



Internal Memo

May 21, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *MEM*

SUBJECT: General Information Packet

Attached are general items of information you may find interesting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, please contact me.

/ss
Attachments



Internal Memo

05/19/2020

TO: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator

FROM: Jon Gale, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Authorization to bid – Docking System Update

As you know the Police and Fire Department had received authorization to request bids for the purchase and installation of a permanent docking and lift system for the patrol and emergency rescue boats. The bid opening date was May 13th at 10:00am. Unfortunately, the city did not receive a bid for this project.

After reviewing the bid process and making calls to area contractors it was determined that Pro-Tech Marine Inc. holds the sales rights to the lift stations that were listed in the bid, therefore no other contractors would bid against Pro-Tech Marine. Also, several area contractors are extremely busy with damage repair and other marine projects. Later that day we received a quote from Pro-Tech which estimated the costs at \$79,320.80 which was \$9,320.80 over budget.

Last week the city received an email from the Mona Lake Boating Club that they were selling two sections of a floating docking system and wanted to know of our interest. After inspecting the dock, we found that for the price of \$1500.00 this dock would be a temporary solution or a potential permanent solution for the city owned boats. Only half of the dock will need to be used and the other half will be kept as a spare.

Therefore, the floating dock was purchased and installed near Lake Harbor Park in time for Memorial Day weekend. The new patrol boat is currently in our possession and at the city garage for additional emergency equipment installations.

City staff will evaluate whether the temporary floating dock will meet our needs or whether a new bidding process will be requested.

PUBLIC e-mail NOTICE

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
Department of Public Works
4814 Henry Street
Norton Shores, Michigan 49441
Telephone: 231-799-6803
e-mail: jmurphy@nortonshores.org

DATE: May 20, 2020

PAGES: 1, Including this Sheet

FROM: Jim Murphy, City Engineer

SUBJECT: Harvey Street – Judson Road Sanitary Sewer Project

COMMENTS: The City's Contractor will be placing sanitary sewer mains at the following locations:

- Harvey Street, Judson Road to Wilson Road
- Judson Road, US-31 to Harvey Street
- Judson Road, Cul-de-Sac west of US-31

Work on this project will start with construction signage and dewatering installation scheduled to begin on May 21, 2020 with construction starting on June 8, 2020. Traffic through the work zone will be limited to local property owners due to full street closures. Currently the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2020.

Updates to project progress can be found on the City's website and Facebook page as well as available on nixle.com.

Questions about the closures may be addressed to the Public Works Department, Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street, Norton Shores, MI 49441 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 231-799-6803.

**Lake Harbor Park Walkway
May 2020 Reconstruction**





Posted on May 19, 2020 by hrichards@mml.org

August Primary Ballot Mailing & Presidential Primary Reimbursement Reminder

The Secretary of State is mailing absent voter ballot applications in advance of the August Election to registered voters in the state. The state will not send absent voter ballot applications to voters on local permanent absent voter ballot application lists, understanding that clerks are already sending applications to these voters. Additionally, we are aware that several clerks plan to send absent voter ballot applications to all of their registered voters for August and so the state will not send to those individuals either.

Clerks should consult with their own legal counsel before sending applications, but the Bureau's view is that local and county clerks are not prohibited from sending applications to all registered voters.

Because voters can begin applying for AV ballots on Thursday, May 21, and mindful of postal delays in some areas, the state is sending the mailing at this time to supplement local efforts to encourage as many voters as possible to apply for and cast ballots by mail in the August election. All applications sent by the state will be dual August/November applications with voter information pre-printed on the application (including QVF barcode) and will include a cover letter and instructions for returning ballots by mail, e-mail, or in-person.

Clerks are also reminded that June 8, 2020 is the deadline to submit a reimbursement claim for the March 10 Presidential Primary. As of yesterday, only 58 counties and 761 local jurisdictions had submitted their presidential primary reimbursement form.

- You can also use the reimbursement guidelines and worksheets for the county and local clerks to help you calculate totals for each expense type.
- We recommend that you print the worksheet first and then use those section totals for entry into the online form. You must type your information in the claim form in one session. There is no ability to save and edit the form later. If you need to make corrections to a submitted form, you will need to complete a new form and check the "Changes to a Previous Claim" box in the County Information section.

All claimed expenses must be attributable to the March 10, 2020 presidential primary. Additional expenses attributable to any local question can't be claimed – for example, the cost of the local proposal-only ballot.

Mark Meyers

From: Inside 208 <donotreply@wordpress.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Mark Meyers
Subject: [New post] GLC Webinar Highlights What To Expect With Continued High Waters, USACE Releases Summer Forecast

hrichards@mml.org posted: "Last Friday, the Great Lakes Coalition hosted "What Caused the Great Lakes Levels to Increase" a webinar on the critical impacts of rising water levels along Michigan's shoreline. Presenters included Drew Gronewold, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School for "

New post on Inside 208



[GLC Webinar Highlights What To Expect With Continued High Waters, USACE Releases Summer Forecast](#)

by hrichards@mml.org

Last Friday, the Great Lakes Coalition hosted "[What Caused the Great Lakes Levels to Increase](#)" a webinar on the critical impacts of rising water levels along Michigan's shoreline. Presenters included Drew Gronewold, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School for Environmental and Sustainability at the University of Michigan & Howard Learner, President, Executive Director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center & Bernd Gigas, New York Professional Engineer & Consultant Engineer, Lake Ontario South Shore Engineering.

Dr. Gronewald presented on the changes to the traditional water balance of the Great Lakes, the challenges of forecasting amid a climate shift, and the ongoing impacts of soil saturation and runoff continued high levels will impact both shoreline and inland regions.

Howard Learner expressed the need to prepared for the new reality of high waters Local leaders need to approach land use differently based on the changes that we see happening in the water levels. He urged communities to use all the tools available to them included take advantage of wetlands and existing systems to absorb and channel water away from the shoreline, implementing setbacks, and removing factories and toxic storage facilities along the coast.

Bernie Gigas covered what actually can be done to structurally mitigate the impacts of high water such as reducing the inflow diversion from Lake Superior during times of high water and increase outflow diversion in Lake Michigan via the Chicago River. Gigas also recommended infrastructure changes that could modify the water capacity in the Detroit and Niagra Rivers.

You can watch the full webinar [here](#).



Michigan's \$6.2B coronavirus budget gap 'as bad or worse' than Great Recession

Posted on: May 15, 2020 Written by: Jonathan Oosting

LANSING — Michigan lawmakers need to dramatically slash spending, raise taxes or hope for a federal bailout to offset a projected \$3.2 billion shortfall and balance next year's budget despite what could be another \$3 billion loss because of the coronavirus pandemic.

That's the word from state budget officials, who on Friday warned that tax collections not only are plummeting amid the coronavirus pandemic, but welfare spending will significantly increase as more residents lose their jobs.

"To say the numbers we just saw are sobering would be an understatement," Michigan Budget Director Chris Kolb said Friday after a bi-annual consensus revenue estimating conference, where officials lowered projected tax collections by \$6.2 billion over the next 18 months, more than wiping out what little growth they had previously expected.

"There's no playbook that's on the shelf to truly address a loss of revenue of this size this quickly. This is potentially as bad, if not worse than, the Great Recession."

The state may not be able to delay tough budget decisions for long.

In the current fiscal year, which runs through August, Michigan is expected to lose \$1.9 billion in expected revenue from what would have been an \$11 billion general fund and \$1.2 billion from what would have been a \$13.9 billion school aid fund.

Michigan's current-year budget was built on an assumption that a combined \$24.9 billion in revenue would flow into those funds by October, but officials now expect closer to \$21.7 billion.

That 13 percent reduction is twice the size of the state's largest one-time revenue loss during the Great Recession in 2009.

Officials have roughly \$700 million in unspent money they can allocate and will also consider tapping what is now a \$1.2 billion "rainy day" fund designed for use in fiscal emergencies.

Even then, the state is expected to face a significant budget hole this year, along with \$3 billion less than expected to build a 2021 budget that must be balanced by October 1, as required by the Michigan Constitution.

As a point of reference, Kolb said that eliminating 12 of the state's smaller departments — including the entire budget for the Legislature and the judiciary — would save the state less than \$2 billion.

Republicans who control the Legislature urged Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, to release a new 2021 budget proposal and begin negotiations on current-year cuts.

“We have a massive revenue shortfall brought on by this economic shutdown that will affect our families, schools, local governments and vulnerable citizens,” said Rep. Shane Hernandez, R-Port Huron, chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

“The people need to hear from the governor what her priorities are that reflect this new reality facing our state. Time is of the essence and we look forward to resolving this challenge.”

Sen. Wayne Schmidt, a Traverse City Republican who chairs the K-12 school budget committee, has warned that state revenue losses could force up to a 25 percent funding cut for Michigan schools next fiscal year.

But revenue projections announced Friday put the possible cut at closer to \$650 per-pupil this year. The average district in Michigan receives about \$8,000 per student.

Whitmer has made clear that public education will remain one of her top priorities, but Kolb stopped short of promising to spare K-12 schools from cuts.

“We’re going to work to really protect the priorities of health, education, and public safety here in Michigan,” Kolb said. “There will be hard decisions to make, but we’re going to take the harshness of those hard decisions off.”

Speaking to reporters at a separate press conference Friday, Whitmer said that she is “not going to go into what all the possibilities are” for what cuts are possible. But she added that states nationwide face similar “grim” budget shortfalls and urged Congress to provide help.

A plea to Congress

The federal government has provided Michigan with roughly \$3 billion to spend on the coronavirus response, but the relief package approved by Congress does not allow the state to use that money to backfill related budget gaps.

Nationally, state and local government leaders are calling on Congress to approve more funding or at least provide more flexibility to use the previously allocated money.

The state has only limited authority to borrow money without voter approval, said Treasurer Rachel Eubanks.

“The existing tools the state has for bonding are not useful in this crisis,” she said.

Some numbers to illustrate the crisis:

Collections from Michigan’s 6 percent sales tax are projected to fall from \$8.25 billion in 2019 to \$7.5 billion this year and \$7.9 billion in 2021.

Business taxes are projected to drop from \$770 million in 2019 to roughly \$300 million in both 2020 and 2021. Collections from the state’s 4.25 percent income tax are expected to fall from \$10.43 billion last year to less than \$9.4 billion this fiscal year and \$9.5 billion in 2021. Those would be the smallest collections since 2014.

Michigan's gross domestic product, a measurement of the total value of goods and services provided in the state, is projected to drop by between 24.5 percent and 32.8 percent in the second quarter of 2020 before rebounding in the latter half of the year, according to state officials. That would be a larger quarterly drop than in any of the state's last five recessions, including the 8.4 percent quarterly reduction recorded in the fourth quarter of 2008.

"We hear all the time that this is unprecedented and uncharted territory," said Jim Stansell, chief economist for the House Fiscal Agency. "It's absolutely true."

At the same time, state officials predict major jumps in welfare and Medicaid health insurance programs because of the economic recession.

The Senate Fiscal Agency predicts 7,000 new families will qualify for cash assistance this year, and then another 13,000 in 2021.

The agency projects some 600,000 new Medicaid enrollees over the next two years, moving the state towards 2.85 million participants by the end of 2021, which would "definitely be record numbers," said fiscal analyst Steven Angelotti.

Michigan will save an estimated \$138 million on public assistance programs this year because the federal government temporarily increased its Medicaid match rate, but state costs are expected to climb by \$569 million in 2021 and \$302 million in 2022.

Massive unemployment, quick rebound

The budget projections come as Republicans lawmakers urge Whitmer to accelerate her business reopening plan amid the ongoing but slowing pandemic, which had killed 4,825 residents as of Friday.

More than 1.7 million Michiganders have filed for unemployment insurance benefits since mid-March, and roughly 1.4 million have qualified.

Critics contend Whitmer has exacerbated Michigan's economic downturn by maintaining a stricter stay-at-home order than most states, but national restaurant booking and consumer spending data show rebounds are not happening at a dramatically faster rate in states like Georgia and South Carolina that were quicker to reopen, according to University of Michigan economist Gabriel Ehrlich.

That suggests health-driven decisions by private residents and business owners — not just government mandates — fuel the downturn, he told officials during the consensus revenue estimating conference.

"The substantial majority is coming from private changes in behavior that would be going on even without the government restrictions," Ehrlich said.

While states across the country are beginning to relax regulations, "service industries with high perceived threats of infection will not rebound until customers feel safe," said Daniil Manaenkov, another U-M economist.

Spending at sit-down restaurants, air travel, public transportation and sporting events may not "go back to normal anytime soon," he said.

The U-M economists project Michigan will hit a peak unemployment rate of 22 percent this quarter. That would top the highest level during the Great Recession and exceed the projected national rate of 17.4 percent, reflecting the state's economic reliance on the auto industry and its relatively high COVID-19 case count.

But the economists expect a fairly fast recovery because most layoffs caused by the pandemic appear temporary in nature.

U-M projects 650,000 job recoveries in the second half of 2020 and 236,000 in 2021.

Ehrlich said those projections are built on "optimistic assumptions" that Michigan will not see a major second wave of COVID-19 and the federal government will provide state and local government with a collective \$600 billion in aid over the next two years.

If that happens, the U-M economists predict nine out of every ten Michigan residents who lost their job during the pandemic will likely be employed again by the end of 2022.

A recent Michigan survey showed 1 in 7 small businesses do not think they will survive the shutdown, and about 4.9 percent of Michigan workers are employed by those firms, they said.

Despite mass layoffs, U-M economists estimate personal incomes will remain relatively stable because of temporary boosts in unemployment insurance benefits, including a \$600 per week stipend authorized by the federal government, and other assistance programs.

If everyone who should be able to qualify does, Michigan residents could still collectively earn about 99 percent of their base earnings from 2019.

Still, reduced consumer confidence and business closures is expected to drive down light vehicle sales this year. Automakers sold 16.9 million light vehicle sales in the United States in 2019 but are only expected to sell 13.3 million this year, 15.2 million in 2021 and 15.8 million in 2022, according to U-M projections.

Whitmer allowed manufacturers to return to work this week, and Detroit automakers will resume production at most facilities Monday. But suppliers that operate with "very thin margins" could still see a "drain on cash" if they reopen with only one worker shift and still face the threat of insolvency, said Kristin Dziczek of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor.

She predicted Detroit automakers will produce 2.3 million fewer light vehicles this year than they did in 2019.

"We're very concerned about the health of this industry and the continued ability of suppliers in particular to have financial support until they get back up to full production," Dziczek said. "We're going to be in a period of distress for a few years."



House Democrats, White House at odds over coronavirus stimulus package

Posted May 20, 2020 By Benjamin Kail |

bkail@masslive.com

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressed confidence Wednesday that the coronavirus stimulus package approved last week will garner enough public backing to force Republicans and the Trump administration to the negotiating table.

The \$3 trillion Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act would provide funds to local and state government, hazard pay for health care workers and another round of direct cash payments to tens of millions of Americans.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the package has “no chance” of passing and several Trump administration officials have made clear they are waiting to see the impacts of the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act as states start to reopen before dishing out trillions more in taxpayer dollars.

Kayleigh McEnany, the White House press secretary, argued Wednesday afternoon that Pelosi and the House Democrats were “promoting a \$3 trillion liberal wish list.”

McEnany said the legislation calls for the creation of a “medical supply response coordinator” who would serve as a point person on equipment and supplies. “This individual already exists,” she said, citing Rear Admiral John Polowczyk, vice director of logistics for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She noted that in partnership with the private sector and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Polowczyk had helped direct the distribution of more than 1 billion pieces of personal protective equipment across the country. “This bill ignores reality,” McEnany said.

Pelosi in her weekly news conference defended the bill, saying it’s focused on public health and includes some of the same “pillars” as previous bipartisan legislation, including funds to help municipalities cover COVID-19 costs and lost revenues; direct funds to Americans’ wallets and assistance with food security; and funding for health care facilities and improved testing, tracing and isolation capabilities.

If passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump — who’s said he’s in no rush for a new package but would be open to another round of stimulus payments — the HEROES Act will provide \$1,200 to most Americans, \$2,400 to couples filing jointly and up to \$1,200 for children and college-aged dependents living at home.

The HEROES Act extends the CARES Act’s unemployment benefits and also provides almost \$1 trillion for state, local, territorial and tribal governments that Pelosi said “desperately need funds to pay the health care workers, police, fire, transportation, EMS, teachers and other vital workers who keep us safe and are in danger of losing their jobs.”

Pelosi tweeted a link last week that includes a spreadsheet with a breakdown of estimated allocations to states, towns, cities and counties that are losing out on tax revenue at a time when they’re seeing increased expenses such as overtime for first responders amid the pandemic.

“Public opinion will be very much our friend in all of this,” she said, noting she’d been talking with local leaders in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and National Association of Counties.

Asked if she thought there would be any movement from Republicans on the bill, Pelosi said, “There will be.”

“We have no lines drawn in the sand,” she said. “Let us just proceed as we proceeded when they put their Republican plans forward ... because of the needs of the American people.”