

Finance Committee Agenda

1/16/2024

1:30 PM

Room 202

Meeting called by:	Bill Routley	Note taker:	Paul Bullock
Attendees:	Jerrilynn Strong, Chris Jane, Ray Steinke		

----- Agenda Topics -----

Call To Order	Chair
Public Comment	
Marijuana Excise Tax Budget Amendment Request	Sisters of Sobriety
Legal Opinion Regarding Chief Deputies of Elected Officials	Administrator
Listed Bills	
Commissioner Per Diem and Travel	
Other Business	
Adjournment	Chair

Finance Committee Minutes

1/16/2024

1:30 PM

Room 202

Meeting called by:	Bill Routley	Note taker:	Paul Bullock
Attendees:	Chris Jane, Ray Steinke		
----- Agenda Topics -----			
Call To Order	Chair	1:30 PM	
Public Comment	NONE		
Marijuana Excise Tax Budget Amendment Request Sisters of Sobriety			
Discussion: The Committee reviewed a request from the Sisters of Sobriety to move amounts within their approved budget for the MET funds.			
Conclusions: The Committee approved the changes and instructed the Administrator to advise SOS.			
Legal Opinion Regarding Chief Deputies of Elected Administrator Officials			
Discussion: The Committee reviewed a legal opinion regarding the salaries of Chief Deputies of Elected Officials. The opinion found that the salaries of Chief Deputies may not be reduced during the Elected Official's term of office. The practical effect of this is that any appointment of a Chief Deputy must include a salary not less than that of their immediate predecessor. In 2023 the Treasurer appointed a new Chief Deputy and the salary was reduced per the scale in place. The Administrator recommended that the Chief Deputy Treasurer be made whole for the difference between the salary paid and what would have been paid if the opinion had been known at the time of the appointment on September 1, 2023.			
Conclusions: The Committee will recommend to the Board that the Chief Deputy Treasurer salary be increased to the 3 year rate for 2024 with retro active payment of the 2023 difference between the start rate and the 4 year rate beginning September 1, 2023. The 2024 budget did away with the 4 year rate and made the 3 year rate top of scale.			
Listed Bills			
Discussion: The Committee reviewed all bills			
Conclusions: The Committee will recommend that all bills be paid.			
Commissioner Per Diem and Travel			
Discussion: The Committee reviewed and approved all Commissioner per diem and travel.			
Other Business			
Discussion: The Committee reviewed a request from the TPOAM for consideration of a 10 year step in their payscales. Following discussion the Committee will recommend that the payscales remain as negotiated.			
Adjournment	Chair	2:05 PM	



FC - 1

Sisters Of Sobriety
625 N State St
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Angie Kazemier
Exec Director
(231) 250-9193
www.sistersofsobriety.org

Jan 8, 2024

Dear County Commissioner Members,

Now that we are several months into the project that is being supported by the Marijuana Grant Fund, it is becoming apparent that the budget, as approved by the Mecosta Co Commissioners, needs slight adjustments to meet some of the emerging modifications in our work. Attached is a budget revision humbly requested and an explanation for these adjustments.

- SOS was gifted slightly used twin beds and we would like to allocate that portion of the grant, as well as the remaining dollars from other items to resident needs and office supplies.
- SOS replaced two old freezers with standing, more accommodating and energy efficient, for the continued growth of residents being served. The washer & dryer was in the ask, but we request that it be changed to the new freezer.
- Concerns with the over expenditure on the van repair & maintenance. We underestimated cost of four tires, not two that we had assumed. Additionally, the cost of a front end alignment and shocks were not accurately estimated.

Thank you for your kind attention to this request.

Respectfully,

Angela Kazemier

REQUESTED ALLOCATIONS TO ASK	ASK	SPENT	BALANCE	REQUEST
<i>Resident Needs/ Recovery Supplies /Recovery Community Events</i>	\$7,360.00	\$7,355.00	\$5.00	\$3,687.00
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$3,680.00	\$3,129.00	\$551.00	\$1,230.00
<i>Set Washer/Dryer REPLACED W/ NEW STANDING FREEZER</i>	\$3,200.00	\$1,002.00	\$2,198.00	
<i>10 Dressers (10 Residents, 5 Bedrooms)</i>	\$2,000.00	\$1,990.00	\$10.00	
<i>5 Burner Natural Gas Range/ 1 Microwave (SOS WILL OWN)</i>	\$1,800.00	\$1,170.00	\$630.00	
<i>10 Twin Beds/10 Mattresses/10 Linens/10 Pillows</i>	\$3,400.00	\$647.00	\$2,753.00	
<i>SOS Vehicle 10 Passenger Van Maintenance/Repair</i>	\$1,500.00	\$2,730.00	-\$1,230.00	
PROPOSAL CHANGES AMOUNT ASK	\$22,940.00	\$18,023.00	\$4,917.00	\$4,917.00

Legal article for dec 2023 magazine

Hed: Chief deputies of elected officials: When to establish pay, and how much?

Art: salary decision

By Matt Nordfjord/ Cohl, Stoker and Toskey P.C.

Questions frequently arise related to how salaries are established for elected County officers and their statutory chief deputies. The same legal requirements and restrictions regarding salaries apply to both, and include the chief deputies of the clerk, sheriff, prosecutor, register of deeds, treasurer, and drain commissioner. Each of these chief deputy positions, except for drain commissioner, is required by law (the chief deputy sheriff is called the undersheriff). Because the elected official works directly for the citizens of their county, their chief deputy carries the additional responsibility of having to “step in” if there is a vacancy in the office of the elected official.

The Board of Commissioners has the exclusive power to fix the compensation of county officers not otherwise provided by law. Const 1963, art. 7, §9. MCL 45.421(1) provides that the Board of Commissioners must set the salaries and that the salaries may not be reduced during the officer’s term of office:

The annual salary of each salaried county officer, which is by law fixed by the county board of commissioners, shall be fixed by the board before November 1 each year and shall not be diminished during the term for which the county officer has been elected or appointed, but may be increased by the board during the officer’s term of office.

Chief deputies of elected officers meet the test to be considered public officers enunciated in *Meiland v Cody*, 359 Mich 78 (1960). Chief deputies serve at the pleasure of the elected official they serve. Their term of office is, therefore, coterminous with the elected official who appointed them. The chief deputy’s salary may not be reduced during their current term of office. OAG, 1977-1978, No. 5384, p. 635 (September 27, 1978). The board has the authority to set what is, in effect, the minimum salary of the chief deputies for each four-year term of office, but once set the salary level set cannot be reduced during the term for which the chief deputy was appointed.¹ See *McQuaid v Bd of Auditors of Oakland Co*, 315 Mich 234; 23 NW2d 644 (1946). This is true even if a vacancy occurs during the term of office. OAG, 2003, No. 7128 (April 7, 2003). **If a vacancy occurs mid-term, the person appointed to fill the remainder of the term must be paid (at least) the same salary as was set by the Board for their office. Less experience on the job is not to be used as a factor in decreasing the salary mid-term. Pay-scales that result in reduced salary are not applicable.**

In contrast, like salaries for elected officials, salaries for chief deputies may be increased at any time as determined by the County Board. OAG, 1983-1984, No. 6149, p 109 (April 19, 1983). For example, a chief deputy hired mid-term must at a minimum be paid the salary that their immediate predecessor was

¹ The statute previously also barred salary increases during the term of office. Following a 1967 amendment, the Court of Appeals held that MCL 45.421(1) permits the BOC to increase the salaries of elected officers and their chief deputies without limitation as to the effective date of such increases. *Attorney General v Oakland Co*, 125 Mich App 157; 335 NW2d 654 (1983). Further, the Court held that the Nov. 1 date was continued by historical accident.

paid. If the Board wants to decrease pay, it must make the change before November 1 to take effect at the start of the next term of office.

*Note that the statute applies only to salaries, not fringe benefits which may be decreased or eliminated at any time. Scheduled pay increases for a predecessor in office are speculative and not binding. To address these issues in a manner which complies with the statute, it is recommended that counties adopt a written policy regarding adoption of salaries for chief deputies and elected officials.

Commissioners

Date 1-4-24

Pay to:

Randy VETTER

[illegible]

TOTAL	150.00
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Per Diem
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It is hereby certified that the above account is true and correct and that no part of the same has been paid.

Signed

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COMMISSIONERS



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