

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 in the Courthouse Annex, 100 S. Marley St., St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lehrke at 3:31 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

Roll Call: Jim Hill, Craig Lehrke, Bucky McPhee, Mike Patrick, Paul Krause.

Agenda Approval – It was moved by Commissioner Hill with support by Commissioner McPhee to accept the agenda as presented. VVMC

Public Comment:

None

Board Member Business:

Commissioner Hill introduced Mike Gillett to the board. Mr. Gillett is an applicant for the Equalization Director position. Impromptu meet & greet for Mike Gillett as he answered questions the board had and gave a brief recap of his qualifications.

Additional Business:

Budget discussion began at 3:50pm. Commissioner Lehrke explained that the County is in the deficit for 2022. The Board is proposing 10% budget cuts for all depts to try to make up the shortfall. He proposed that the Dept Heads make their own cuts since they know what funds they need to run their offices efficiently.

Commissioner Lehrke read a statement he had written about the budget. Commissioner Patrick proposed keeping the budget the way it was approved and start working on cuts for the 2023 budget. Treasurer Goudreau answered questions the board had. Equalization Director Chipman also answered questions about the increase in the county's taxable value.

Treasurer Goudreau made a suggestion to put the cuts back on the Dept Heads. They have the discretion to take care of their office budgets.

Commissioner Krause proposed cutting one of the security officers at the main entrance. Sheriff Wilk spoke up against this. He said the security officers are very important for the safety of the staff and the public. He said they have confiscated 6 guns and numerous knives.

Emergency 911 Coordinator Tracy spoke on behalf of the security officers. He reiterated how important the security is.

Judge Graham also had some comments on the security. He said they are very important to the safety of the courthouse and court proceedings. He has seen firsthand when the security officers were needed.

Commissioner Krause said he wasn't trying to cut the security all together but just cutting part of it and still keeping some security.

Commissioner Lehrke recommended putting the cuts on the Dept Heads. Sheriff Wilk commented that the Dept Heads know what their office needs and how much money is needed to run their offices.

Commissioner Lehrke brought up the contract with Empiric and possibly cutting parts of this. Treasurer Goudreau told the board that this contract is needed to fix all the computer issues that we have been dealing with for the last 10-15 years. Sheriff Wilk also told the board that the computer contract is needed and they are still working on repairing all the computers within his dept. After these issues are repaired the costs should go down dramatically.

Commissioner Patrick stated that he thinks we need to keep the budget as it was approved and work on cuts for next year. Commissioner Hill thinks cutting the budgets is not getting much support from the Dept Heads and not gaining any traction.

The board agreed that the Dept Heads use their discretion on cuts for their offices.

Commissioner Hill told Sheriff Wilk that he did not appreciate the ultimatum that was made to the board about cutting budgets.

Public Comment:

None

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Equalization Director Chipman told the board that she has had many interested people for the director position.

Chair Lehrke adjourned the meeting at: 4:52pm

Hillary Vowell
County Clerk