

**COUNTY OF OSCEOLA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

HEALTH, SAFETY & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Monday, November 20, 2017
301 West Upton Ave., Reed City, Michigan
2nd Floor, Board of Commissioners' Room
5:00 p.m.**

- 1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson.**
- 2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – Approval of the Agenda.**
- 3. Brief Public Comments (Three Minute Limit).**
- 4. Board/Employee Comments.**
- 5. Consider Approval of the Minutes of October 31, 2017.**
- 6. Old Business:**
 - A. Discuss E.M.S. Contract and Medical Examiner Changes.**
- 7. New Business.**
- 8. Board Comments.**
- 9. Extended Public Comments (Six Minute Limit).**
- 10. Adjournment.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Committee welcomes public comment. We appreciate your attendance and look forward to hearing any concerns you may have. We request that the following rules of procedure be followed: At the beginning and at the end of each Committee meeting, there is time to receive public comment from the audience. If you wish to address the Committee, we ask that you stand, give your name and present your concern. If you wish to speak while the Committee is addressing a specific issue, you are asked to make arrangements ahead of time with the Committee Chairperson. No comments or questions will be taken at any other time.

If you should require special assistance in order to attend the meeting, please notify the County Coordinator at (231) 832-6196, twenty-four (24) hours before the posted meeting time, for arrangements to be made.

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COUNTY OF OSCEOLA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HEALTH, SAFETY & GROUNDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 31, 2017

Meeting Called to Order by **Chairperson Gregory** at 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Commissioners Mark Gregory, Roger Elkins and Jack Nehmer.
Members Absent: None.
Others: Lisa Kaspriak – Medical Examiner Office Administrator, Jeremy Beebe – E.M.S. Director, Shane Helmer – Assistant E.M.S. Director, Susan Vander Pol – County Coordinator, Sally Momany – public, and David Turner - public.

Additions or Deletions: None.

Motion by Commissioner Nehmer, seconded by Commissioner Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion was unanimously supported.

Public Comments - None.

Employee Comments – None.

Motion by Commissioner Elkins, seconded by Commissioner Nehmer to approve the minutes of October 17, 2017. Motion was unanimously supported.

Old Business:

Medical Examiner Program Structure

Discussion was held on the current proposals provided by Lisa Kaspriak, Medical Examiner Office Administrator. Lisa addressed questions on the structure Dr. Wagner and she want in place going forward for Medical Examiner, Medical Examiner Investigators and Administrative services, response times for Medical Examiner Investigators (MEI's) to the scene, employee versus independent contractor's status for the MEI positions, having 8 qualified MEI's for Osceola County, payments made directly by the County to the MEI's for services under the direction of the Medical Examiner and associated costs comprised in the totals related to the proposals. The County can choose one of the proposals for services with them or obtain a different Medical Examiner for services.

Included in the proposals reviewed is a support fee of 25% of the permit revenue from cremation permits. Susan clarified with the Committee members and Lisa the proposed 25% support fee was not included in the presentation materials or discussed with the Board of Commissioners when the Board approved setting the cremation permit fee at \$50. It was presented the total amount would be going into the 101 General Fund to help assist with Medical Examiner program costs. The Board of Commissioners will need to take additional action if the Medical Examiner Administration will be collecting up front 25% of the fees for cremation permits. Lisa will do additional research on the information she provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gregory inquired about the morgue and if that is up and running, the effect it may have on autopsy expenses. Lisa stated she feels they can cut the autopsy expenses in half with a fully functional morgue.

The Board of Commissioners requested Susan and Jeremy work with Lisa on development of a draft contract proposal for their consideration. The Committee requested this move forward and information be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their November 21st meeting.

New Business: None.

Board Comments – None.

Extended Public Comments: Shane Helmer, Assistant EMS Director, stated there currently aren't eight qualified Medical Examiner Investigators in the County and inquired if Lisa could share who they are. He asked

the Commissioners with a million dollar deficit in the County's General Fund and with a current EMS provided 24/7 Medical Examiner Investigators system through the E.M.S. 210 Fund that works very well, why they are increasing costs for Medical Examiner services to the General Fund and paying out even more for Administration.

Lisa commented on her and Dr. Wagner's roles with the Mecosta/Newaygo morgue located in Big Rapids. She stated they have no financial interest in the morgue, she and Dr. Wagner take personal time from their schedules without compensation and are assisting for the benefit of reducing the expenses to the counties he operates under for autopsy services. They are detached, but are recruiting other medical examiners to use the facility. They were asked to join in the discussion to get the morgue up and running.

Jeremy Beebe commented the proposal before the Board increases Osceola County's expenses 27.7% over 2017. It's higher than the other counties averaged. Payment for MEI's will come from the General Fund. The Medical Examiners policies and procedures will all need to be changed as they reference using Osceola County employees.

Motion by Commissioner Nehmer, seconded by Commissioner Elkins to adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan M. Vander Pol
Osceola County Coordinator