# SILC Executive Committee Meeting

REALTIME FILE

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>> Yvonne: Let's start with Jessica so she can go on her way and have her evening with family, and then we'll get to the agenda.

>> Steve: Awesome. You want to do a roll call and roll call and accommodations request?

>> Yvonne: Let's just have Jessica do that and I'll go through the rest of the agenda.

>> Steve: Okay. All right, Jessica, we'll go ahead and turn it over to you to talk about this grant opportunity with the American Red Cross, which is so exciting.

>> Jessica: So yeah, I am actually here tonight not representing the Red Cross but Michigan Public Health Institute. I actually work as a Disability Research Consultant with Michigan Public Health Institute. They're the organization that is the lead organization for the grant. The Red Cross is working with us. (Chuckling). Both will be there.

It's through the Michigan Health Endowment Funds Healthy Aging Grant Program, and essentially what we want to do is bring together people with disabilities, people who work with people with disabilities, and emergency response professionals and get as many individual emergency preparedness plans in place as possible. So that's like the big picture thing. But there are LOT of emergency planning resources online. They're not necessarily easily accessible; and even when they are accessible for people, something like 65% of households in America do not have any kind of emergency plan. At all. So for people with disabilities, that can be really fatal. It can be dangerous. So REALLY need to make sure as many people with disabilities have emergency preparedness plans as possible.

So basically what Michigan Public Health Institute is proposing is basically convening experts. So convening organizations like yours, with the Red Cross, and talking about, "Okay, in Michigan, what do people need to prepare for emergencies?" It's Michigan specific and regionally specific within that. So say you've got somebody at Disability Network Lakeshore working with a consumer. They're going to be looking at what specifically available in Michigan but also in that area. So the Red Cross chapter in that area would have very specific access to resources if an emergency was to happen.

Make sure that people have that information. Make sure that people who are emergency responders are aware of who's in their area that they might need to really be aware, "Okay, we know -- we've already talked to," You know, "Disability Network. We need to keep our eyes out. There may be people who we need to be particularly aware of evacuation," things like that.

It also extends to pandemics, right? So it's not just disasters but REALLY making sure that ANY kind of -- anything we could categorize as an emergency, that there's some sort of plan in place and that plan can be as simple as backup medication, power generator if power goes out. An evacuation plan, which in some part of Michigan, is a lot more complicated than others. If you're way up north, an evacuation -- if you do not have transportation yourself, it can be trickier. So anything like that

And then with COVID it sort of brought a LOT of other things up. For instance -- I'm not telling you guys anything you don't know -- the whole social distance question, which is REALLY important; but if somebody needs a home health aide and suddenly that person's not allowed to go in anyone's home because, you know, the business they work for says no; then what does that person do? You know, that's something that we wouldn't have necessarily thought about two years ago, but now when we're putting together an emergency plan for somebody, we can say, "Okay, these are your specific needs. How can we make sure that, you know, whether it's a fire or a flood or a tornado or a pandemic that you're as prepared as possible?"

So that's the basic proposal and so what we'd like to do with you guys is bring you on as partners in a couple ways. One, to just sit at the table and talk about, "Okay, what are the needs and what are the resources?" because the Red Cross, I can tell you, they don't necessarily know what kind of resources are available for people with disabilities. So right now we've had -- the floods in Detroit, and a LOT of people -- there was one person that we were working with. He needed an electric bed and his home flooded; so trying to figure out, "Who do we connect with to help that person get their bed replaced?"

So the Red Cross, they're really awesome, you know; but they're calling me and saying, "Who do we call? What do we do?" So people actually know "What do we do with people with disabilities in this situation?"

So that's part of it, is sort of being at the table. And then also providing training for people to actually help develop emergency preparedness plans. So for instance, people who are staff at a CIL, that sort of a thing.

We also want to make sure that people with disabilities are also at the table, talking about what emergency needs they might have. And, you know, that is specific to a person a lot; but if we don't have people with disabilities at the table, then it's not a good proposal, you know? It doesn't work if you're not really involving all the stakeholders.

And then what we'd REALLY also like to do is have the emergency responders understand people with disabilities and their needs better. So that's kind of -- that's kind of the breadth of what we'd like to do. We've put within the grant and our budget we've allocated $20,000 for you guys to sort of support your efforts in this if you wanted to be partners because, you know it's not -- what we're asking -- you know, it's not like, "Out of the goodness of your heart, please help us talk about tool kits and emergencies.” You know, so that takes time; that takes energy; and we want to really respect that.

So I have a tendency to talk really fast and I don't know if I covered everything, but do you guys have any questions at this point?

>> Steve: Jessica, I have a quick question: do you have any other Michigan disability partners that you've invited to the table for this grant initiative besides the council?

>> Jessica: So the grant is a healthy aging grant. So we're also -- the -- Detroit area Agency on Aging, I believe -- we've got, like, two grant proposals due at the same time so I'm trying to make sure that I'm not mixing up which one Detroit area -- Agency on Aging is involved with; but also the Adult and Aging Services Office with MDHHS. So that's not a disability-focused organization, but a lot of the work that they do for people who are aging really is tied in to disability issues.

And so we're trying to sort of -- what Michigan Health Endowment Fund, what they seem to want people to do is pull together organizations; and a year ago, we put in a proposal for something very similar, and it was more like, "We're gonna work with small, organizations, and we're going to work with lots of individuals and small organizations." And their response was like, "That's great, but we REALLY want to bring together larger organizations and then come up with plans and then go from there." So that's kind of where we are with that. I don't know if that answers your question very clearly.

>> Steve: It does; yes, thank you so much. The response I've gotten from our executive committee members is a resounding yes.

>> Jessica: Awesome.

>> Steve: We want to partner on this and e-mailed you an hour or so ago asking for that template letter of support; and we are prepared to fill that out and get that to you by tomorrow morning.

>> Jessica: That's awesome.

>> Steve: We're very excited about this opportunity, really. This is right up our alley for the goal that we have in our Statement Plan for Independent Living, and we're REALLY excited about partnering with this entity so thank you so much for thinking of us.

>> Yvonne: Did you tell her, Steve, about Frank and the FEMA person that work at the Capital Area still? Because the people we have working on this for our goal for the council, I think, are gonna be fantastic resources in addition to Steve and others for this Grant. So Dr. -- oh, gosh, I say his name wrong, Animikwam --

>> Steve: "An-knee-qwam."

>> Yvonne: If I don't have it in front of me I can't say it. He is passionate about emergency response and as a D.O. wants to see something gets tracked at hospitals -- so like somebody comes in with a disability that they already know how does this person communicate; you know what do we need to be aware of; medications; things like that. But he's going to be a fantastic resource for this project, too, I'm sure.

>> Jessica: Yeah, I have been able to meet Frank.

>> Yvonne: Oh, good!

>> Jessica: Virtually, not in person.

>> Yvonne: Good.

>> Jessica: He seems great.

>> Yvonne: Good.

>> Jessica: Awesome.

>> Yvonne: Steve, you know our council is primarily made up of people with disabilities so when you talk about having them at the table, we are those people.

>> Jessica: Okay.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> So exciting.

>> Steve: I think I shared this with the council, but late last week and earlier this week I was contacted by Rodney Garrett, the Regional Disability Integration Specialist out of the office of the regional administrator for FEMA Region 5. And he is working in the Detroit area on the floods, and he is actually going to join our emergency preparedness team for the SPIL. So hopefully he's going to join us later this week, and FEMA brings a LOT of resources. He is focused specifically on Michigan and people with disabilities. So this team is growing with Jessica and with Rodney, and I'm excited that we're all pulling this together. We're gonna have a GREAT, great outcome from this goal, working together for people with disabilities throughout the state.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, thank you so much.

>> Jessica: You're welcome. Rodney and I are trying to find a meeting time.

>> Yvonne: Perfect.

>> Jessica: Red Cross and FEMA. We partner and work together. The Red Cross works immediately when there's a disaster so when the floods in Detroit started, we have shelters opened immediately. FEMA can't come in until the President declares it a national emergency.

>> Yvonne: Hmm.

>> Jessica: They have a LOT more money and resources but their hands are tied until that declaration is made so we always are working hand-in-hand when this stuff happens, so I'm super excited about Rodney.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, great.

>> Steve: Wonderful.

>> Jessica: Thank you, guys, very much.

>> Steve: Well, thank you, Jessica. I look forward to getting that template and will have that letter off to you as soon as I get that template, we get it filled out, and we'll go from there tomorrow.

>> Jessica: I sent it right before the meeting so you should have it is.

>> Steve: I'll have it done first thing in the morning.

>> Jessica: Awesome. Thank you very much.

>> Thank you, Jessica!

>> Thank you!

>> Jessica: Bye!

>> Steve: Bye!

>> Yvonne: All right! That is really exciting. We'll jump back into talking about it into the agenda, so hold your thoughts on that for a second. Tracy, let's go ahead and call the meeting to order. 6:17 p.m. Let's do a roll call, please.

>> Tracy: Okay. Will Harrison.

>> Will: Present.

>> Tracy: Jamia Davis.

>> Jamia: Here.

>> Tracy: Mindy, who is not with us tonight -- and Yvonne Fleener.

>> Yvonne: Present.

>> Tracy: You have a quorum.

>> Yvonne: Thank you! Is there anyone on the call who needs any accommodations to participate fully in our meeting? I don't see anyone on the call so if someone pops on, I can ask that question again. Okay, let's go ahead and get a motion to approve the agenda.

>> Jamia: This is Jamia Davis and move to approve the agenda as presented.

>> Yvonne: Okay, and a second?

>> Will: I will second it. This is Will.

>> Yvonne: Any adjustments we need to make to the agenda? Are we still gonna review the budget, per se; or are we gonna wait until Mindy here or will you go through that with us, Steve?

>> Steve: I'm prepared to go ahead and review that tonight because --

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: -- Mindy and I need to get the green light from the executive committee to enter a negotiation with MRS and BSBP and would like to send a meeting tomorrow to get that on the calendar for this week or next week.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: So we can have a negotiate budget to present to the council in September.

>> Yvonne: Okay, so all in favor of approving the agenda as it is stated, say aye.

(Multiple ayes)

Any opposed? All right, so let's go to our grant writing opportunity with the Red Cross and NPHI. You know, the whole time she was talking I just kept thinking to myself, how if you put it out into the world things start to happen, right?

>> Steve: Yep. Ha-ha.

>> Yvonne: I remember being on the SPIL writing team that wrote that and our conversations were, "Well, you know, we don't really have the kind of emergencies that other states face." And then we had the Midland area floods and then the pandemic and then the Detroit floods. I was like, "Oh, never mind. We sure do."

(Laughter)

So I think it's exciting and the group of people coming together are great. So I don't -- do you guys have any thoughts or questions about that topic?

>> Jamia: When she was talking, I thought about flood insurance. You know, she was talking about organizations to pull together. I would suggest maybe like the emergency response team proposing like the organization for like flood insurance or, you know, other helpful resources; just thinking outside of the box.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, and, you know, I have a new neighbor here who moved here -- they lived on the -- oh, I forgot the name of the river, Steve, the dam broke and flooded by you? Sandusky River? Is that what it was?

>> Steve: It was actually the Tittabawassee through Sanford.

>> Yvonne: That's what it was, Sanford, not Sandusky. They lived in Sanford and they had just sold their property right on the water and moved here. She is still in contact with the people that they sold the house to and said the entire neighborhood lost everything. They all had flood insurance and their flood insurance carrier won't pay so, you know, big lawsuits going on; but she said it doesn't look good for the homeowners. They're several-hundred-thousand dollar homes if not more and it's scary. We could bring them to the table, Jamia, as a way, to talk about that.

>> Steve: You know what? That would be good to talk to Rodney about that because I looked into flood insurance, and you don't get flood insurance from your local insurance agent. It's actually a FEMA product.

>> Yvonne: Huh.

>> Jamia: Oh.

>> Steve: In order to get flood insurance in your county, your county has to have an approved flood management plan filed with FEMA that's approved.

>> Yvonne: Oh, wow!

>> Steve: There are counties in Michigan where county commissioners have done exactly that and counties that have NOT done that.

>> Yvonne: Wow.

>> Steve: A homeowner can only purchase through FEMA if their county has an approved flood emergency plan proved by FEMA and filed. That's good information to get from Rodney about that.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Steve: And the fact that if, in fact, Midland County had an approved plan, why FEMA is balking at that flood insurance and it's more than likely because that dam was privately owned. That gentleman and his company were put on notice by the State of Michigan ten years ago that it was damaged and it needed repairs. He did not do anything, and the State never followed through on taking that over from that private entity that owned and operated those dams that cause all of that damage. So it's almost like a subrogation situation where who's to blame here? And everyone is pointing at each other.

>> Yvonne: Right. Wow.

>> Jamia: Wow, yeah.

>> Yvonne: So moving on, then, to strategic planning update. Steve and I met with Regina from the Nonprofit Network, and you saw the couple documents that got created, one about values. Regina did some work on fleshing that out and combining some things that were, had very similar content. And then creating the initial goals. So the goals were those, like, strategic -- what was it called? Advocacy and education and strategic initiatives. So Steve and I's job for Regina is to pull those things together and combine them and come up with sort of initial goal language. We had a meeting scheduled to do it and had to postpone it and will get to that. That will go out to all of you for feedback once we have that done. So that's the update. Anything you want to add to that, Steve?

>> Steve: No, that's really it. Unfortunately I had to cancel our -- my and Yvonne's meeting last week because my mom took a SPIL; but we're going to try to get that back either this week or next week.

>> Yvonne: -- get back on it.

>> Steve: Do brainstorming on verbage around those goals to point to the strategic planning team to work through prior to us moving forward with the strategic plan.

>> Yvonne: And a lot of your time has been working on the CIL, the Bluewater CIL stuff.

>> Steve: Apologies on that.

>> Yvonne: You have been busy and things have taken priority; it’s not even on our agenda to give any updates. Maybe at the end we can talk about it.

So Steve Locke, his evaluation, we are -- when I looked at what the council approved for the timeline, we are behind again. Ha-ha. So I think -- I asked Will if he would kind of lead this piece of our work; and so, Will, what I will do is send you the evaluation that Aaron and I created and have you take a look at it and make any changes, you know, that you think we should make.

Then we will send that to council members. It's based off of his current job description and so we'll get that out and get feedback on it. It's got kind of broad categories like, you know, "communication," "partnerships," things like that. And we will -- I want us to do an evaluation just based on what we know of Steve so that at least when we get the strategic plan done, and we -- then we can tie next year's into more specific things; but for this one we're gonna have to do more of a general brush of evaluation. But we do need to get it done.

>> Will: Steve, do you have a way to highlight the job description already laid out.

>> Yvonne: Steve can send you a copy of it, and I think I have one, too.

>> Will: Okay.

>> Yvonne: Job description is pretty old and probably does need to get updated, but, you know for now it is what it is; and we'll work with that. Can you send that to Will?

>> Steve: Yeah, actually, what I'll do is I'll have Tracy send you the job posting that I was hired under because I think that is much more specific than the job description that's on file at SILC; and it's not been updated since then and shows what the council at that time was looking for in an executive director. And until we can get that job description updated, it probably would be best to base it on what I was hired under for what they put out to the public. It's pretty detailed because they used a head-hunting firm to do the job search, and it's pretty detailed. So Tracy, if you could get that out to the executive committee, that would be awesome.

>> Yvonne: Good. Okay. And then, Steve, are you doing annual evaluations for Tracy and professional settings, things like that?

>> Steve: I have not, actually.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: I have been remiss in that and need to do that on an annual basis with Tracy.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, if you can worry about Tracy, then we can worry about you. It's the one thing I know for my work that always gets pushed to the side when other things take priority. So I get it.

>> Steve: Yep. I will absolutely do that because Tracy has been five out of five stars the entire time that I've been here.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Tracy: Thank you.

>> Yvonne: Pretty fantastic and trying to find a way to steal her from you.

(Laughter)

>> Steve: I know where to find you.

(Laughter)

>> Yvonne: That's all I have. Will, you and I just need to get together so I can help you kind of know the process and, you know, let you run with it of how we're gonna manage that, okay? I think we're ready to move to the SILC budget.

>> Steve: All right. So this is the draft budget for next year, our third iteration. Mindy, Tracy, and Brad and I met last month to go over this, and we have done some updates with it since we've met. We finally got our health insurance rate increases in. Fortunately it's only a 5.3% increase this year, which is HUGE considering how health insurance has gone; but I'll just walk you down through what we're proposing.

As far as the total budget overall, we're proposing a $356,363 budget; which is about $6,000 over our current year. We're also entertaining getting rid of office space this year, and if we end up doing that, the actual proposed budget would be almost $5,000 less than our current year's budget. We'll talk through that once we get down to that line item.

As far as wages go, we have budgeted those at $148,830; and this was based on Mindy's research where she was proposing a wage increase in fiscal year 2021 at 2% and 1% from April 1 forward. So this was based on the fact that mine and Tracy's wages were frozen, have essentially been frozen for the past three years. Last year when we negotiated with MRS and BSBP, they stated that the state was at a wage freeze because the budget was unknown at the time and it looked like with the pandemic they were gonna come in under revenue that they were projecting. Well, after October 1 came and went, all of the state employees received a cost-of-living wage increase; and since our budget was already approved, Tracy and I didn't receive the same cost-of-living increase the State received.

>> Yvonne: I want to add one thing to that. We also learned from ACL that we should not be restricted by the freezes that the state government has; that is not giving us the autonomy we're supposed to have in our budget.

>> Steve: Right.

>> Yvonne: That's just another thing we learned. Lesson learned. By sorry; go ahead.

>> Steve: No, that's okay. Because I was new in this job and I did not know what authority SILC had in these budget negotiations. So Mike Pemble (phonetic), the finance person for BSBP, really pushed back on the fact that I put a 5% placeholder increase in there so the council could make a decision once they did they evaluation; and I did it Tracy's evaluation on what that increase would look like. He pushed back really hard on that, and I just caved on it because I didn't know where my negotiating authority was.

>> Yvonne: Right.

>> Steve: Now that Mindy has done her research and seen what state employees have received over the last couple of years, she has figured out this formula to make Tracy and I whole based on what the state employees received over the past two years.

>> Yvonne: We have on the careful, though. You can't have it both way. Either we say we're separate from the state employees and we're not bound by their rules in the budgeting process and in freezing; or we say that we are. So for them to turn around and say, "This is what the state employees got," you're not a state employee. You're kind of this hybrid person, right, of a non-profit entity.

>> Steve: Right.

>> Yvonne: I don't know that state employee salaries the right baseline for you and Tracy's salaries.

>> Steve: Sure. So Mindy's logic behind this was in order to cure what happened in the past two years, use the state formula to bring it forward; and then from that point forward the council gets to decide what the compensation should be for their employees, aside from what the state does.

>> Yvonne: Okay, that's fair. I like that.

>> Steve: It was like a come-along to bring it to current and then council gets to decide what is gonna happen going forward.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, okay.

>> Steve: That's what we plugged into this line item here.

>> Yvonne: Now, I see there isn't anything in there for an additional employee. Is there something under like a contractual? Did you guys add any money to contract work?

>> Steve: There is not. We've not really fleshed out the need for an employee in the next fiscal year, and -- I mean, but that's something we could talk about based on our current SPIL if there's the need for an additional body. But that is not included in here. This is simply for Tracy and I as it currently stands.

>> Yvonne: Okay. Maybe when we get down to contractual work -- is that a line item you have on here?

>> Steve: It is; yeah.

>> Yvonne: I'll hold off on that thought, then.

>> Steve: Okay. So Social Security, Medicare, unemployment expenses are all standard. Dental insurance is pretty much standard.

Health insurance we came in at 5.3% increase on our current contract. We're very happy with the current health insurance that we have and we have given the green light to our agent to go ahead and renew us at that amount. Disability life expense is pretty much -- it stays as it is. We have not received a renewal rate for those amounts so we've done a little bit of an increase for that in case it comes in a little bit above of what we currently budgeted it at. The professional fees are for our accounting services. Retirement is fully matched, assuming that both Tracy and I are going to engage in the retirement plan; and this year I'm actually going to engage in the retirement plan.

>> Yvonne: Good!

>> Steve: I had a meeting set up for our retirement agent at 2:00, but Mindy became ill so we rescheduled for next Wednesday, hoping she feels better.

Rent expense -- last year we had it budgeted at $1,148; and this year we have it at $1,668. The reason for that is the rent that we're proposing is for our storage unit. We're proposing to the council that we get rid of our office. Tracy and I have been able to function very well for the past year and a half working from home, and this is a huge savings to the council and to MRS and BSBP to not have physical office space. We're proposing that our meetings going forward, barring any pandemic restrictions, that we will hold our council meetings at various CILs across the state, which has been our intent for a long time to do.

I have been in discussions with Mark Pierce, who we're currently renting from. I let him know about a month and a half ago we were considering this in terms of any impact to his budget; and he is okay with it. One thought we had was as part of leaving there we would take all of our usable office equipment; but a lot of office furniture that we have there really has no value, and we would end up leaving those two officers functional with office furniture for him to do expansion into, just kind of as a parting gift, based on the fact that we're going to pull out of this lease agreement and to defer any hardship on his agency because of that. So I wanted to throw that out there for discussion and get the feel of the executive committee on what your thoughts on that proposal.

>> Jamia: I like the idea, given that you both are able to function at home and it's -- you know, it's a way to save money. That's always good. So you can reallocate the sources elsewhere. I see it as a good choice.

>> Will: It's something we could all do more with less -- I think that's a great idea.

>> Steve: Great and Mindy also thought this was a great negotiating line item with MRS and BSBP because it's a negotiation. There are line items we may want to increase like travel and training. My thought was because we did not get to go to SILC Congress last year that next year we offer that opportunity to all of the voting membership to go to San Diego and go to the SILC Congress and meet with peers.

So Mindy is very strategic in her thinking and negotiating a budget. There are certain line items we can negotiate down in order to bump other ones up, and this was one of those. So I appreciate your support on that, and that's kind of what we're going into negotiations with this particular line item as a give-and-take with MRS.

So communications -- we are little bit below what we proposed for last year. Cell phones at $200 a month; Microsoft Office at $525 a year, Zoom at $40 a month, website, square space at $250 a year. $270 AT&T bill per month, that may change. If we go without an office, that amount would go away.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Steve: The Internet would go away, the $490 annual user way, the ADA widget we put in the website that actually made our website inaccessible is gonna go away. We've already pulled that out of our website. So we would probably either use our personal cell phones for official council business or I would get Tracy a separate cell phone that had the SILC phone number tied to it for calling in and abandon our entire office phone system that we currently have, and that would be a $270 per month savings right out of the gate. So this, again, is another negotiating line item with MRS and BSBP.

>> Yvonne: I'm glad you brought that up because I was looking at that $270 a month and wonder about that. So we use at work -- and maybe Tracy can do some research on it -- it's called Line 2, a website that costs us, I think -- it's either $164 or $264 a year. It's app so you use it on your phone, but like when I have my cell phone, if I'm making work calls to families or, you know, an employee; I open up Line 2 on my phone and call from that number and it shows up as a different phone number. When calls come in to Line 2, it rings on my phone differently than my personal cell. It also is a desktop app so like Steve or Tracy, you could log in to it and check phone calls or, you can check messages. You can text people through Line 2. So it is acts as a cell phone but it's its own space on your cell phone.

>> Steve: Hmm!

>> Yvonne: It may be nice, too, given our OMA stuff, that you have a separate thing for your work with the council.

>> Steve: Sure.

>> Yvonne: It's pretty inexpensive. So that might be one. I'm sure there are others, but that's the one we use and have been really happy with it.

>> Steve: That's a great idea. Thank you for sharing that, Yvonne. We'll look into that.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: The next item is our audit. We're in the third year of a three-year contract with our current auditor and $5,000 is exactly what we agreed to in that contract so that amount is in there. We are gonna issue a request for qualifications this year for auditing services, and we're always going to be open and welcome to have our current provider bid on that.

Insurance is pretty much the same as last year. This is our directors and officers insurance and liability insurance. That's probably going to stay the same.

Postage we have brought way down, according to actual usage for this past year. We still think this amount is a little bit high, but in the past council packets were printed, bound, and then mailed out to council members; and we simply don't do that anymore. Everything is electronic; it's paperless, so we have reined that cost in substantially.

Office supplies are based on what we actually used this past year; but again, I suspect this is going to go down, too. We have an office printer that if we end up leaving the office, I'm going to see if Tracy wants to have that in her house to use for any printing services. I've got my own printer here. But I mean, office supplies are really -- gosh, almost a thing of the past since everything has gone electronic.

The statewide data system license -- so an update on this. The CIL network over the past year, on their own, has sought out a new service database collection software system. When NetCIL was used by the CILs, it was a collaborate effort between MRS, CIL network, and CILs about 15 years ago to decide what type of system they were going to use to collect all their information on, all the services they provide to consumers and the community. About a year or so ago, the ClLs on their own started vetting other software programs and left SILC and MRS out of the process. When the current NetCIL system was purchased, MRS ponied up the money, almost $100,000, to purchase it for the CIL network. Ever since then, SILC has earmarked $17,000 in our budget to pay for their annual license fees and their annual agreement fees.

Because SILC was not included in this process, nor was MRS included in this process, we're probably going to zero this line item out of our budget and no longer pay for their annual user fee. Their annual user fee was about $1,200 per CIL on an annual basis. The system that they chose independently to go with now costs just over $3,000 per CIL; so it's almost tripled the cost and again, SILC was not at the table; we weren't part of the process. MRS was not part of the process, and it was important for MRS to be part of the process because they needed to make sure they could get data out of this system to help them with their statutory monetary duties.

So this has been a little bit of a prickly pear for the past four or five months since we found out that the CILs went ahead and independently did this. And their explanation of why they did this is perfectly fine. Where it stands now is SILC and MRS stand ready to support them in the launching of this new system; however, we're not willing to provide financial support since we weren't at the table. It's not a punitive decision but simply them breaking from the partnership and the collaborative partnership that we've always had and independently doing this.

There are some -- and I'll just leave it at this since this is a public meeting. If you would like to have a one-on-one conversation, I'd be happy to have that with you; but the bottom line is this is another negotiating line item with MRS and BSBP we're willing to let $17,000 go to put money in line items like our travel budget and our training for our council. Are there any questions on that?

All right. Accommodations – again, our accommodations for our meetings. Anyone that needs an accommodation, we will go ahead and provide that. We thought it best to leave it at last year's levels, even though we did not use hardly any of it this year; but thinking that we're going to start having in-person meetings again, despite the Delta variant going on and surging right now; we thought it best as far as projecting out for 12 months to go ahead and leave a placeholder in there at the current budgeting level of our current budget.

Training and travel. These two line items might be fudged around because if we were to have all the council members who are able and willing to go to the SILC Congress in February in San Diego, it's going to be probably anywhere between $1,000 and $1,500 per council member to attend when it comes to airfare, hotel, and registration. So we can flip these around as Mindy and I are negotiating with MRS and BSBP.

I really want to be able to next year offer that training to all the voting membership of the council because we were not able to go this year; and Tracy as well, if she would like to attend that. Will and Yvonne attended that year before last. We have immediate access to all of the top brass at ACL. You have an opportunity to sit down one-on-one and talk with all of the leadership of ACL. It's a great peer-to-peer opportunity, and, you know, Will and Yvonne, maybe you can chime in on your experience while we were there.

(Overlapping conversation)

>> Yvonne: Go ahead, Will.

>> Will: Ladies first.

>> Yvonne: Thanks. I think for me it was a visual -- it kind of brought all together for me and made we go, "Oh, okay, I kind of get this of what we're doing." And it was great to have those opportunities with the ACL. I mean, they sat at our table, and we had great discussions them.

>> Jamia: That's wonderful. Yeah, I'm excited.

>> Will: Yeah, for me it was being able to network with your peers through different states and find out how other SILCs run. For me, it kind of brought it what we do as a whole. Being there those four days were changing -- I don't know what you call it, lectures -- that, to me, was better than anything you could watch or read.

>> Jamia: So it gels it all together. That's great.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Will: You’ll still have questions; but yeah, it gets better.

>> Yvonne: It's a great location.

>> Jamia: A wonderful experience.

>> Yvonne: A wonderful experience on top of it. One of my favorite times was when we went to dinner the MRS people and our contingency of people went together. It was nice to have down time and visit and talk about each other. So that was one of my favorite times, too, our dinner that we had together.

>> Steve: The hotel is across the road from the Maria.

>> Yvonne: Oh, nice!

>> Steve: It's right on the ocean and there's a beautiful walk that has a lot of restaurant and pubs and it's just a beautiful, beautiful space.

>> Jamia: Wonderful.

>> Steve: You have an opportunity to meet with Regina and ACL staff and got individual questions related to Michigan's situation answered at that time through those one-on-one conversations. So you're around your peers and also with ACL brass with immediate access to them and it's such a great opportunity to really get into your role as a council member. So I'm excited about that opportunity.

>> Jamia: Great. Thank you, guys, for sharing. I'm excited to go.

>> Steve: The next item is council meetings. You can see we have hardly spent anything on council meetings because of the pandemic. We thought it best to just go ahead and leave this in place for council meetings because it's an unknown what that cost will be as we start meeting in person again around the state; and it's going based on several -- a couple year ago's costs for council meetings. It's not a huge amount, but it's hard to make an educated guess based on the past year and a half of having virtual meetings all the time and what that is going to look like going into in-person meetings again.

>> Yvonne: Don't you think that will be higher, though, because -- I mean, the U.P. one is a bunch of overnight expenses for the whole council because like right now it's just a couple people have those expenses; but if we're all traveling everywhere, isn't that gonna increase?

>> Steve: It might, Yvonne; and some of this -- actually, like I said -- may shift into some other line items.

>> Yvonne: Gotcha.

>> Steve: -- shift into travel as opposed to meetings themselves, the cost of the meetings; whether it's a room rental or things like that.

>> Yvonne: That's true. You can move that around a bit.

>> Steve: It's kind of lumping these three sums in together and then deciding what line item they actually belong into.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, okay. Should -- where it says in the note part under column AN where it says "Council meeting plan to be at the SIL” -- should that be CIL?

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Yvonne: Okay, just so we don't confuse them with what office you're talking about. It's funny to watch people work in spread sheet. It surprises me when people use the top part to make edits. I always forget to do that. I double click it on the box and do it that way.

>> Steve: When I first used Excelling, it was not intuitive to go there to make changes.

>> Yvonne: It makes sense.

>> Jamia: It's easier.

>> Will: Need to take a class called Excel for Dummies.

(Laughter)

>> Steve: The next lie item is SPIL support and you can see we have expended -- let's see -- through May -- about $10,360. We'll expend about $15,000 in this line item with our contract with non-profit Network for a strategic planning. We wanted to leave this line item higher because we're also going to have to do an outreach plan next year, and I don't know what that cost is going to come in at. Yvonne and I also talked about doing a marketing RFP this year to expend more of this line item than we have tapped into and getting that out and then encumbering that money before the end of September.

>> Yvonne: Otherwise we lose the money.

>> Steve: Yeah, or it just -- it stays on the table; then MRS reabsorbs it and puts it into other programs.

>> Yvonne: Well, yeah.

>> Steve: We'll try to capture as much of this in this year's budget as we can; but because this is an unknown line item in terms of what it's gonna cost to bring in a third party to help us create an outreach plan to unserved and underserved populations in Michigan, we would like to leave this as a placeholder like we did last year; and it may welcome in underneath this number. But again, this is another negotiating line item with MRS and BSBP.

>> Yvonne: Does the 55 jive with a number in the SPIL; or is this a separate number from the number that are in the SPIL?

>> Steve: It jives exactly with the numbers in the SPIL.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> Yvonne: So there isn't a line item for contract work if this is the end.

>> Steve: Professional fees would have been it, Yvonne, right here online 16.

>> Yvonne: Right, because I would hate to miss -- I'd hate to come up with some strategic goals where we're like, okay, I will give an example. This may not happen -- a lot of the goals seem to be around voter registration, you know, teaching people disabilities about legislative advocacy, things like that. That might be an actual human being that goes out and does that; so if we don't have that in the budget, there's no one to do it.

>> Steve: That would actually come in under "SPIL Support." SPIL Support is a wide, broad basket, and anything in that SPIL could be charged to this line item right here.

>> Yvonne: Is it possible, then, to make that realizing they may whittle it down; but could we make that $75,000 and say to them that, you know, through our strategic planning process that we see amending the SPIL to do some broader goals that are SILC council work specific? That's why that number is bigger; so we can accommodate for those goals. At least try. Right?

>> Steve: Absolutely. Yeah. We can put that in there and I'm making notes right throughout.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: When Mindy and I -- if you are verbally behind what we're proposing here, I'll make that note there, get with Mindy before we go into negotiations, and bump that up as we bump other line items down. Like I said, as a placeholder. When you go with expenses, you want to go -- you want to shoot at the moon. With revenue, you always want to --

>> Yvonne: Lowball. Right.

>> Steve: -- Never caught looking.

>> Yvonne: Exactly. Yeah. If we don't end up there, maybe then $55,000 will look more palatable to them.

>> Steve: Sure.

>> Yvonne: The work we have done last time we tried to beef up that number and another employee, we hadn't done the work; and we have done the work now and they have been part of that process, you know. They've all received the survey. Bill Addison has been at the meetings, which are fantastic that he comes to all those meeting. You can tell he's really committed to our work, and I really appreciate that. So let's try it.

>> Steve: Okay. Awesome.

>> Yvonne: $79,999 -- just kidding.

(Scattered laughter)

All right. So miscellaneous -- just miscellaneous.

>> Steve: Yeah, it's basically background check for any contractors that we hire, our Michigan non-profit association membership, other miscellaneous. Our budget is actually coming in underneath what we proposed last year; and this year I'm gonna have Mindy, who is a self-described dog with a bone when it comes to budget negotiations, on my team; negotiating with MRS and BSBP.

So we also sent out training opportunities too with ILRU about SILC autonomy and why that's important and another training opportunity. I hope you take advantage of that because it's gonna help you understand your role as a council member and what authorities we have in terms of interacting the DSU and the CIL network as well.

>> Yvonne: Steve, I actually sent an e-mail to Will and Jamia and said, "Hey, you guys are the future of the council. Can you please attend this so that?" And they both responded and said yes, so they're on it.

>> Steve: Awesome! And also know that if it does not jive with your work schedule, those meetings are recorded and those are accessible to view afterwards as well. You just wouldn't have the interactive portion, and the interactive portion is really valuable because Paula McIlwee from ILRU facilitates those meetings and you have an opportunity to interact with your peers and ask real-time questions. If you're able to attend those live, that's even better.

>> Jamia: Okay, thank you.

>> Steve: Any questions or concerns with the proposed draft budget? Because we're kind of looking for an informal blessing from the executive committee for Mindy and I to go forward and negotiate with MRS and BSBP. Our intent was to get a meeting out to them tomorrow morning and get something on the calendar for this week or next week or the following week so that we have negotiated budget to bring back to the council in September for approval.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, so informal -- so you don't want us to do any official, like "We move that the --" you don't need us to do a motion or vote on this? Just gather some agreement on it?

>> Steve: Well, you know, actually, you could. We're in a public meeting so I guess a motion and a vote would be appropriate.

>> Yvonne: Okay. So I think the motion would be something like -- if one of you could make it -- motion to approve our authorize Steve and Mindy to continue negotiating the budget as stated with the one caveat that we made there to the $75,000, given that, you know, Mindy and you are in agreement with that. So I guess the motion is to authorize Steve and Mindy to move forward with the proposed budget and to continue the negotiation process.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> Yvonne: If you could say “so moved,” we'll let that count as the motion.

>> Jamia: This is Jamia Davis. So moved.

>> Yvonne: And a second?

>> Will: This is Will Harrison. I second that.

>> Yvonne: Is there further discussion on this? All in favor, say aye.

(Multiple ayes)

Any opposed, say no. All right. You have our blessing. Go get our money! Ha-ha.

(Laughter)

>> Steve: Awesome, awesome. Thank you so much.

>> Yvonne: I accidentally closed my agenda so I'm not sure what the next item is there. Let's see -- there we go. Where are we here? Oh, SILC Council Meeting Travel. Steve, I was on the exact same wavelength about, gosh, it would have been so fantastic to go to Marquette in September. But now we have this variant. Just before I got on this call, MDHHS is now coming out with wearing masks inside again.

>> Jamia: Mm-hmm.

>> Yvonne: I don't believe personally it's the right time in September. September came fast.

>> Jamia: Yes.

>> Yvonne: I don't think we're doing our part for society southbound pushing this issue at this point.

>> Steve: Right.

>> Yvonne: That's my thought. Are there any other thoughts about -- because that would mean is a virtual meeting once again.

>> Jamia: I'm with the virtual meeting. You know, I understand the circumstances so rather be safe than sorry.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Will: Absolutely.

>> Yvonne: Okay. So we didn't make anything official and didn't vote on it not being virtual so we don't need to vote on it going back to virtual. It was a discussion at the end of the meeting where Steve discussed we go to Marquette in September before -- if you could, Steve, figure something out because I know again had reached out though me and was trying -- Glen was trying to know dates and planning. If you could shoot an e-mail to council saying we decided to stay virtual because of the D variant -- variant D or D variant? I forget what they call it -- the new thing.

>> Steve: Delta variant.

>> Yvonne: Okay, so that's that.

Committee elections -- I had spoken with each of you about rerunning for your position. We also, though, should -- we don't have a nominating committee, per se; but Jamia, since you're the secretary, would you e-mail the council and ask them if -- just tell them if any of them are interested in running for an executive committee position --

>> Jamia: Okay.

>> Yvonne: To let you know. People can be nominated on the floor while we're doing the election process, but if people are interested, if they could let you know.

>> Jamia: Okay.

>> Yvonne: That doesn't preclude them from being interested later. They can change their mind and run on the spot. But it just kind of gets that ball rolling so we can talk to people about what their roles are; you know what the job, things like that. Just gives us a heads up.

>> Jamia: When exactly -- I forgot. When are the elections usually held?

>> Yvonne: At the September meeting.

>> Jamia: September meeting? Okay.

>> Yvonne: Mm-hmm.

>> Steve: What we do is prepare a slate of officers based on a polling of the current council members that are eligible for elected positions, then present a slate of officers for each of those positions and then once the floor soaped, we can take other nominations for those other than what are proposed on the slate of officers based on that internal polling. Then the vote is taken base on nominations from the floor and proposed slate of officers based on that polling prior to the meeting.

>> Jamia: Okay.

>> Yvonne: Would it be okay for her to say that the current executive committee members are willing to run again?

>> Steve: Absolutely. Yes.

>> Yvonne: So people know, "Oh, what is happening? Are people leaving? What's going on?"

>> Steve: Yeah, for sure. You can tell them the current executive committee having to be re-nominated for their positions; however, we want to extend the opportunity to you if there are any of these positions you would like to run for. Then put those down. Let them know that during the meeting when the nominations and voting happens, the floor will be opened for other people to compete for those officer positions and then votes taken on each one.

>> Jamia: Okay. Sound good. Pill get that out right away.

>> Yvonne: Thank you! And ask them to reply -- I mean, maybe the way -- I would like them to reply just to you, not the whole council. I guess you can't roll that, but whatever.

>> Jamia: Okay.

>> Yvonne: Council training and education. I think we can table this. I wanted to talk about doing something this summer, but summer -- it's already August and still have this pandemic factor. So I don't think -- did don't think we need to talk about that right now.

>> Steve: Okay.

>> Yvonne: And then but maybe we can have, you know, after we get through our September meeting and the same, our new officers in place, we can bring that up again for a priority. I think more importantly for the September meeting would be to have Steve's evaluation done and completed and share that at the meeting. Will, you and I will definitely touch base and get together, either -- I know you and I talked about meeting in person. I'm happy to do that, too. I am leaving for two weeks to go to camp so we'll have to start by doing stuff virtually or via e-mail, and then when I get back we can hook up a time to meet.

>> Will: Yeah; sure.

>> Yvonne: Okay. All right. Let me check the list here. There is -- there are no unknown guests on the call besides the captioner so I don't think I need to ask for public comment; or do I say it anyway?

>> Steve: Yeah, say it anyway.

>> Yvonne: Is there anyone on the call who would like to give public comment? I'll wait a second just in case someone's unmuting or turning on video. Is there anyone on the call who would like to give public comment? Okay. Hearing none, can I get a motion to adjourn?

>> Will: This is Will Harrison and make the motion to adjourn.

>> Yvonne: Great.

>> Jamia: I second. This is Jamia Davis.

>> Yvonne: All in favor, so say aye.

(Multiple ayes)

Any opposed to adjourning? No? Nobody is opposed.

(Laughter)

All right. Well, thank you so much.