

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013**

At a meeting of the **Government Operations Committee**, held Monday, August 5, 2013, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Tocco-Chair, Flynn-Vice-Chair, Boyle, Brown, Carabelli, Klinefelt, Mijac, Miller, Mocerri, Sabatini, Sauger and Smith.

Absent and excused was Vosburg.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Tocco called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Miller, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include #14, Discussion of Joint Memo from Chief Circuit Court Judge and County Clerk).

Chair Tocco asked that #14 be moved up to follow #7. There were no objections.

Chair Tocco called for a vote on the motion to adopt the agenda, as amended, and **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Klinefelt, to approve the July 15, 2013 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

CLARIFICATION OF CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS BENCHMARKS

Dave Boerger from SEMCOG summarized a document that was distributed titled "Clerk/Register of Deeds (RoD) Performance Measurables" dated August 4, 2013. He said it more accurately reflects the court clerk and jury staff in the data.

MOTION

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Carabelli, to receive and file the document titled "Clerk/Register of Deeds (RoD) Performance Measurables" dated August 4, 2013. **The Motion Carried.**

BUDGET AMENDMENT/CIRCUIT COURT/COUNTY CLERK

Todd Schmitz, Chief Deputy County Clerk, gave an overview of the request.

Commissioner Brown asked if the Finance Department supports this budget amendment request and Mr. Provenzano replied yes.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mijac, supported by Sauger, to forward to the Finance Committee a recommendation to approve the transfer of \$15,000 from the 2013 Circuit Court budget to the 2013 County Clerk budget to provide funding for Clerk staff overtime for court-related work; Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately. **The Motion Carried.**

DISCUSSION OF 7-31-13 JOINT MEMO FROM CHIEF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE AND COUNTY CLERK

Board Chair Flynn stated the memo provides a timeline of discussions between the Court and Clerk to date, as well as a collaborative solution proposal. He said this will be addressed more completely at a future Finance Committee meeting and felt a resolution should be handled within this budget cycle.

The following commissioners spoke: Carabelli, Klinefelt, Tocco, Mocerri, Flynn and Brown.

MOTION

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Brown, to receive and file the joint memo from the Chief Circuit Court Judge and the County Clerk dated 7-31-13. **The Motion Carried.**

INTERVIEW OF KATHERINE BENFORD, CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES DIRECTOR

Katherine Benford was present.

The following commissioners spoke: Carabelli and Mocerri.

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Miller, to receive and file the interview with Katherine Benford. **The Motion Carried.**

CONFIRMATION OF OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Miller, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the County Executive's appointment of Katherine Benford as the Director of the Macomb County Office of Senior Services; Further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEW – CORPORATION COUNSEL

Pete Provenzano summarized the proposed budget for Corporation Counsel. He noted there is no change in personnel and the increase in expenditures is due to furlough days being eliminated, as well as other pension costs.

The following commissioners asked questions of Mr. Provenzano and Skip Maccarone, Interim Corporation Counsel: Mocerri, Miller, Carabelli, Klinefelt, Sabatini, Flynn and Tocco.

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Sauger, to receive and file the departmental budget review for Corporation Counsel. **The Motion Carried.**

DISCUSSION ON CORPORATION COUNSEL APPOINTMENT

Board Chair Flynn provided a summary of the posting and steps that occurred up to the County Executive's selection of an appointment nominee and stated the concerns expressed by commissioners regarding the process and qualifications of the candidate.

He said he had met with the candidate and had expressed the commissioners' concerns. The candidate was invited to Thursday's Full Board meeting so that commissioners could hear from him directly. He said he was not sure when the approval would be placed on an agenda for action.

The following commissioners spoke: Brown and Tocco.

MOTION

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Sabatini, to receive and file the discussion on the Corporation Counsel appointment. **The Motion Carried.**

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEW – OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Pete Provenzano summarized the proposed budget for the Office of County Executive. He said there is no change in personnel, but there is a \$50,000 increase under the contractual services line item for professional services.

The following commissioners spoke: Tocco, Mocerri, Miller, Carabelli and Sabatini.

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Brown, to receive and file the departmental budget review for the Office of County Executive. **The Motion Carried.**

JULY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICES, INC.

MOTION

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Mijac, to receive and file the July legislative update from Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. **The Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Board Chair Flynn referred to a request on Wednesday's Finance Committee agenda which was the appointment of a law firm to represent Judge Caretti in a complaint which is to be heard before the Judicial Tenure Commission; he asked if it was appropriate for the county to take that action, or if the judge should bear that responsibility personally.

Mr. Maccarone said he will review and get back to the Board with an answer.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Sabatini, to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**



Corinne Bedard
Committee Reporter