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MICRC

20230216-900 AM EST Meeting

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>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. As Vice Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 9:05 a.m.

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There's also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC. This portal can be used to post comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who have questions before, during, or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edwards woods the third Executive Director at woodse3@michigan.gov or call 517-331-6309. For the public watching and the public record, I will turn to Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. If you are attending today's meeting remotely, which you all are, let us know where you are attending from by stating the city, township, or county from which you are attending. I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Present. I am attending from Huntington Beach, California.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> JUANITA CURRY: Present. And attending from Detroit, Michigan.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid. Brittini Kellom.

>> BRITTINI KELLOM: Good morning. And attending from Detroit, Michigan. Sorry, I couldn't find my buttons for a morning.

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>> SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange. Steven Lett.

>> STEVEN LETT: Present and attending from Lee County, Florida.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton.

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: Attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: M.C. Rothhorn. Rebecca Szetela.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: Good morning. Presenting, attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette.

>> JANICE VALLETTE: Present. Attending remotely from Highland Township, Michigan.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner.

>> ERIN WAGNER: Present. Attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss.

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

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes. Nine Commissioners are present. And there is a quorum.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you. 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.

>> STEVEN LETT: Before we do that, Doug, I would like to make a motion that we consider some acknowledgment of what happened at MSU. And I would propose as a remembrance that anyone who had anything to say do so, and then that we have a moment of silence of about 30 seconds for each of the students who lost their lives. And 30 seconds for the wounded students so that would be a total of a couple of minutes. So that would be my motion.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Do I have a second?

>> JUANITA CURRY: Second.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: The motion is presented by Commissioner Lett and seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Szetela. Any Commissioners that want to make a statement and then we'll have a few moments of silence.

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: I think we need to vote on that motion.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay, we will. Thank you. All in favor, please raise your hand and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All opposed raise your hand and say nay. The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. And the motion will move forward. So any Commissioners that would like to make comments?

>> JUANITA CURRY: Yes.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay, Juanita.

>> JUANITA CURRY: Yes, I want to say that we're praying for the families of those that have lost their children. And even the City of Lansing, we're praying for all of them. Let's try to keep them in our prayers.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you. Any other Commissioners?

>> STEVEN LETT: We have one person who is -- was wounded from down in this area that was going to school at MSU. And I'm sure there are others that you all up there have heard. We don't necessarily get the news down here on individuals that aren't from here. So that is one thing that the surviving wounded it appears are going to be in a long recovery process. And it will be incumbent upon all of the care providers as well as the public to be supportive of all of these students who are still there as well as all of the students at MSU and the surrounding areas who will be impacted by what appears to be simply a random, unimaginable shooting. So we need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Are there any other comments?

>> EDWARD WOODS: I do have a video for the Commission as it relates to this when it's appropriate.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Go ahead and show the video Executive Director Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Were you able to see it?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yes, we were. Thank you, Executive Director Woods. Any other comments? Commissioner Brittini.

>> BRITTINI KELLUM: I'm changing my name because of the link. It saddens me as the other Commissioners have expressed that children all over, but particularly in my home state of Detroit are still dealing with this level of trauma. And if there are students listening, I still want to remind you that you have the right to have joy. You have the right to walk the halls or walk the campus to class. You have the right to still join hands with fellow classmates and enjoy lunch. Whatever rest looks like during this time for you all, I encourage you and celebrate you. And I pray that you have the level of support that's necessary. And for those students that don't necessarily have the benefit of having a

local person to call home or to have as a resource, I am hoping that you're able to connect with someone in the way that you choose to continue to grow and heal. So my heart bleeds for you all. And for the campus. And for the City of Lansing.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Are there any other comments? On behalf of the Commission, let me say that we are deeply, deeply hurt by these things that happened at Michigan State. And our sympathy goes out to each of the families that have been impacted.

So we could have a few moments of silence at this point in time, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

(Moment of silence)

>> STEVEN LETT: I would like to thank everybody for allowing this tribute such as it is. And I hope we never have to do another one. Thank you.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you all. I appreciate it. Without objection, we will begin the public comment pertaining to the agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will proceed with public comment. Today we have two individuals on the agenda. First up is James Gallant.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yes, we can. Go ahead and proceed.

>> Okay. James Gallant. Suicide Prevention Coalition. These are my opinions. And thank you for the MSU tribute. Sad days in Michigan now. And I hope we can resolve some of our disagreements concerning the rules of procedure here at by hiring a professional for a written opinion before you go dormant. And you could approve an RFP today and a review some recommendation, have a public hearing next month maybe to put out and would want to be on the report. And including the decision that you made not to recite the pledge of allegiance. That came up in Washington, D.C. at a committee meeting the other day. And yeah, it turned into mayhem also. To have them review that decision that day because I believe you didn't vote. And Mr. Woods thought you voted that day. Because there was no motion. You know my main concern is about having discussions first about a motion. And that's how it works. And then the big mayhem. And then you don't vote and it goes away. And the other thing is that we have no Secretary of State here today. The constitution requires that the Secretary of State Joyce Benson is the secretary without a vote today at this meeting. To call the roll calls. I don't know Sarah Reinhardt; she called the roll call. She did the job under the Constitution is required by the Secretary of State. She should be here making these calls, just like that day about the pledge of allegiance, we got a motion, whatnot. And you know, even your nonprofit cheat sheet says don't load up the agenda with

discussion reports. Get busy with the actual business. And I reached out to the Michigan association of parliamentarians and Julie says hello. And they put a notice. And an RFP would be better. If you guys put that out so you could have a national search. And Mike Brady instructed you the Commission that demotion has to come first.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you very much Mr. Gallant. The next individual that we have is Anthony Skanel. Once you get unmuted, please feel free to address the Commission.

>> Hello, MICRC. I have a piece here I guess would be filed under lessons learned. But that seems to have passed on the agenda. But still, in my -- on my agenda for maybe the next Commission is that I appreciate you guys made a website available for the public to make maps. And share them with you. And whatnot. And that was pretty cool. But there was one problem with it. And it was that it wasn't really interoperable with any software that you guys are using to make maps. So I don't know, there's kind of a barrier between what the public could submit and what you guys could consider. So maybe if there is, I don't know, if you had to put resources to it, I think it would be worth it to have a software that the public could use that you guys could share, you know, shape files or whatever it needs to be.

That's lessons learned. And then I see on your agenda, you have legislative improvements. And I'm concerned about the amendment that created this in the Michigan constitution and part that says "require applicants," you guys, now Commissioners, "to attest under oath that you affiliate with own the two political parties with the largest representation in the legislature." And that's interesting because that's not how two major political parties is defined elsewhere in the Michigan constitution. It's defined as the top two Secretary of State vote-getters in the last election. So interesting there. I would wonder after two years; do you still affiliate with the same party or not affiliate. Two years, things could change. And I question the meaning of affiliate. What does that even mean? Are you a dues-paying member of the two parties? Or do you just vote for them. What does affiliate even mean?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you. Before we move on, do you have a comment Commissioner Szetela.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: Yeah, I wanted to mention that the recommendation to make sure that the software was compatible the software was not mentioned in the lessons learned report. I did include it. So that point of feedback was at least on my behalf accepted from him as a good idea and was incorporated into my dissenting report so future Commissions will see that as a recommendation if they choose to look at the dissenting report.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you for that clarification.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Mr. Chair. We need to go back and approve the agenda, please.

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>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Approve the what?

>> EDWARD WOODS: The agenda. We added the tribute, but we didn't actually finish completing the process to approve the agenda.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I'm sorry.

>> EDWARD WOODS: That's okay. I'm here to help.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Let me get to that.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: I'll make a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay, do we have a second?

>> JUANITA CURRY: Second the motion.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All in favor, raise your hands and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All opposed, say nay, please. Okay, the ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. Thank you for bringing that to my attention.

That concludes our public comment. Please feel free to email public comments to the Commission at redistricting@Michigan.gov. We appreciate everyone who offers public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thought, especially if you would like to share ways that the MICRC processes or procedures have been good or could be more effective.

So now let's move on to unfinished business. Next on our agenda will be the unfinished business item of the fiscal year '23 budget. Without objection, I'll ask Commissioner Steven Lett and Executive Director Edward Woods to present this item. Hearing no objections, please proceed Commissioner Lett and Executive Director Woods.

>> STEVEN LETT: Go ahead, Edward.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. Budget impasses is voted that we received our fiscal year '23 authorization for \$3.17 million. That has been signed by the Governor into law. The funds were deposited in the Sigma account. And we want to express appreciation to the Whitmer Administration. Governor Whitmer as well as the budget director for their efforts in doing that. The 2023-2024 Michigan Legislature, Speaker of the House Joseph Tate, Senate majority leader Winnie Brinks, and then the House Appropriations Chair Angela Witwer and the Senate Appropriations Chair Sarah Anthony, and legislative leaders for resolving this impasse that we had with the 2021-2022 Michigan Legislature.

As a result of this impasse being resolved, we need a motion to authorize the executive director to work with legal counsel in resolving the lawsuit against the Michigan Legislature.

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>> STEVEN LETT: So moved.

>> JUANITA CURRY: Second it.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Do I have a second?

>> JUANITA CURRY: Second.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. Commissioner Weiss. We have a motion to remove the lawsuit against the legislature. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

>> STEVEN LETT: I know Rebecca would know exactly what we're doing, but does anybody have any questions about what the procedural step will be?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Why don't you review that for us quickly.

>> STEVEN LETT: Sure. Everything has been resolved. We have the money in the bank. And the defendants have requested that we voluntarily dismiss the lawsuit which we will do. They will, of course, agree, and the judge will sign it. And then it will no longer be pending.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Are there any other comments? Hearing none, it is -- we need to put a vote forward on favor. Raise your hand and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay. The ayes prevail. And the motion is adopted.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. And as an update, our attorneys are meeting with them on Tuesday to get things in motion.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. And Commissioner Lett, you will be talking to the attorneys to make sure that gets accomplished?

>> STEVEN LETT: Sure. They probably wouldn't be anything -- I don't anticipate Bill involved in that meeting. There would be -- should be no reason for me to be, but if they want me there, I obviously would be there.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay, thank you. Next on our agenda, unfinished business items is fiscal year '23 budget report. Without objection, I will and MICRC executive director to present this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Commissioner Clark. Just want to show the budget on the screen. So everybody has a chance to see it. This is our 1st quarter budget. It's also updated to include the surcharge that we're charged which is 26% by Kelly Services. Our invoices for January are coming in. And we have been soliciting that from our vendors. And we'll be able to provide you with a report for January and February. But as of December 31st, our amount is \$439,601.93. We did do an estimate for our

technology slash internal purchases through the State. And this is what supports our cellphones by the State and what supports our computers. That is an estimate. Otherwise, the other numbers as far as we know are real cost that we have incurred right now.

Just as an update, this is from October 1st, 2022, to December 31st, 2022. And we are using the accrual basis so we're clear with regards to that. And we want to give a shout out to our contractor insights 3 who has been helping us as well as our legislative services bureau. If there's any questions, I can take them at this time.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Are there any questions from the Commissioners? Okay. Thank you very much, Executive Director Woods. Next on our agenda is under unfinished business, the MICRC legislative improvements. Without objection, I will and executive director to present this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: All right. I'm going to make sure we're all in the same agenda. I have a revised budget. Do you have that on the agenda?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I'm sorry. I do. Why don't --

>> EDWARD WOODS: We can come back to that.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Let's come back to that.

>> EDWARD WOODS: That's fine. At our last meeting, while it's loading, we discussed some MICRC improvements to give to Voters Not Politicians who was responsible for the 2008-02 proposal initiative that created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. A lot of people think or should say some people think that we created the constitution. That is incorrect in terms of the amendment. That was done by voters, not politicians. They gave us feedback for our lessons learned. And they have requested our feedback to share in their lessons learned. At our last meeting, we talked about the following items, a process for voting individual maps, identifying who defends the maps when the Commission goes into dormancy and comes back, process how the Commission ends, designate a parliamentarian, process how to account for delays in the redistricting process pro, i.e., the census, and then address prison gerrymandering were the six items that came from the Commission. It was decided to give the Commission an extra 30 days or wait until the next meeting so people had opportunity to review the Constitution, see if they wanted to make any changes before voting this. And then I would send it off to voters, not politicians, to include in their report.

So at this time, Commissioner Clark, just want to give the Commission an opportunity to add any additional items as relates to this. And then we can vote them. And I will send them to Voters Not Politicians for their consideration and lessons learned report.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. Are there any Commissioners that would like to add items or have comments on the slide deck that Executive Director Woods just presented?

>> SARAH REINHARDT: Just noting that Commissioner M.C. Rothhorn has joined at 9:33 a.m.

>> STEVEN LETT: Can we have the list back up, Edward?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Sure.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yeah, I would like to take a look at that as well.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Is everybody able to see it?

>> STEVEN LETT: I take it these are the things we're suggesting to Voters Not Politicians that could be somehow improved, is that the idea behind this list?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Yes.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I would like to make a comment. And I'll take some from the others. I want to comment on number one and the last item. Let's start with the last item. Can you put that back up? I think it was address --

>> EDWARD WOODS: Address prison gerrymandering. This idea came from Commissioner Eid at the last meeting. There were a lot of questions from the public with regards to that. And that's --

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yes, during our public hearings, there was a significant amount. But I believe that this is really a legislative item rather than a Voters Not Politicians item so I'm not sure that point should go forward. Any comments on that?

>> STEVEN LETT: I agree with you, Doug. I don't know that it's not a legitimate point to go forward. It's an issue that was raised by certainly a number of persons at our meetings. And I agree, it would require some type of either a state, probably state, maybe even federal legislation to include prisoners. The other obvious problem is where do you put them in a district. The claim seems to have been or the point or the rational was, well, put them back where their home is. That may be more problematic than not, I don't know. But this is certainly, in my opinion, going to require some type of legislation.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yes, in my opinion, not necessarily a revision to the legislation or the Constitutional amendment that created our body, but legislation. Commissioner Szetela.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: Yeah, the issue of prison gerrymandering is much more complex than just a single constitutional amendment that could be set forth in another state because it's going to require coordination with federal laws as well as state laws. And I think, it's almost too complicated of an issue to address within the context of trying to create other Commissions in other states as well. I think you're creating a wholly

different issue for analysis and consideration. Rather than just the concept of independent Commissions to draw maps instead of having politicians do it. So I agree with you, Doug.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. Commissioner --

>> M.C. ROTHORN: I'm going to echo what the first two said. Not that we would suggest that they would add decrees it in constitutionally, they being Voters Not Politicians but because we are not the body to address it.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: That's correct.

>> M.C. ROTHORN: And because we heard so much feedback, it does feel like it's worth trying to say, Hey, Voters Not Politicians was the group that helped bring forth a movement that led to what we are. So I think because we can't address it, it is appropriate somehow to say, Hey, make sure that this gets to the right body. And they could be the shepherds, so to speak, of that feedback that we received and we're -- I guess what I want to suggest, we're somehow passing on and saying it's not in our -- what Steve and Rebecca both said I totally agree, and you Doug. It feels like trying to address that public comment in a way that feels appropriate is what -- I don't think it's wrong to leave it in there. But I agree if it's only talking about constitutional changes, then I don't think it's appropriate to leave that prison gerrymandering in there.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Correct. And then maybe what we should do is enhance the narrative on that slide to reflect that we don't think it's within our scope. But it needs to be addressed from a statewide perspective.

>> EDWARD WOODS: We can do that.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yeah, okay. Any other comments on that subject? From the Commissioners? Okay, I had a comment on the first one too. I can't recall. Can you bring the slide up again Mr. Woods? Is process for voting individual maps. My comment on that was, I think that process should be left up to the Commission that's currently the Commission of the State. And then we shouldn't define how they should do their business. That we should allow them to develop the voting process by themselves. Now we can give them suggestions. But anyways, that's my opinion. Commissioner Szetela.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: This is my comment. No so much telling them how to vote, it was clarifying that we had disagreement our counsel on, if you recall, she was saying that the Constitutional language allowed any individual to present an individual map after the 45-day public comment period and have it be voted on. And I think there needs to be clarification in the law that any map that the Commission should be voting on should go through the 45-day public comment period. Because there was considerable debate that we had about that language. And I think that they need to clarify that all maps should go through a public comment period rather than the position our general counsel was taking which is someone can come in at the last minute and submit an individual map and have it be voted on and potentially, if we couldn't go agree on a

map, go into the lottery. And there was strong objections to that interpretation which is why we voted not to follow it.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you. Commissioner Lett?

>> STEVEN LETT: A couple comments. I certainly don't disagree with Rebecca that our process and I think we can develop the process or the next Commission, let's put it that way, can develop a process on that item of how maps, individual maps or individual Commissioners are going to propose something. We certainly have to have the public comment portion of it taken care of. Voting on the maps is set forth in the Constitution. So we're talking just technically on how we vote, we know how that is. So I guess we're talking mostly about what Rebecca is talking about which is coming up with a better process so that everybody knows what the rules of the game are before we get to the point of somebody wants to put in a late map and avoid what the Constitution requires.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay, any other comments? Commissioner Lett, you still have your hand up. Okay.

Again, I would suggest, and I would like your advice on this, or comments, that maybe we enhance the description of what that says if it goes forward to the Voters Not Politicians so they know -- exactly what we're talking about at this point. Any objection to that?

>> STEVEN LETT: Cynthia's got her hand up.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I'm sorry.

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: I just wanted to say, I agree. I was going to say the same thing. Just clarify those points so that they know exactly what we're talking about.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. So I would like to propose that or put a motion forward that we bring this back to the next meeting with those few changes made so that we understand exactly the verbiage that's going to be moved forward at this point. Is there a second to that?

>> STEVEN LETT: Second.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. Second is by Commissioner Weiss. All right. All in favor, raise your hand and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All opposed raise your hand and say nay. Okay. Great. And any other comments on this subject?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Yeah, Commissioner Clark, I'm not sure what their deadline is. But we did do it at the last meeting, and now we're talking about it at this meeting. And then we're looking at another possible 30 days.

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>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yes.

>> EDWARD WOODS: So I just don't know whether or not we might be included, but just wanted to bring that to the Commission's attention.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Commissioner Orton.

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: Edward, would you have time to make the edits and us revisit at the end of the meeting.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Sure. We can do that. All right.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: We'll address that if there's a time factor involved. So we'll come back to this. Let me look at the agenda. We'll come back to this after the approval of the minutes. And then revisit the subject.

All right. Next on our agenda, and I inadvertently skipped an item, will be the fiscal year '23 revised budget. Without objection, I will and Executive Director to present this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you. We provided a break down which is also available on the website. And we have office supplies have stayed the same. We did change meetings. We reduced that to 5,000. This is what covers our sign language interpreter that's present with us today. Advertising is really called printing. It's called printing at our last meeting. And I shared that we had a printing for our Commission report and our maps. We also have printing as it relates to lessoned learn report. The code for that is 6131. And it's designated as advertising in the Sigma account. But it includes printing. And the reason why that's important so when you do a compare and contrast with budget, we put it in the same budget code. Travel stays the same. Technology, internet purchase, and telephone is 33,000, stays the same. Total salaries which also includes the 26% mark-up is there. That's for the Commission as well as staff. And then our consultants, once again, once again, that break down is available on our website. But just wanted to put it all on one slide. The total expenses have not changed, but we did have to do a revised budget. Once again, for our printing, our printing expense which is labeled in Sigma as 6131, advertising.

Having said that, just need a motion to approve the fiscal year '23 revised budget as presented.

>> So moved.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Is there a second? Second by Commissioner Weiss. And approved. I'm sorry, it was moved by Commissioner Lett. Any discussion or debate on the motion? Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say aye, please.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay, please.

The ayes prevail. The motion is adopted. The next item on our agenda is new business. And the first new business item will be the office of auditor general request. Without objection, I will ask our MICRC Executive Director Edward Woods to present this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed Executive Director woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Thank you, Commissioner Clark. I will post this on the screen. We received a request for the office of auditor general to request access to the MICRC Sigma account. And I've had legal counsel review the request and noted that it was supported by the law. The authority with regards to the Executive Branch, not legislative branch as relates to Sigma. The Executive Branch, not the legislative branch. The office of auditor general is under the legislative branch. As a result, I did not have the authority to approve their request as cited by law. So what I'm asking for is to make sure we comply with the law. Once again, it's been reviewed by legal counsel, and granting this request for Sigma access.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Is there a motion?

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: I move we grant access to the legislative branch.

>> EDWARD WOODS: We can look at the motion as written, please.

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: Oh, okay. I move that we authorize the MICRC executive director to approve this Sigma request from the Office of the auditor general.

>> STEVEN LETT: Second.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. There's a motion by Commissioner Orton and second by Commissioner Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Okay. Hearing none, then all in favor, raise your hand and say aye, please.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Aye. All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay. The ayes prevail. And the motion is adopted.

Next on our agenda is the temporary staffing services contract. Without objection, I will ask our MICRC Executive Director Edward Woods to present this item. Hearing no objection, please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Yes. Back in November, the State went out for bid for temporary staffing services. With regards to our staffing. According to the MICRC procurement review and procedures and guideline, the MICRC may participate in an existing state of Michigan contract or procurement for services of goods without going through a request for proposal process. The legislative services bureau and the Michigan Department of State when I talked to those involved with procurement recommended the same vendor. The six vendors that were approved by the State of Michigan are as follows. The 22nd Century Technologies, ATC Healthcare Services,

Abacus Service Corporation, P.I.E. Management, Tryfacta Incorporated, and The Cyprus Group. The markup for each group is 17.70% for 22nd Century. 43% for ATC Healthcare. Abacus Service Corporation, 26.8%. P.I.E. Management, 25 to 30%. Tryfacta, 26%. Cyprus, 30%. I called each of the firms to follow-up and the only two I actually spoke to and had a conversation with was the ATC Healthcare Services and Abacus Service Corporation. Both of them said they pay weekly. ATC Healthcare Services is a franchise that's based in Michigan but the healthcare is in D.C. Abacus Service Corporation is solely based in Michigan. I found them both to be responsive as well. But as you can see, there's a difference in the markup between 43% and 26.80%. I'm recommending to the Commission that we have -- and this contract is in place, I believe, for three to five years with reference to that in terms of the markup. In terms of the cost to the Commission. So what I'm seeking is approval to execute a contract with Abacus as much as corporation for temporary staffing services for the Commission. And we would begin that in March. If there's any question, I can take them at this time.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Commissioner Lett, you have a question or a comment?

>> STEVEN LETT: Edward, what is our plan to use the staffing service for? What are we going to use them for?

>> EDWARD WOODS: They're the ones that pay our bills. Kelly services did not -- did not get approved by the State to provide our temporary staffing services. Which does our payroll and our travel reimbursements. And our expenses reimbursements I should say.

>> STEVEN LETT: When you talked with them, would the switch-over be smooth? Or once again, are we going without pay for a month?

>> EDWARD WOODS: No, it would be smooth. I would time it. That's why I said start in March. So I could time and it would be a smooth process, give everyone enough time to upload their information so we would have a smooth process.

>> STEVEN LETT: Just out of curiosity, why wasn't Kelly approved?

>> EDWARD WOODS: I was told that they didn't meet the technical services requirement. And as a result, they were not able to move forward.

>> STEVEN LETT: I would move that we adopt Abacus, is that the one? Services for staffing.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I have a motion by Commissioner Lett and a second by Commissioner Weiss. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

>> JUANITA CURRY: Kelly services was not approved this time. What was the difference in their getting approved the first time? Compared to now?

>> EDWARD WOODS: I have no idea. The state contracts are done by the Michigan Department of technology management and budget. Anything over -- at least when I

was there, over \$25,000. But it's a contract that anybody can purchase within the State. With regards to that. And so it enables us a process where we don't have to do a formal RFP, so that we can get the best price. So they negotiate the best price on behalf of the State. But because they didn't meet the technical services requirement which is all I know, they were not able to proceed. And when they did the evaluations, these were the six contractors that they made available for state departments, agencies to buy off of. As a result of that, I talked to both legislative services bureau and Michigan Department of State to see their experiences. And this is the one that they've been using. As I shared earlier, we had six, only two responded. And there's a difference in the amount of money that we would pay additional if we went with the other one. And that's why I'm recommending the Abacus for this Commission's consideration.

>> JUANITA CURRY: Okay, thank you.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Any other comments or questions? I have a couple questions for you.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner's hand is up.

>> ERIN WAGNER: Thank you. Can we see the mark-up screen again, please, Edward?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Sure.

>> ERIN WAGNER: Thank you.

>> ERIN WAGNER: All right. Thank you. And that one is strictly Michigan-based, correct?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> ERIN WAGNER: All right. Thank you. Is.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: My questions are, you indicated we get the same services we do today. Paychecks, expense accounts, W-2 information at the end of the year. Do you know if the W-2's electronic? And do you know if they deposit your check directly into the bank account?

>> EDWARD WOODS: It would be direct deposit. And you would have electronic or mail is my understanding. But let me verify that, but it would be a seamless switch.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. All right. Those were my questions. All right, we have a motion on the table. Any other comments on that? All right. Hearing none, all in favor of Executive Director woods moving forward to make the switch in vendors, all in favor, please raise your hand and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

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>> DOUGLAS CLARK: All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay. The ayes prevail. And the motion is adopted. Mr. Woods, if you would proceed forward and then report back to us next meeting of what takes place.

Next on the agenda is the approve of the minutes from the January 19th meeting. These draft minutes have been provided to the Commission before the meeting and are posted on the website. Are there any edits to this meeting? Okay. May I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes?

>> CYNTHIA ORTON: To moved.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I have a motion by Commissioner Orton and a second by Commissioner Curry. Thank you so much. All in favor, please raise your hand and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Aye. All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay. Okay. The ayes prevail. And the minutes are approved.

We need to backtrack on one item. Have you had enough time to make the adjustments we discussed, Mr. Woods?

>> EDWARD WOODS: I am trying. So I will let you see if I captured it. Correctly.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Would you like some more time?

>> EDWARD WOODS: Well, if I got it right, I can fix it. And we can skip my report and go to the legal. And go to the MDOT updates and I can put that in the Executive Director report. But if I'm hearing the Commissioner correctly, to make sure the public had input when it comes to individual map, is that correct?

>> REBECCA SZETELA: No, no. About the wording around whether a Commissioner can bring in an independent map or a map from somebody else, like at the last minute, and not have that map have haven't been published and gone through the hah-day public comment period. So a narrow issue, just clarification in the language regarding which maps are required to go through a publication in 45-day public comment period before the Commission can vote on it.

>> EDWARD WOODS: So clarification around the public input process.

>> For all maps.

>> REBECCA SZETELA: The publication process and the 45-day public comment process. Which maps have to go through that. And the position the Commission took was that all maps have to go through that. Whether it's individual, collaborative, something submitted by promote the vote or AFL-CIO, whatever, they all had to go through publication and the 45-day public comment period before the Commission could

vote on it. But that needs to be clarified because there was enough ambiguity in the language that there was a question.

>> EDWARD WOODS: And for all maps, correct?

>> REBECCA SZETELA: For all maps. Or just a clarification in the language.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Commissioner Lett, did you have a comment?

>> STEVEN LETT: I did. But Rebecca ended up saying what I was going to say in another way.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Okay, Commissioner Clark, let me see if I have it. Let me go ahead and share my screen.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. For everybody's knowledge, this is the MICRC legislative improvements item.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Is everybody able to see it?

>> REBECCA SZETELA: Yep, that works. The last one, Commissioner Clark, that was your concern.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Correct.

>> EDWARD WOODS: That good?

>> REBECCA SZETELA: I think that's better.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yeah, I like this much better.

>> EDWARD WOODS: All right.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: So do we have a motion on approving this? From any of the Commissioners?

>> STEVEN LETT: I move we move the language as presented.

>> M.C. ROTHORN: On the screen?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Correct. That's motion? Okay. The motion's put forward by Commissioner Rothorn. And was it approved by Commissioner Lett. Okay. Any other further discussion or debate on this subject? None. Okay. Hearing none, all in favor, raise your hand and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Aye. All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay.

Ayes prevail. And the motion is adopted.

>> M.C. ROTHORN: Thank you, Edward, for work on the fly.

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>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Good work, Edward. All right, there's an Executive Director report today. Without objection, I will and Executive Director woods to provide his report. Please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> EDWARD WOODS: All right. Everybody can see my screen?

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Yes.

>> EDWARD WOODS: Great. For the month of January, I would just like to show you where the website is going. We had more views in January, 14,124 page views. 67% was focusing on final and district maps. 13% were district maps by county. So you can see 80% of the maps or 80% of the views are dealing with maps. One note, the final lessons learned report is out. We will be uploading that to the website. So we both have the video that's out and the report is out. We are processing outstanding bills. Mostly all of that is done. Where there is concern, the vendors are addressing that, but we should have all of our bills hopefully resolved from the 1st quarter by tomorrow is the goal. And then we should have our bills coming in for January. Obviously, a lot of the time was spent as I covered with our budget, our budget impasse and set up attorney meetings for the AG case. And we still have two more meetings that we weren't able to do that were beyond our control. So we're going to set those up for Zoom meetings, but we want to thank the Commission for all of their efforts and being present. What was supposed to be a two-week process, we actually got done in one week and saved a considerable amount of funds so. Thank you for adjusting your schedules with regards to that.

But that is my main report. If there are any questions, I can take them at this time in terms of sharing what I've been doing over the last month since our last meeting.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Do any of the Commissioners have questions or comments? Okay. Hearing none -- Commissioner Curry.

>> JUANITA CURRY: Do you know when they're going to court? The AG case?

>> EDWARD WOODS: No. But Commissioner Lett will probably talk about that in his legal report.

>> JUANITA CURRY: Okay.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Any other comments?

>> M.C. ROTHORN: Just appreciation.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Okay. Hearing none, now there say legal liaison report today. And without objection, I will ask our Commissioner Steven Lett to provide his report. Please proceed, Commissioner.

>> STEVEN LETT: We've talked about the case against the legislature getting funding, that's resolved now. And final touches will be put on that. Hopefully everybody enjoyed

their interview with what I called the Kate and Nate show. And their questioning. So you could realize how much you don't remember about what went on.

The AG case, I just got an email today that the Baker is providing their expert witness list and a summary of what the experts will be talking about to the other side. It said that it wasn't due as of yet, but they had it ready and they were going to submit it. As far as (garbled audio) if the question is when is it going to go to trial? I don't know. That has not been set. There would be the completion of discovery which in essence has barely started. They've had some interrogatories that have been answered. And the interviews that Kate did with us certainly are part of their preparation.

The scheduling conference order had been entered which sets out who has to do at a particular point in time. Once that's set, those dates have been accomplished, and the information received, which would be after any depositions that are taken, then there would most likely be motions for summary disposition. And those would then be scheduled based upon the Court's calendar, how busy they are or aren't. And then there would be another scheduling conference, I'm assuming, or some type of conference, federal court, to set trial dates or other actions that might be required.

Rebecca, you have anything to add to that?

>> REBECCA SZETELA: Nope.

>> STEVEN LETT: Pretty standard procedure. There's really no way for us to know right now what you're looking at as a trial date. My initial estimate, it would be quick if it was by the end of the year. That would be quick. I don't expect it until -- absent a summary judgment, I don't expect a trial until next year. So that's the ag case. I don't think there's anything else from the legal point of view right now. Unless somebody has a question, I would be happy to try to answer them. Or if you have a question, point of view, or whatever.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Questions from the Commissioners?

>> STEVEN LETT: Good. I don't have to look stupid.

>> M.C. ROTHORN: Nope. Just appreciate you, Steve.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Thank you very much, Commissioner Lett. Without objection, I'll and Mike Brady or Sarah Reinhardt from the State if they have an update. Without objection --

>> SARAH REINHARDT: No updates from the Department of State today. Thank you.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. Are there any questions for Sarah Reinhardt? Okay, I have one question. Given that we've gone to a new fiscal year and a new calendar year, have has the State updated its expense guidelines on reimbursement for travel expenses? And if so, could we get a copy?

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>> SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely. An excellent question, Vice Chair Clark. It's not something I'm currently aware of, but I can definitely check on that and report out at the next meeting or send an email to all the Commissioners if there are updates with the attached document.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much. Are there any other questions for Ms. Reinhardt. Correspondence, if any was available, was received in advance of our meeting today along with any written, public comments to Commissioners. Are there any announcements? Okay, I see no announcements from any of the Commissioners. as the items on the agenda are completed, a motion to adjourn is in order. May I have a motion to adjourn?

>> M.C. ROTHORN: I apologize, Doug. I did want to say an announcement. I am in East Lansing. It's been hard. I'm sorry I was late today. I just wanted to say we're all doing as best we can. And I work with housing cooperatives where students, some students but not all students live. I just wanted to say thank you for your prayers and reaching out. And like I said, we're not okay. And that's okay. So just thank you. And yeah, motion to adjourn.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: I appreciate that, Commissioner. I think we have a motion from Commissioner Kellom already. And a second from you? Okay. All in favor, raise your hands and say aye.

(Collective ayes)

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Aye. All opposed, raise your hand, and say nay.

The ayes prevail. And the meeting is adjourned at 10:12 -- I'm sorry, let me stop for a minute. Commissioner --

>> REBECCA SZETELA: I was just waiving bye. I was waving. I was waving back.

>> DOUGLAS CLARK: Adjourn here at 10:12 a.m.

>> BRITTINI KELLOM: Take care, everyone.

(Meeting ended)