of the day, we are all responsible. This addresses and issue everyone has. The city does make calls outside the limits now. The county could lead and the municipalities could follow.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that she believes that this needs further discussion.

Attorney Nathaniel Schmidt asked if the IGA they discussed covers funding to which Paul Pascuzzi stated it does not.

Paul went onto state that EMS needs funding, there are 25 municipalities outside the city that have been trying to engage to provide leadership and funding. We cannot wait for the State and or Federal governments to resolve this issue, it has to be done locally.

Attorney Nathaniel Schmidt asked about forming an authority, to which Paul stated that it is not allowed by law. There is legislation out there that would allow this, but it has not passed at this point in time.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated in closing that this is everyone's problem, and everyone needs to help with funding. Funding is just a piece of the issue.

Rural Roads Initiative: Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that this is another project he has been working on. With the infrastructure grant that is available, it is impossible for each municipality to apply for a grant on their own. What he would like to see is that the municipalities pool their projects together and submit one grant application that would cover all that submitted.

He then presented a timeline for a 2023 submission as it is to late for 2022. He then stated that he is not proposing the county fund this.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin asked if this is something that NW Commission could spear head.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated yes, but he wanted to make sure that the commissioners are comfortable with this.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that she would support this initiative.

Paul Pascuzzi thanked the commissioners for inviting him to speak today, and also thanked Commissioner Jeff Eggleston for his efforts in county leadership.

Projects:

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that she is still working on the broadband initiative.

Policies & Procedures:

Upcoming Commissioner Meeting Review: Commissioner Tricia Durbin reviewed the agenda for Wednesday's public meeting.

Department/Committee Updates:

Phil Gilbert, Director of Tax Claim stated that on the agenda for Wednesday's meeting is an amendment to the agreement with Palmetto posting for the 2022 year of tax postings along with a resolution giving them permission to do the postings on behalf of the county.

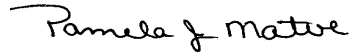
Attorney Nathaniel Schmidt stated that the real estate tax law states that the county has to authorize a company to do this prior to the upset sale.

Commissioner's Schedule**General Discussion:**

Jane Dunshie stated that while she lives in the city of warren and she is disappointed that City Council is not supporting EMS.

With nothing further, the work session was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully,



Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

