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MICRC

03/10/22 10:00 am Meeting

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning, everyone.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Good morning.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sarah are we ready to start or do we need another minute.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Ready when you are.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I will wait until it gets 10:00 exactly.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm going to close my Zoom and come right back, something is going on with it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission, I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:00 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI. Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at Redistricting@michigan.gov or details for language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date.

This meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC website along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC, this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. Because we are all attending the meeting remotely, please

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disclose you are attending remotely and as well as your physical location you are attending from. City County or Township.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present; attending the meeting from Huntington Beach, California.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present; attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

Brittini Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Present; attending from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present; attending from Lee County, Florida.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present; attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present, attending remotely from Lansing, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Present. Attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present; attending remotely from Highland Township, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present. Attending remotely from Saginaw Township, Saginaw Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm present. Attending remotely from Howell, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt.

As a reminder to the public watching, You can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda. So moved. Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Commissioner Lett.

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Is there discussion or debate on the motion?

Hearing none it's moved and seconded.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Erin had a hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I would like to move to amend and put a D on there to consider reducing our pay to the 25% of the Governor's pay rate, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So under 6 under new business.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Well yes 5D it would be.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: New business it would have to go under 6.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So 6D.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: That's fine, yes, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Consideration of reduction.

Do we have a second? A motion to add 6D to reduce the base pay to 25% of the Governor's salary.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Second.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange has seconded that is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Okay, so we have a motion to amend the agenda to add item 6D which is new business consideration of reduction and pay rate to 25%.

All in favor of amending the agenda to add that item raise your hand and say aye.
Aye.

So I count Commissioner Lange can you verbally indicate what you voted?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm a yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Vallette which way did you vote I'm sorry?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I voted nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Nay okay so I believe that was a vote of four ayes to eight nays, Ms. Reinhardt is that what you are counting.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is it as well yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The amendment fails at this point we will go back to the adoption of the meeting agenda unless there are further amendments.

All right all in favor of adopting the meeting agenda raise your hand and say aye.
Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The meeting agenda is adopted.

Without objection we will begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

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I will call on your name and the staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the zoom app to unmute your mic and speak. If you on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your name or the last four digits of the phone number. Also please note if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail at redistricting@michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have one minute to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Galant.
Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Before we move forward, I just want to confirm what the timing is for public comment at this point.

Was it extended at the last meeting?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No that is on the agenda today to extend it to two minutes but as of right now it's still one minute.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Still one minute.
One moment Mr. Gallant.

>> Hello James Galant Marquette suicide prevention coalition these are my opinions. And thank you for addressing the time on the for the public to speak and please make that three minutes because that is reasonable.

And it is reasonable and under rule.

So three minutes a person can get a couple thoughts out after giving their name and joining today and requesting an audit of the auditor general you know, they have all these audits 250 audits of audits and number crunchers did the number but did not do the other audit the procedural audit.

The prop three in 2018 says now that we have a right to two audits two forms of audits tabulation audit and a procedural audit and what I've been asking and getting with the Attorney General's Office to get a procedural audit of the entire election system.

It's my understanding the board of canvassers have no rules or Bylaws at all and do not follow Roberts rules and in 2020 election when they certified in Wayne County.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Ms. Reinhardt I'm assuming his time ended.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you I just didn't hear a buzzer so Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Mr. Anthony Skinnell.

>> Good morning MICRC and yeah, I was looking for the time change for public comment and I didn't know if it was on the agenda.

I don't know if that is your proposed rules change piece so if that is what that is good for that.

I hope it goes through.

And you know I'm not really going to touch the salary that's a bit of a low hanging fruit right now.

And but if you are strapped for cash here is an idea why don't you guys sell some merch prints autographed prints of the MICRC fish maps that is my idea for the sell some merch, make some revenue.

And that's all I got for now, have a good one.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

That concludes our public comment for this morning. however, I would like to mention that all e-mailed and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting. And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on www.Michigan.gov/MICRC on a regular basis. We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way you choose to do so. And invite you to keep sharing your thoughts especially if you would like to share the ways that you think the MICRC processes or procedures could have been good or could have been more effective.

Next item on our agenda is unfinished business item 5A draft amendments to FOIA procedures and guidelines written public summary of MICRC FOIA procedures and guidelines and the FOIA form which were discussed at the meeting two weeks ago. Without objection I will ask our Executive Director Hammersmith to present this agenda item hearing no objections please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good morning, Commissioners. Happy to be here today and follow-up on the FOIA procedures and guidelines, these documents were sent out in advance.

I'll briefly go through the procedures and guidelines that's the four-Page document that describes the procedure for public record requests.

As you can see in the red line copy the word FOIA was changed to public record requests throughout the document.

I want to thank first before I get too far in, I want to thank Mike Brady for his assistance and an initial draft we worked on this for a while and went back and forth until we got it to where we thought it was a good point.

Then the document was the documents were sent to Nate Fink for his review and he also has reviewed these documents serving in the role of our General Counsel at this point.

So as their firm does.

So it was necessary in these policies to take out the references to General Counsel at the initially the FOIA requests were authorized to go to the General Counsel by your Executive Director.

So those references have been removed.

But also you work for three months initially without an Executive Director.

And after I leave at the end of the month I will not be in that position.

So we made some provisions in case there isn't an Executive Director.

Again, this would help the next Commission if they choose to use these policies before they would get an Executive Director hired or if an Executive Director would leave during the process.

Our FOIA e-mail box has bent forwarded to the Michigan Department of State FOIA e-mail box and we are grateful MDOS has taken responsibility for responding to the FOIA requests that are sent to this Commission.

The only other thing I wanted to mention in this document is about appeals. Initially appeals went to the executive director and again, if there is a time when this Commission does not have an Executive Director, that void would need to be filled. The initial recommendation is that the full Commission then serve as the appeals. I know during my tenure we did receive two appeals.

And I responded to those.

But at some point, somebody has to be responsible for responding to any appeals and should this Commission go dormant or should you not have an Executive Director there needs to be something in place and what this allows is if the Commission is dormant for MDOS to handle those requests.

The other document simply follows suit.

So the form and the written procedures for the types of requests or the responses to the requests follow suit with these procedures.

So if you have any questions, I would be willing to answer those or Mike Brady might also be helpful he is on this call and serving as our parliamentarian today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sorry guys I was on mute there thank you Executive Director Hammersmith Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you Chair Szetela.

One thing I noted is it says adopted February 21st and I believe it was adopted on the 24th.

And another question I had was regarding under H, assessment for fees, the last full bullet point there says we took out the hourly wage of the MICRC's lowest paid employee capable of duplicating or publishing and I was wondering why we took out the lowest paid employee because that would make sense considering our budget is severely in the red.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Could you clarify which document you're in because there is three.

There is a summary, there is the actual records then there is like the third.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: To be honest, it's dated 3-7-2022.

State of Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission MICRC public record request. And unfortunately, I didn't print these out in color so I don't know if it's red lined or not but it says adopted February 21st and I believe you all adopted it on the 24th.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're looking at exhibit it was attached two to our meeting minutes which is the.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I believe so.

The first one I printed after the agenda.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: So I wanted to bring attention to that.

And then in H where it says based on the lowest paid employee, I wanted clarification why we took out lowest paid employee please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead and address that, please.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Sure thank you if there is a Scribner's error on the date adopted, we certainly can correct that.

And then on the lowest paid employee, at this point in time the MICRC is not answering those requests.

MDOS is answering those requests on behalf of this Commission.

So again it would be it would make sense to have their lowest paid employee capable of producing this work.

So and that's why it was changed.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Can we reword it to the MDOS lowest paid employee?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Well there might be a point, so yeah, there probably won't be a point going forward with this Commission.

But we've tried to allow for the flexibility in these documents so the next Commission could pick them up and they would be useful for them.

So it could be MICRC employee if the Executive Director or employee of the Commission is handling the FOIAs.

However if it's a time where we don't have staff to do that and MDOS is doing it then that would allow for MDOS to use their lowest paid employee.

And that just makes sense that then they could get reimbursed for those costs.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Correct I would just not like to see an attorney who gets paid you know 250 an hour actually and the person capable of doing the work. And there goes more money out the door.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We are not currently using an attorney.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Commissioner Orton, I saw you had your hand up, then Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I kind of fixed out the answer to my question, so no more question.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So yeah, I think that adding the lowest paid employee, I don't know that we can dictate to the Secretary of State who they are going to use. So if we are using them, I think it would be up to their procedures and policies and whatever they do as far as designating who is going to do it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay any other comments or questions? And if not, I would entertain a motion to adopt resolution 20220301 MICRC public records procedures and guidelines written public record summary and form.

Two people at the same time.

Commissioner Lett, I believe you were first.

Commissioner Witjes I believe you seconded it so we have a motion made by Commissioner Lett to adopt 20220301 and seconded by Commissioner Witjes is there any discussion or debate on the motion? All right hearing none let's go ahead and vote it's moved and seconded to approve resolution 20220301 Michigan public records and procedures written public records and form all in favor raise your hand and say aye. Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Okay by a vote of 12-0 the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Next on the agenda is unfinished item 5B proposed amendments to the rules of procedure.

Without objection I'll ask Executive Director Hammersmith to present this item.

Hearing no objections please proceed Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you.

This resolution was presented at the last meeting, so and items 1, 2 and 4 allow the rules of procedure then to be the same as or in collaboration with our new public record request procedure.

So those simply cleanup that language to agree with what you have just approved.

The third item in this resolution was requested by the Commissioners at our last meeting and that was to change the public comment time from one minute to two minutes.

So those are the four changes.

Again, this was presented at the last meeting.

It has been reviewed by Fink Bressack by Nate Fink so these are presented just for the Commission's approved.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right any questions or comments?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to amend the motion that we increase it to three minutes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Second.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So we have a motion to amend the proposed resolution to increase the amount of time, trying to get to the resolution to three minutes public comment instead of two.

That has been seconded by Commissioner Lange.

Is there any discussion or debate on the proposed amendment to the resolution? Okay hearing none it is moved and seconded that we.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Steve put it hand up.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would oppose the motion and I think primarily the reason is evident as of this morning.

We had two public comments from our usual public commentors.

Both of whom easily put in what they wanted to say within one minute.

In addition, we've had numerous public comment sessions throughout the state in which we reduced the time to one minute.

And I did not see -- I would say probably 99.99% of the people easily got their point across in one minute.

If you look at the written public comments on the portal, you will also see that they aren't particularly very long and can easily read through them in a minute.

The point people want to be done can easily be done in a minute therefore I actually oppose the two minutes and certainly oppose the three minutes.

I would like to see it stay at one minute.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Clark go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I look at it from a different perspective.

I look at we have such a minimal number of people making comments that this gives us an opportunity to hear more from the public.

So I think three minutes is more appropriate at this point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

A whole bunch of hands just went up Commissioner Curry then Commissioner Rothhorn then Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think that the public comments ought to be left to two minutes.

Three minutes is a lot of time to talk.

And would probably lead to a lot of negative comments that would cause arguments.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Curry.

Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So first a question these whatever we are putting in place now will also likely be in place for the new Commission, right? This set of rules, this change unless we change it again of course but that's also for the next Commission, correct is that fair to say?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The next Commission can adopt whatever rules it wants to adopt.

The rules we adopt certainly would most likely be used at least as a template if not adopted on mass by the next Commission.

But whatever we set as rules does not necessarily go over to the next Commission. They are going to adopt their own rules if they want to.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I saw some nodding heads thank you Steve I appreciate the clarification.

So I do support the idea of three minutes and I like the idea that we don't know who we've excluded because of our rules.

What I mean to say is yes there are people who can get their point across and I think you have said it very well Steve, right, it's true there are people who have gotten their point across and heard very articulate people.

What I've heard also and say from a handful but maybe more than a handful and those people I think are also speaking for people who don't show up because they are like oh, I can't get my point across.

What I mean is I would like to try the three minutes.

I know we are at the end and I know we are looking for feedback on our process and so forth.

And I heard what was said earlier it might lead to negativity but I also believe honestly, we are here to get feedback. We are a citizen driven process and we want to hear from citizens and it's what we can do.

It's not just what we can do but it's part of what we can do with our time while we are, so yeah, wrapping up, I like the idea of three minutes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I have to agree with Steve.

Commissioner Lett if I want to be professional.

The three minutes is too much and I understand what you're saying MC but then you're going to have ten people show up for public comment and there is 30 minutes gone or 20 people show up for public comment and an hour gone.

Public comment as far as I'm concerned in regards to what we have done or what we are going to be doing is pretty much over.

We don't need to hear about communities of interest anymore.

We don't really need to hear all that stuff.

As far as I'm concerned because we are not going to change our maps unless we are ordered to do so by a Court.

So there is no reason for the three minutes.

I afforded the two minute idea just to be courteous to put it back up to what it was.

And I don't think there is a reason for it to go up to three minutes.

It's a ludicrous idea to be honest with you.

There is no reason for it.

People can get their point across in one minute.

And the raising of the public comment period of two minutes is just to put it back to what it was before we changed it back.

And that's it.

We don't need to get it up to three.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange then Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm just going to say from the public meetings that I've watched online whether it be school board meetings or whatever the Norm for the ones I have seen is three minutes.

And I would also just like a personal I rather enjoy Mr. Gallant, Mr. Skinnell's comments there are actually times I have learned stuff from it.

Than being repeat commentors and everything but I actually enjoy the fact that they do show up every week and comment but that is just me personally.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: This is my final comment on a topic that has already taken up too much time.

I think if we have had and the report, I just received everybody received from Edward we had over 29,000 comments.

I don't think that very many people were reticent to talk to us on a one minute basis so I think one minute is more than enough.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's go ahead and vote on the amendment at this point we have a motion by Commissioner Clark and an amendment or a second by Commissioner Lange to amend resolution 20220302 to change the two minute time restriction to three minutes.

All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay?

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I have a vote of 4-8.

Sarah, is that accurate?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is accurate.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 4-8 opposed to the amendment so at this point let's move back to I never did get the motion to actually adopt the resolution before we had the motion for amendment.

Who was that? Commissioner Witjes.

So we have a motion by Commissioner Witjes to adopt resolution 20220302.

Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn.

Any discussion or debate on the resolution itself other than what we have already talk about? Let's go ahead and vote on this all in favor of adopting resolution 20220302 raise your hand and say aye.

Aye, opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So that was eight in favor for opposed; is that correct?

Ms. Reinhardt?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That's accurate.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So resolution 20220302 is adopted.

All right at this point we are going to move on to unfinished business item 5C, reconsideration of Commission pay raise this is one I actually asked to have on the agenda.

So we did implement a pay raise for Commissioners last week or two weeks ago for 7% above what our current pay rate is and we received a lot of feedback from the public that was very negative with respect to the pay raise and in someone who voted in favor of it last time around and wanted a motion to reconsider the pay raise and see if anyone was in support of it.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I will second it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Motion and a second to reverse the 7% pay raise any discussion or debate on the motion.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: I do think we are always going to be criticized for spending the money and I do understand that there is a budget that we have. I know I voted for it because it was the people right that requested this and our fellow Commissioners.

I'm in favor and do believe we should be people centered and not necessarily budget centered.

I do think it's important, I'm a fiscally responsible person there is no doubt about that and when I hear my Commissioners and fellow citizens are disagreeing with that but my fellow Commissioners said they needed it I trust that, that is why I voted for it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange I saw your hand go up then went back down did you have a comment.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I do.

I'm just curious what Commissioners think right now in this time we are doing to warrant a pay raise? Personally I check e-mail once a day and check the public comment online twice a week what work are we doing that makes it where we should have a 7% pay raise.

I don't understand.

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I personally think it should go down because we are not doing the work.

I don't know.

Maybe others on the Commission are doing more than me but I get maybe two e-mails a week.

And that's it.

So I don't understand where it's coming from, I guess.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I had my hand raised as well.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom go first then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I was going to echo the sentiment and expressed and I think the difference here it would not be necessarily as you know another job where it's a Merritt based raise.

This is due to the very obvious inflation that is going on.

And I think other Commissioners expressed as well as myself the belief and need of the raise.

So I would stand on the same vote that I took the last time.

Sorry go ahead, Doug.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, thank you.

I personally don't think that the raise is warranted.

Personally I think we should drop back down to the 25% of the Governor's salary.

That's my opinion.

This shouldn't be viewed as a full time job.

And I think it is at some points in time and people use it as their source of income.

It's a supplement and it's our dedication to the State of Michigan to do this and I think the intent, the way this was written is that it's 25% of the Governor's salary.

I don't think it was written properly in the Constitution because it gave us the flexibility to change that from an increase standpoint, from a decrease standpoint.

And I go back to what Rhonda said.

The workload has diminished.

And I spend more time than what Rhonda characterized during a given week in reading e-mails, participating in interviews and so forth.

Discussions with other Commissioners.

But I don't spend as near as much time as I did in the early part or the later part of last year when we were doing the mapping.

So I don't feel that the raise was warranted.

I voted that way as well.

That it not be increased.

And my personal opinion is we should consider seriously to bring it to 25% of the Government salary.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner then Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you, Chair Szetela.

I just wanted to point out I agree with Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Lange. I don't believe it's warranted.

Yes, our workload has diminished, I probably spend a little bit more time than Rhonda does because I get all the e-mails from Edward as well.

But might I point out that there are help wanted signs everywhere and you can pick up a second job.

So that's where I stand.

I oppose the pay raise.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes then Commissioner Curry then Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I don't like people telling me that you don't think I'm doing as much work as I possibly am during this whole particular time because I don't know about you, I'm still busy.

I don't know if you saw the e-mails that I sent out when I did the whole map of the preliminary injunction that we did and sent out to absolutely all of you, okay? That took a lot of time.

I had to take data that was in number form and change it to be able to be drawn into a map.

So don't tell me that I am not doing as much work as I used to because I still am.

This is a ridiculous conversation that we have.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It really is.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: We voted on it last week.

The people who say that, you know, are against it I brought it up a month ago.

These people were not here.

I brought it up and I was voted on two weeks ago.

It passed.

And now we are talking about it again.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It's ridiculous.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: It's ridiculous and we voted and spoke as one Commission.

And that's it.

We don't need to get into this, forgive me for my French, pissing match over our salary.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That's right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Witjes.

I would just point out that the motion for reconsideration process has been part of our procedure from the beginning and have had times where we used it before so I don't think anyone is intending to get in a pissing match but it's valid.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That is not what I was saying the whole process of what we were talking about is ridiculous.

The fact that we have this particular point where we can do reconsideration is fine.

I'm all for it.

We can always do it.

But this is something we should not be reconsidering.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I see Commissioner Curry then Commissioner Kellom then Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

I just think that we are taking this a little bit too far every time we come to the table just because we may not have worked one day as much as we have other days that we drop salaries.

Nobody works the same amount of time.

I don't care what kind of job they are in all the time.

And if the person feels like they are not or should not they don't have the worthiness of being paid what they are getting then you just accept what you are getting.

But I think anything I do is worthy.

I'm worth whatever I put my time in because my time is very valuable and I think we ought to drop this discussion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: I think it's both inappropriate and disrespectful to suggest because there are help wanted signs especially to the work we have done. That was a very egregious and do not expect apology on behalf of the Commissions and it's some people's full time job and getting into someone's income and pockets because you may fair better on a better day than fellow Commissioners good for you. You are blessed and I think we owe it to each other to continue to stick together and if that's what is needed that's what is needed.

We already had the vote in terms of making amendment to consider the 25% and that too did not pass.

So that should not be creeping up into this conversation as well.

I know people can say whatever they want to say on any given day but the continued disrespect to the work that we have been doing especially we do know that this is some people's livelihood.

Again, I echo what Commissioner Rothhorn said we have been criticized this whole time so does not surprise me a raise or a discussion thus far in terms of what the Commission says could be frowned upon.

I'm not concerned about that but the livelihood and well-being of the folks in front of me and I hope you are and it's obvious that it's not and that is also unfortunate.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Call the question.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank goodness.

I was just going to say are you going to call the question? I knew you were going to do that.

Let's go ahead and vote and should have a roll call on this one just because we are all virtual and it's sometimes hard for me to see who is voting so we have a motion yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Madam Chair so just so I understand voting no would be to not reconsider, correct?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So the motion was to roll back the 7% raises so if you are voting in favor of the motion you are voting to roll back the 7% raise.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That can't be right because we have to do the motion to reconsider first then have the question come up.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so then let's I will change the motion to reconsider so we will vote first on the motion to reconsider.

Rhonda are you okay with seconding that again.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Second.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So if we vote no on this it's not it's just to move forward at this point, the vote of yes in the affirmative is to reconsider, correct?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Right. Motion to reconsider. Yes. Means you are in favor of reconsidering no means you are not in favor of reconsidering and we will be moving forward.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Can we get a roll call since there are so many off camera.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I already asked for that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello Commissioners please indicate your support on the motion to reconsider with a "Yes" or "No."

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid? Apologies he is not present.

Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 6 yes to 6 no there is a tie, the motion does not carry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, all right thank you everybody let's move on to the next item on the agenda.

Which is new business agenda item 6A staffing changes without objection I'll ask Executive Director Hammersmith to present this item hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you Chair Szetela.

As you know I will be leaving at the end of the month to retire.

I want you to know some of the responsibilities that I'm taking care of at this point and I also want the Commission to know that I will leave my work in good order so it can be carried on you know after I leave.

So some of the things I'm doing right now are drafting the agendas the attachments for the meeting and e-mailing everything out to the Commission to MDOS, to MICRC staff, to our consultants and counsel and then send a reminder to MDOS to post these items. I do draft resolutions either prior to the meeting if we know what we are discussing or after the meeting to capture important votes.

I approve the Commissioners and staff members weekly pay and expense reports.

So every week I'm asked do I want to assign an alternative approver.

And I can do that.

So after my absence I will assign an alternate approver for the Commission and staff.

And as you know your Executive Directors salary and expenses are approved by the Chair of the Commission, not by myself at this point.

I am working with MDOS staff on all of the contracts.

You made some changes last time, last meeting to extend contracts.

So we are working through all of those.

I monitor the budget.

And make sure that if we need changes to the budget, I bring those recommendations to the Commission.

I review and send all invoices to the legislative services Bureau and they make the actual payments.

And then I also log these on a spreadsheet, send those to Sarah Martinez and she puts that information into Quickbooks so we really have three eyes on our books both mine and Sarah Martinez and balance with the LSB every quarter.

I also have done policy reviews and updates on all the policies.

I think they are in good order at this point in time based on what you have approved during this meeting and the last meeting.

Serve as a communications link between consultants and the Commission.

And Edward has been copied on everything since our General Counsel left.

So we've got two staff members receiving everything from legal counsel.

And then I pass those on.

So my recommendation, if you're interested would be to transition these responsibilities to Edward Woods III.

I think he is very capable of doing everything.

He has done all these responsibilities in previous work so he has experience.

And you've witnessed him doing a great job in communications and outreach.

And as both of our jobs wind down, I think our workloads have become somewhat less.

So that would be my recommendation.

And of course the Commission can do what it pleases.

But I believe that Edward would do a great job after I leave the Commission.

So I'll let you discuss.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

First off, thank you Executive Director Hammersmith for all of the work that you have done for us.

Really have done what I consider to be an I would normally say yeoman but I will use yeoperson's job and I appreciate at least I appreciate everything that you have done for us.

I would move at this time that we add to Edward's duties or have Edward assume the duties of the Executive Director with an increase in pay to the Executive Director's salary as previously increased.

And since he will be doing communications and Executive Director, add \$5,000 to the base salary.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I second that or so moved or whatever.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So actually MC seconded it.

I was going to call, okay.

So I'm wondering what that works out to.

What is the \$5,000 work out to Steve, do you know?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I do not.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director Hammersmith do you know? I'm just trying to understand percentage wise.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Are you asking 5,000 to my current pay rate?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That's correct.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So my current pay rate.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: You just received a 7% bonus or 7% increase.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: You want to add 5,000 to that.

That was not supposed to kick in until April.

That is my confusion.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Whenever that kicks in Edward's salary would be that plus \$5,000.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Okay so my current salary is \$136,000.

You add a 7% increase to that.

And then and I don't know exactly what that number is off the top of my head.

But then 5,000 additional to that, correct?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That's correct.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay, so we are adding that to Edward's salary if he takes the Executive Director position? I'm just trying to I'm just a little confused.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: He would move up to the Executive Director's salary.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: With the 7% increase we already voted for that position.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Plus 5,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Plus 5,000 recognizing he will be doing the two jobs.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right that makes sense to me.

I understand.

All right any discussion or debate on the motion Commissioner Orton I see your hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think we should also change the title to Executive Director and since that would be our only staff person that would include communications and just whatever needed to be done.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I consider that a friendly amendment, no objection.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any additional discussion or debate on the motion? Executive Director.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, just for a point of reference, I did the hiring of Sue and Edward.

And the way we did this, we chose job codes that were in the State of Michigan's job codes portfolio.

Both of those individuals had different job codes and those job codes both had different ranges of salary.

Edward's communication director job having a smaller range than what the Executive Director job was.

And we targeted at that point we targeted the midpoint of those job range for the initial salaries.

So that's where we came up with the initial salaries.

I personally and this is going to be a comment, not an amendment, I personally think the additional \$5,000 is too much.

And I would stay with whatever Suann's initial salary was plus the 7%.

I would see that as more prudent thing to do.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Just for clarification, Mike Brady ran the numbers so and thank you, Mike.

So the base rate was \$136,000.

The 7% raise was \$145,520.

If you would add 5,000 to that it would be \$150,520.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So this is Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, go ahead Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to amend the motion that Steve put forward and not include the \$5,000 additional.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Seconded.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So Erin Wagner seconded that Commissioner Curry I saw your hand go up.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I want to make a comment.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: The 136 to 145 are we just saying that he gets only Sue's salary with the \$5,000 raise? Or are we talking about how are we saying that? You all are saying something I'm not catching.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: My understanding of Steve's motion and Steve chime in and correct me if I'm wrong is that Edward, if he accepts this new position because we have not confirmed that with him, he wants to do this that he would then move into Sue's salary range.

And have her 7% increase plus an additional \$5,000 because he is now going to be performing both functions, that is my understanding, Steve; is that correct?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That's correct.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And I kind of forget what he was getting.

So what would be the difference? What was his pay now? What is his current pay?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Woods?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: My current pay as of right now is I believe it's \$123,750 is that right Sue?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I'm thinking it's 123,500 that is prior to his 7% raise.

Because those were not going to take effect until the contract extensions on April 1st.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Is that about 20% or what? I think first we ought to see if he would take it.

And then probably let him try to give us what he think it's worth.

Because only he would know what he could do with that.

And let's see what he says about it first before we go to voting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So Edward first of all the important question is would you accept that, that dual position? Because I think that is kind of an important first step before we decide salary.

And then so if you want to chime in on that.

It looks like Edward might be frozen.

There you go.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Well first and Foremost I want to thank Sue Hammersmith as our Executive Director and our Executive Director and her leadership. And, you know, doing what I would say it's an effort that really had no guide map, no roadmap.

Other states have done it.

We were the only one that had 7 ranked redistricting criteria and 13 outstanding Commissioners who did not know each other and yet we were able to produce maps that passed.

And so for her recommendation and for the Commission's willingness to consider me I take it as a high honor with regards to that.

Usually I'm used to negotiating previously.

I'm not in an open session but with a group and then the recommendation comes to the Commission.

So this is a little bit different.

You know, with regards to the process when people are identifying and talking about your worth whereas I would be looking at what are you asking me to do.

What I see as this particular job is doing the responsibility of Executive Director as well as with the communications job that we still have some things going with regards to that.

So my preference would be to negotiate, not in public but to negotiate the same way we did as a communications, the same way you did with Executive Director.

And the same way that you did with the General Counsel.

Having said that though I would be remiss if I did not express my willingness to do the job.

But once again this is a little bit different than what I'm accustomed to and the process that the Commission has followed previously.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: You all can correct me if I'm wrong I know Commissioner Clark brought up the pay codes but I think my understanding is just as our communication and outreach director Edward Woods said is that he will be doing both jobs so unless the pay code and thus the amount accounts for him doing both jobs I think we should consider the initial proposal by Commissioner Lett because he would be doing two jobs at once.

Not just our beloved Sue Hammersmith.

So I think he should be compensated for both the work that he is doing, the Merritt as well as his work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, any additional comments? Questions?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Let me reiterate.

I would like to thank Commissioner Lett.

I thought what he offered was a very fair proposal just so we are clear with regards to that and thank you for that suggestion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so I'm going to add my quick two cents.

I think not including the 5,000 will put the salary way too low for doing two jobs.

I think we should probably do a little better than the 5,000 but I think I don't know that we need to cross the bridge of salary at this point.

I think that Edward is correct that we should probably negotiate the salary offline.

I think we should maybe just consider whether we want to approve having him do both positions that is just a matter of principle and leave the negotiations offline.

So those are kind of my thoughts Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Sorry, we must have a link going between your brain and mine because I was about to say the exact same thing.

Let's actually just have Edward accept the position and then at that particular point in regards to salary let's do that in a closed, not closed but, you know, with a few of us and we can negotiate the salary for and what so he can put a number what he thinks is fair. Then we can figure out what to do based off of looking at pay scales for the jobs with the actual, within the state.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right so we have a motion on the floor and we have an amendment to that motion on the floor.

Commissioner Lett go ahead before I say anything else.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, at this time based upon the comments I would like to withdraw my motion and if that is done then I would make a new motion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay anyone have any objections to withdrawing the motion?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: There was a proposed amendment to the motion as well.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark what about your amendment?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: So, yeah, I'd like to withdraw it as well.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So we have the motion and amendment withdrawn, Commissioner Clark or Commissioner Lett, I will hand it back to you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would move at this time we offer the position of Executive Director in conjunction with communications to Edward Woods III. Upon his acceptance there would then be a negotiation as pertains to salary by an ad hoc committee as we have done before.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a second? Seconded by Commissioner Curry. So we have a motion by Commissioner Lett seconded by Commissioner Curry any discussion or debate on the motion? All right let's go ahead and vote all in favor of Commissioner Lett's motion to offer the...

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Roll call vote please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Executive Director/communications Outreach Director Edward then negotiate salary at a later date.

Ms. Reinhardt if you could do a roll call vote on that I would appreciate it.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just one moment.

Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Britt Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, yes, yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just so we are clear all of those only count as one vote.

Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 10 yes to 2 no, the motion carries.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right, all right and again thank you Executive Director Hammersmith for your fantastic work for us in the last year, year plus and we are very sorry to see you go but I understand you are ready to move on and enjoy retirement. So we wish you can best of luck.

All right next on the agenda is actually an item that Commissioner Eid was supposed to present and he is not here.

So just double checking.

Agenda item 6B elections procedures suggestions from Commissioner Eid.

So what would we like to do here? Do we just want to punt this to a future meeting Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies for the interruption this is Sarah Reinhardt and note for the last vote because it was an employment vote it did require affiliations and affiliation requirement was met.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Ms. Reinhardt. Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, if possible, I could present this.

You know, if you don't put it in effect or decide not to put it in effect, whatever the Commission decides, prior to the elections, it would seem to be a moot point.

So I guess I would invite any conversation.

Or you can as Chair.

But, again, if you punt this to a future meeting, I don't know that it I mean will this Commission be dormant six months from now? Where might you be in the elections process? So I can tell you that it has been looked at by Nate and David Fink both and edits were made by both.

And if it's something this Commission is interested in, the only change is that Bruce Adelson did read this prior to the meeting when he received the materials.

And he said the term visual aid tends to be an ADA technical term and he would recommend that we do not use that.

That was not Anthony's intent.

I had reached out to him.

And he just suggested we replace the term visual aids with materials.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Commissioner Witjes and Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was just going to suggest for today's purposes why not just do what we have done in the past.

Nominate, vote, if there is a -- it's worked so far is what I'm saying so why change it?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: So yeah, I looked this over fairly carefully.

And would be very interested to see what Anthony's reasoning for these changes were. So I would request that we move this on to the next meeting where Anthony is present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, I don't think we need a motion for that.

I think we can just do it.

So let's just table this for now and we will put it on to a later meeting.

All right, at this point we are going to move on to 6C which is election of the new Chair and the Chairperson.

Without objection we will proceed to the election process.

And we will start with nominations for Chairperson.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Weiss then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I would like to hear Commissioner Clark first.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would like to nominate Anthony Eid for the new Commissioner position.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I realize he is not here today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I was going to say I'm not sure how to treat that because he is not here.

That might be one where Mike Brady weighs in.

Can -- how do we handle that? Because he is not here to accept the nomination and that has been our process.

Is Mike on the line?

>> MIKE BRADY: I am, hello. Good morning, Commissioners.

Mike Brady.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

>> MIKE BRADY: I wonder there is a question.

I suppose the vote would then be contingent on whether he you know accepted it later on and it may you know be a circumstance where he might decline it later and the Commission would be acting, I think the Commission can still proceed if they want. But ultimately you know he would have the ability to decline later on so there is that as a question that would linger over the vote.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so does everybody agree that is reasonable we will just proceed and see how the voting goes? Any objections to doing that? Okay all right Commissioner Weiss?

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>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I'd like to nominate Commissioner Lett please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I don't think there was well maybe we don't need a second, I was thinking there was not a second for Doug's nomination.

But maybe we don't need that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No, I don't think.

It's just nominations so Commissioner Lett will you accept the nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I would like to nominate Commissioner Witjes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I accept.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, all right, anyone else want to nominate someone? All right, any discussion or debate on nominations? Otherwise we can move to voting. Commissioner Lett and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, on careful consideration for the last ten seconds and see who is nominated I will withdraw my name.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nope left it up accidentally, sorry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Oh, okay.

All right, any other discussion? All right I'm going to who do we have here? MC would you accept if I nominate you for Chair or will you say no if I say so?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm sad Steve said no.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I am too.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm a little...I will accept the nomination.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, thank you.

All right, okay at this point I think we can go ahead and vote and I think we will need to do a roll call obviously Ms. Reinhardt.

And the way we have done this in the past with we just had people give their preference.

And then dropped off the lowest votes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Great.

So your preference here for the voting structure would be to vote on all three and the two leading candidates would move forward to additional round of voting is that accurate?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That is what we have done in the past yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioners, please state your preference by stating the name of the candidate that you would like to vote for for Chair.

As a reminder the candidates are Anthony Eid, Dustin Witjes, and MC Rothorn.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order to state their vote starting with Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Commissioner Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner Eid.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Oh, my goodness, so Steve is not running, right?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No the candidates are Anthony Eid, Dustin Witjes and

MC Rothhorn.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, have Anthony accepted?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: He is not present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: When he is present at the next meeting we will ask if he would accept were he to win.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: How can we vote before he accepts?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So, yeah, Mike Brady advised that we could proceed in that matter presuming he would accept.

>> But it does create a risk.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It does create a risk.

>> MIKE BRADY: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we want to vote on whether we want to.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: The only risk is we have to vote again.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That's ridiculous why don't we just wait?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: The vote is currently underway and the candidates on the table are Anthony Eid, Dustin Witjes and MC Rothhorn, Commissioner Curry, what is your vote?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't know.

I kind of want to wait until they are altogether.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I understand the vote has already begun though so we do need a vote from you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay Dustin Witjes I imagine.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Commissioner Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: MC.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Commissioner Rothhorn.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?
- >> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Me.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> CHAIR SZETELA: Rothhorn.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Witjes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: None of them.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: If you would like to abstain Commissioner Wagner, we would need an official reason per the rules of procedure for your abstention.
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It would be nice for Anthony to be here to accept but if I absolutely have to vote Witjes.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: With Commissioner Eid receiving one vote, Commissioner Witjes receiving five votes, and Commissioner Rothhorn receiving six votes, the two candidates moving on to the next round of voting are Dustin Witjes and MC Rothhorn.
- We are ready to proceed.
- >> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's go to round two.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Remaining candidates as I stated are Dustin Witjes and MC Rothhorn Commissioners, please vote for your preference by stating the name of the candidate you are voting for.
- I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order.
- However, I do see Commissioner Curry's hand is raised.
- Commissioner Curry?
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Have Mr. -- have MC accepted his.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, he has.
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: He has, okay.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT:
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I did not know he had accepted.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Please state your vote stating the name of the candidate you would vote for Commissioner Orton?
- >> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, so this has been kind of a confusing situation. And in the past, we have had each candidate say something that they would like to say. So do we want them to say that? Do they want to say that?
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's let them.
- >> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm open to that Dustin are you okay with that too?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Sure do you want to start or do you want me to go ahead? Mine is short and sweet.
- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was just going to say that the reasonings for me running for Chair is the same I gave last time.

All subcommittee meetings that I've ran have gone smoothly.

I understand how to keep a proper speaking list.

I'm usually really good at seeing who puts hands up.

You saw that today.

And I'm pretty detail oriented.

So I'd be happy to be Chair.

That's all I have to say.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: MC?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So I have thought about this and I did not intend to run.

I do appreciate the nomination.

And I do I think that we've got a lot I mean we have always had uncertainty with our Commission.

And I think we have as Dustin wisely said right, we the Chair is in charge of facilitating and making sure that each of us as Commissioners has a voice and that we, right, try to move the meeting along.

There is as Vice Chair I'll say it's been there is unexpected leadership that is required.

And it feels like my work outside of the Commission has picked up.

Which is one of the reasons I said that I did not want to consider being the Chair.

Where we are right now, I promised each of you that I will talk to my other, my work outside, meaning that the other jobs that I have with regard to the Commission.

Excuse me that are not part of the Commission.

So I will make space for this and make time for it because I do think it requires lots of listening and lots of communication outside of the roll.

But in addition to try to build the agenda with the Executive Director and with other Commissioners again listening and communicating.

So it is time consuming and I appreciate the task.

Again that was one of the reasons I said I did not want to do it and I'm hoping many of you who have talked and listened to me before yes, I'm not taking this lightly.

I do understand it's for the next six months.

If we last another six months.

I understand that is part of what we are, so yeah, that is part of the uncertainty.

That is part of where the leadership comes how do we make the decisions and how do we as the Chair and the Vice Chair I think is responsible for helping all 13 of us with the staff understand how we make these decisions.

So it's I guess it's important for me to say to you all, I will make space and time in my life to do those things.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Rothorn.

All right let's go to round two.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

Commissioners please state your preference for who you are voting for the position of Chair by stating the candidate's name for a refresher the candidates are Dustin Witjes and MC Rothhorn.

I will call on Commissioners to cast their vote in alphabetical order starting with Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Myself.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner Rothhorn, please.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: MC Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: MC.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia with Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: With Commissioner Witjes receiving four votes and Commissioner Rothhorn receiving eight votes Commissioner Rothhorn becomes the new Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right congratulations Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As we have done in the past, we will have the Chair pick up at the next meeting just because especially with us being virtual it's hard for you to just take over so let's move on to the Vice Chair elections I would consider nominations for Vice Chair at this time.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Clark then Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, I would like to nominate Commissioner Orton for Vice Chair.

This will give us an opportunity to have our first republican as Vice Chair or Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Commissioner Orton will you accept that nomination?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I will accept.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right fantastic.

Commissioner Lett and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah, I would nominate Dustin as Vice Chair.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I accept.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right Commissioner Lange your hand went back down.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I was going to nominate Dustin.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay any additional nominations? All right so before we vote this time Commissioner Orton would you like to say something, Commissioner?

Commissioner Witjes, would you like to say something?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'm okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I don't really have anything to say either.

You all know me and I'm for unity in the Commission so whatever the Commissioner wants.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any other comments from anybody? I would just add that I'm really excited about Commissioner Orton because this would be our first opportunity to have a republican Vice Chair and we have received significant public feedback about wanting to have someone a republican elected to the Chair or Vice Chair position so I would strongly support that because I think it's what the public has asked for.

All right can we go to a roll call vote?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Madam Chair.

Commissioners please indicate your vote by naming the candidate you would like to vote for.

As a reminder the candidates are Cynthia Orton and Dustin Witjes, I will call on Commissioners to cast their vote in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I vote for Commissioner Orton.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I like both of them.

Dustin Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Commissioner Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Commissioner Witjes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Dustin.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?
>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Orton.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Orton.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?
>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Witjes.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Witjes.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?
>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Commissioner Witjes.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Self.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: With Commissioner Orton receiving four votes and Commissioner Witjes receiving eight votes Commissioner Witjes is the new Vice Chair.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you everybody and congratulations to Commissioner Witjes.

All right at this point we are going to move on to so Commissioner MC Commissioner Rothhorn you are fine with me finishing the rest of the meeting I just want to make sure that is okay with you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes please.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right so we were scheduled to take a recess but I really don't think we need to.

Does anyone want to take a recess at this time or do we want to just press through.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Press through.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Press through next item on the agenda is 6D which is liaison between the Commission and legal counsel.

This agenda item was requested so I invite any Commissioners to share their thoughts.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I requested this to be put on the agenda we've discussed this previously when General Counsel was still here.

And actively engaged with the Fink firm and the Baker firm.

Now we are down or soon will be down to one Executive Director/communications individual.

We will not have a General Counsel dealing with the outside counsel.

And thus my reason for suggesting that we have a liaison with them as I stated previously the Commission is the client of both of these law firms and as such the Commission should have someone actively engaged on the Commission's behalf

besides executive staff and of course executive staff now is reduced to one-third of what it was previously.

So my motion then is that we elect an individual to act as liaison between the Commission and legal counsel.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We have a motion to have someone on the Commission as a liaison between the counsel and the Commission.

Do we have a second.

Commissioner Vallette.

Any discussion or debate on the motion? All right seeing none all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: By a vote of 10-2 the motion to adopt the liaison carries.

All right, did we want to discuss who that liaison is in the meantime or do we want to leave that for a future date?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well at this time, as reticent as I am to put my name forth, I will put my name forth to do that or Rebecca Szetela to do that.

The obvious reason is that we are attorneys.

And what should have and don't say we would have but should have some idea of what's going on and be able to report back to the other Commissioners and answer hopefully any questions that they may have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I would say I'm too busy to do it so I would not want to do it. I think Steve you would be a great choice.

But I am back to work full time and I'm also coaching soccer this spring as well.

Between that work and this work I just I would not have time to serve in that function so I would ask that that go to Steve.

Commissioner Vallette and then Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I agree that Commissioner Lett would be a perfect person to do this.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Weiss then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I would agree both our lawyers would be good at this but I believe Rebecca is working full time.

So if Commissioner Lett would be inclined to do this job, I would like to elect him to do this.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Commissioner Lange? Is that a motion Commissioner Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I will second that motion.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And I second it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I will let Commissioner Curry second it.

Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I agree with the attorney part but I also think there has been some questionable decisions made from a legal point that contradicted when we did have legal counsel.

So I would be opposed.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, if there are no other discussion points let's go ahead and vote on a pointing Steve Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I have a question.

What would be the decision making role of this individual? Or is it just a coordination role and reporting back to the Commission?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: My understanding it's a liaison which means it's a reporting role, not a decision-making role.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay, that clears it up for me.

Okay thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton then Commissioner Witjes then Commissioner Lange I'm not sure if you forgot to put your hand down but if not, I will call on you next.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I did sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I want clarification that Commissioner Clark asked for but also if Steve or whoever could just speak to would it be unreasonable to have two people, Steve and another Commissioner?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're on mute, Steve.

And Dustin.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Now I'm off.

I'm going to restart in three minutes and 47 seconds.

Certainly you could have two.

And we are not whoever.

Me or whoever is in that position is not going to be making any decisions.

That would be up to the Commission to make decisions.

But we don't have anybody bringing those back to the Commission to do that.

Previously Julianne acted as the, quote, client and whatever decisions were made she made them along with the attorneys.

I did not think that was right then, I don't think it is right now and that is why I'm suggesting a liaison so there can be a discussion and questions can be asked of me or whoever is in there.

And it would be -- it would move along like that.

We need to have somebody of the client, us, in there talking with the attorneys.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Uh-huh.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I agree.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Oh, I would agree here.

I think Steve would do a great job with this.

And his communication throughout this whole process has been suburb with all of us and what we have done in the last year with that being said I would like to call the question.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, let's go ahead and take a vote before we lose Steve.

Since you're about to log out all in favor of appointing Steve Lett as the liaison between legal counsel raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: By a vote of 10-2 the motion is approved.

All right next on our agenda item is approval of meeting minutes which we do not have at this time.

There are two staff reports today.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide her report.

Please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Just so you know I'm leaving.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you.

First of all I just want to say thanks to this Commission for the experience.

I've had of a lifetime and will continue to work with you through the end of the month but you are appreciated for all the work you have done.

I know so many of you have worked so hard and I'm really grateful for your commitment to doing a fine job on behalf of the people of the state.

And for your hard, hard work.

In creating maps that were fair for the people of Michigan.

So thank you.

We the second item is we received a request from a Commission to remove their picture from the website.

As a public servant we reached out to legal counsel to see if there was any restrictions, legally or if we should keep pictures on the website.

And the response that came, and I'm going to quote this exactly, the Commission may post Commission purchased photographs of Commissioners on its website and social media.

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So any pictures that the Commission has taken on behalf of this Commission is public servants your pictures may appear on our website and on our social media.

So I'm just letting you know the legal advice that we received.

My third item today I received an invoice from Election Data Services yesterday. They have expended their contract.

We had 100,000 in our budget for additional for EDS.

This Commission could consider that today if you wish to increase the contract at this point while we are doing those other changes, those other changes approved two weeks ago to extend the contract and change the staff contacts have not yet been made.

We are waiting on those contracts.

So while we are waiting, we could add that 100,000 now if you wish or we could bring it back at the next meeting if that is your desire.

And I don't know if the Chair wants to take that at this point, then I will finish a couple other bullet points.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry could you repeat the last thing Sue I got distracted by something.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So I am requesting to approve additional 100,000 in Election Data Services contract.

I can tell you that they have provided litigation support to Baker Hostetler you saw that in one of the documents that was attached that was provided.

Also there is some additional work to archive our software.

So a complete archive of my Districting databases, and then there is another 11 items that City Gate will do on our behalf to make sure everything that has been done by this Commission is preserved.

Which is very important.

But it's a backup of all archived files, back up of all registered users, all online plans, all communities of interest.

All comments in a searchable format.

Download any of the IP or GO fencing restricting.

Download and back up of any secondary portals and update the website to provide notification to the public.

So they wish to undertake this task.

Which is very important.

And with the litigation support that's why 100,000 extra was put into the budget because we knew that they were using their entire budget that was previously granted through the contract and the appendix that were adopted by this Commission.

So again it would be a motion to add 100,000.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 100,000 to the EDS agreement approved amount is that accurate?

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>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay I would consider a motion to allow an increase of 100,000 to the EDS contract.

No motion.

Any questions for Executive Director Hammersmith? Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I think let's add this to the next meeting because I need to think about it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, any objections to that Commissioner Wagner I see your hand up then Commissioner Clark did you have a comment as well?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, this is Commissioner Clark I personally think we should vote on this today so we can get the contract moving.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: My question is for Executive Director Hammersmith. Can we get an updated budget as to what all these changes are going to be for the next meeting?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, and to clarify this amount is already in the budget because we anticipated that we would have additional expenses from EDS. In their contract.

Their contract expired in February, the end of February.

So right now we are in a limbo period where we have no extension of contract for EDS. Although you approved that extension at the last meeting in February.

It would be easier to do all these amendments at once.

MDOS staff has been very helpful in doing the contract changes.

But again it would be easier to do it all at once versus making the initial items that you approved to extend the contract.

And to update the staff contacts.

And then coming back again in the next meeting to amend the contract with another appendix.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: All right so I must have missed that particular piece of the verbiage that was said.

Since it's already in the budget I move to adopt.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn so we have a motion by Commissioner Witjes to approve the additional 100,000 in the EDS contract which is already part of our budget.

Seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn.

Any discussion or debate on the motion? All in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Nay.

By a vote of 11 ayes to one nay the motion is adopted.

All right anything else Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I had a couple other quick things.

A new updated meeting schedule was provided on the agenda so I want to thank you Yvonne young for booking rooms as the Commission voted previously to hold the meetings remotely through March. So the March 24th meeting will be via Zoom again and then starting in April this Commission will meet in person once again. And thanks to Yvonne for securing these meeting locations and especially thankful that these are all state facilities so those meeting locations are at no cost to the Commission.

And, lastly, on the Commission salary change, I'm assuming that, and I probably should not assume, I don't know if you want to make a motion to make those changes go into effect on April 1 as you were changing also staff contracts.

So I just would like clarification in that regards.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would move that the changes salary changes go into effect April 1st subject of course to further negotiation with Edward.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a second?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll second.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothorn all right we have a motion to make the Commission pay raises effective April 1.

Seconded by Commissioner Rothorn.

All -- any discussion or debate on the motion? Okay all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: By a vote of 10-2 the motion is adopted.

I think we also need to move to have someone from the Commission liaison with Edward over salary negotiations.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I was thinking we could just revert to that same hiring people who negotiated with him in the first place.

I think that was Doug and someone.

I don't remember who else.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Was it Dustin were you on that Commission?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I don't believe so.

If my memory serves me right, I believe it was Juanita.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, it was.

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>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: We can look at the responsibility matrix are on there.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Juanita Janice and I were on the hiring process and Doug and someone else did the negotiation.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It was Doug and me.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would entertain a motion to approve Juanita and Doug to negotiate with Edward with respect to his salary for the new position.

So moved.

So we have Commissioner Lett and Commissioner Rothhorn.

So motioned by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn any discussion or debate on the motion? All right we have a motion to appoint Commissioner Curry and Commissioner Clark to negotiate salary with Commissioner soon to be Executive Director Woods all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

All right by a vote of 12-0 the motion is adopted.

All right Executive Director Hammersmith, anything else on your agenda?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I'm complete, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so at this point we are going to move on to an update from Mr. Woods.

Communications and Outreach Director Edward Woods III will provide a report.

Hearing no objections please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you so much, Commissioners.

Appreciate your time.

Just kind of want to share with you yesterday I provided a promotional calendar that we will put on the web.

We updated it and I did have one correction.

Two corrections I needed to make on it.

With regards to Barrington then we needed to add the interviews for the news maker of the year.

I just want to share with you some good news because there is a lot of things that people may miss with regards to what is the Commission is doing and what is working.

If you remember, when we had the we started in the pandemic when we started our outreach in Zoom and the Commission became great friends all across the state.

Zoom and the Commission became great friends all across the state.

We had 73 virtual County and local Government presentations.

Out of that 198.

I want to thank the Michigan association of Counties, the economy municipal league the Michigan Township association they had a lot to do with setting up these presentations and helping us get the word out and I want to thank the Commission.

Some of you filled in when people cancelled or were unable to make it.

It was a total team effort from the UP to Northern Michigan.

You know, every corner of Michigan was covered as a result of I'm getting the awareness out and just wanted to thank the Commission for that.

League of Women Voters had a lot to do with our virtual presentations all across the state.

I mean we left no stone unturned.

As relates to these virtual presentations whether it was an urban area, suburban or rural between the Governments and League of Women Voters we had the Michigan library association was really instrumental in setting up things at libraries.

And being a part of that across the state.

And then of course our nonprofit organizations that helped.

We had close to 40 as you know that did a lot with the communication and outreach and we tried to reach out to as many different organizations as possible to get the word out.

As you know that before the Commission could draw any line, before the Commission could draw any line, it first had to hear from the public.

And the Commission elected I repeat the Commission elected to do 16, not 10, the minimum, but 16 public hearings across the state.

So they could hear.

After we did that, we kind of did an assessment as to where we could do some targeted outreach so we could do a better job of reaching people after the first round.

We did Flint as you know we did a 5,000 contract in Flint.

To boost attendance and it came about as a result of the second round hearing.

We have way more people in Flint than we did the second time.

The digital divide.

We did a direct mail campaign.

We spent approximately 35,000 in rural areas.

And 15,000 in urban area and the urban area targeted was Down River the Commission voted that Native American you can see a picture here in Lansing of the indigenous population the nonprofit association.

Trying to reach out to the Native American organizations and this one was the one that stepped up and helped us get the word out on the UP as you remember we were there.

We did a last-minute thing in eastern UP to get the word out about the Commission.

We Sarah Martinez add attended the up north summit as part of the Michigan Township association and it represents Townships anvil areas and really wanted to do a better job of target outreach to get more input during the second round and these are some of the things the Commission was involved in that they voted on with regards to the target outreach after the first round of public hearings.

We scheduled interviews.

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We had done interviews and Podcast and had about 57 interviews when you count everything.

We did labor Podcasts, Michigan association of school boards we did MERS and had AB.

Are news online MBS, PBS news hour from national obviously locally we did flash point with WNIV and the legendary Chuck Stokes.

We did wood DV and a low T of things locally but definitely got national exposure and Gongwer Newsmakers of the year and interviewed several Commissioners and of course and as always, we had press conferences to kick off our first round of public hearings and talk about our partnership with 211 because we were concerned about making sure people had access to calls so they did not have to call long distance.

With regards to their phones.

211 was a great partner in terms of people are able to call and our main theme was making sure we had different avenues to get things to get people connected to the work of the Commission.

And schedule interviews with outreach and as you know Commissioner Lange went to Mecosta and Osceola and had coffee with the Commission in the Traverse City area and talk about the UP north summit and did candidate conversations just to kind of share some of the things that were taking place with the Commission and get the word out as well.

And looking at the reports for 2010 and 2020 by the California Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2010 if you look at the report, they had more than 2700 plus in person, more than 2000 written comments and more than 20,000 through public input forms and tools for a total of 24,700.

In 2020 they had 3871.

And that was as of June 21st.

That is why you are seeing an asterisk there.

E-mail letter was 776 public information and tools was 25, 034 mapping portal is 305 for total of 36, 286 from in 2020.

For our integral effort in the State of Michigan we had 29,484 public comments.

So if you look at the state of California which is basically four times larger than the State of Michigan, they only had an increase of 23%.

I repeat 23% over ours as relates to public comment.

So I just want to thank each and every Commission for getting the word out.

For doing presentations.

For do presentations when people had to cancel and would like to thank my colleagues Sue Hammersmith our Executive Director as well as our former General Counsel Julianne Pastula who also pitched in and did a lot so we could make sure we got the information out across the State of Michigan.

Having said that there is always, always room for improvement.

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And we are doing that with our lessons learned report and video.

We have asked the public to provide some suggestions with regards to that as well.

And so just wanted to share that information.

And wanted to remind you of the key findings of the Glengariff Group the key findings of the Glengariff Group was by an overwhelming margin of 65.3% to 10.1% Michigan voters say the state should continue with Redistricting Commission whereas only 24.4% of voters were undecided or said votes should be involved.

Second thing by a margin of 78.4% to 4.7% voters that were aware of the redistricting changes said Michigan should stay with the Redistricting Commission and last but not least majority of all party affiliation say Michigan should continue with the Redistricting Commission to redraw the state maps.

So just wanted to remind you of that because that was quite significant coming out of our last meeting with regards to the support of the Commission and the Commission fulfilling its role by fulfilling its role, I should say purpose/mission to draw fair maps for citizen engagement.

Just update the Commission report.

I would like to have a draft Commission report on Thursday, April 14th.

If you have not and if you are still willing to participate in the lessons learned report and video, please get with Good Marketing or talk to me with regards to setting up that appointment with them.

Because they are in the process of drafting that report.

And last but not least as relates to media relations just kindly ask that you refer the calls to me so I can process them so we can ensure that the Commission as you know speaks in one voice as it speaks to one voice, we are conveying an accurate and transparent message as to the work of the Commission.

That concludes my report.

And if there is any questions Madam Chair, I can take them at this time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you so much Mr. Woods.

I do believe Commissioner Lange might have a question.

She has her hand up.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I have a few questions first just for clarification on the survey, the repeat survey that was done.

Was that done to the same 600 people that it was sent out to the first time?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No.

It was a randomly selected process.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay but it was 600 people right.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Out of 10 million.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct well I don't know 10 million 600 out of the voting age.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Out of voting age.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Out of voting age population.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: On your currents for like the public comment received, is that the total public comment? I mean would that include like the we will call them chain letter we got when we were doing hiring when went get like hundreds and hundreds? I mean is it everything all combined or is it specifically comments that were received regarding communities of interest?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: The public comment portal started with the first round of public hearings so we started in May.

With the announcement and went to December 28th when the Commission voted.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, and then my last question was about the mail outs.

Is there a way to gauge if that was a waste of money or not? I mean how do we know how many went out to who? Do we have any data on that? Because I know when it was approved, I think Commissioner Witjes had said something about is there a way to gauge, I could be wrong if it was Commissioner Witjes but it was discussed about is there a way to gauge the outcome of that how well it does? You know, to provide data. Was that correct Dustin?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes, that's correct.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay thank you.

So do we have those numbers? Was there a way to gauge that?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We do have how many went out but in terms of actually how many people act on it we do not have that information.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay, thanks, that's all the questions I had.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you, Chair Szetela.

Communication Director Woods can you expound on the e-mail of Monday that you sent to all of us about the leaked e-mail to the press and how you found out about that please.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Sure we ask people if they have questions from the press or whatever and give me a contact or give me a call.

What I found out was that someone sent the information out and they contacted one of the Commissioners who provided a dissenting report asking questions with regards to the e-mail that I sent.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER:

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Just for clarification I was not that Commissioner.

Because I know it's very limited for the dissenting report so I just want that to be public knowledge that I was not that Commissioner.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you Commissioner Lange.

Any other questions for Commissioner Woods or I always call you Commissioner Woods.

Director Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is too much heat, that is too much heat.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm not seeing anybody else so again.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Can you guys just give yourself a round of applause? I mean you did a lot of work.

Just give yourself a round of applause.

And Cynthia Orton Commission that includes you too.

You did a lot of work.

Give yourself a round of applause because without you we wouldn't be where we are today.

So thank you each and every one of you for your input, your consideration, calling me, reaching out to me, adjusting your schedules and we got double, triple booked just thank you, thank you, thank you and once again to my colleagues and Executive Director Suann Hammersmith and former General Counsel Julianne Pastula thank you so much.

That is all I have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right thank you Mr. Woods without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Secretary of State if she has a report hearing no objection, please proceed Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No report.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Correspondence received in advance of our meeting was provided with written public comments in the meeting materials are there any agenda items that people would like to have added to the agenda in the future, Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I actually had a question for Ms. Reinhardt. I noticed that we are missing meeting materials back through August on the website and I was wondering if we can get an update of when they will be included.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Sure.

Absolutely.

I'll take a look at that and make sure those are posted.

We did recently switch over to a new website platform, all of you may have noticed that the website has a bit of a refresh so it might just be something a little lagging there.

But I will take a look and make sure that gets updated and thank you to Commissioner Wagner for making me aware of that.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you miss Reinhardt.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Anything else? So I did have a request for one future agenda item that I wanted to discuss at our next meeting or even after that is one of the things, I wanted to propose is that it's what I would call true transparency.

We say we are transparent but we have this whole body of documents that are out there that are subject to public records requests but people have to know they are there and they have to ask for them.

And we have received some public records requests and what I was considering and would like the Commission to consider is that when we do do a public records request response that we make that available to members of the public on our website.

So that everybody can see what's out there.

And sort of my thought process on that is that we have allies that are out there helping us and helping us defend the map and have seen it in the West Michigan case and the Supreme Court case with League of Women Voters where we have people filing briefs and supporting actions and what we have done and it may be helpful for have the full body of information we have access to to help defend us in the future and benefit the Commission if we are already preparing a response to a public request document and already producing it why not put it on the website and make it available to everybody and furthers our goals of transparency.

I would like to see that discussed at a future meeting because it's an important concept and quite different from the way any other Government entity operates and I think it's much more transparent.

And you know supports our mission.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: You're talking about FOIA requests, correct.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: They are no longer called FOIA requests based on our amendments today they are now public records requests.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Here is my, well, I like the idea.

But we have someone who is paying for the initial records request and then everyone else gets it for free.

So why are we even charging for the records requests at that particular point in time?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Well I think the goal of payment is that those records requests can be burdensome in terms of pulling documents and then someone has to review them and remove anything that is not producible.

So maybe employee records or personal information or attorney/client privilege.

So there is a cost associated with that initial production.

But I don't think there is anything that prevents us from then taking those documents that have been already reviewed and making them available to everybody.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Right and I like the idea but I mean if that is the case then we shouldn't be charging for it.

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If one person is taking if one person is paying the fee for the records request, then and it becomes public record then nobody should be paying those fees.

I mean I don't care that someone has to go through and redact them and take things out.

It's either you pay for the request and have it done or it becomes public record and then no one has to pay for it.

That is the way it would have to be either one or the other.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: They are all public records to begin with so there is no distinction between one is public and one isn't.

It's just a process of asking for them and honestly, I would not have a problem with that either if we want to go through all of our e-mails and have someone look at them from the perspective of public records/FOIA request and determine what we can post all of it I'm actually fine with that too.

If we are going to say we are transparent then let's be transparent and I don't think we have anything to hide.

And I think putting that information out there helps our allies to defend us as well.

This should be a discussion for a future meeting.

I'm just throwing it out there.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: That is perfectly fine and my two cents if that passes and do it all FOIA fees we charge will be refunds to the people because that would just be ridiculous at that point to say now it's public record. Well, requested records that we had that had to be worked on and individuals who you know had to charge for that particular service if it becomes free to everybody else after the fact, then they should not have been charged.

And I do agree that this is something we should discuss at our next meeting but those are my two cents.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would say in very large litigation you will see this where there are database set up where people can search for documents and kind of models on that concept go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: My two cents same as Dustin we had a FOIA request they were going to charge 250,000 which I think is absurd if that is the case I would say the same thing make them all free.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right so Executive Director Hammersmith if you could put that on a future agenda for us to discuss that would be fantastic.

Does anyone have any announcements? Commissioner Lange did you have announcement or is that just a left up hand?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Left up hand.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right well the items on our agenda are completed this is my last meeting as Chair.

I want to thank everybody for all of their support while I have been Chair and Vice Chair.

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I'm so relieved to no longer have this role I cannot begin to tell you but look forward to seeing MC and Commissioner Witjes this their new roles as Chair and Vice Chair.

I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

So moved.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: You beat me I was muted.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I see hands but I don't hear anything.

So I'm going to say Commissioner Curry moved first and Commissioner Wagner moved second so we have a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Curry and second by Commissioner Wagner all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

All right the meeting is adjourned at 12:00 p.m. have a great day, everybody.