

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 17, 2009

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:42 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Carolyn Alford, Nasim Ansari, Jeff Balkema, Robert Barnard, Deb Buchholtz-Hiemstra, Grady Biby, Dave Buskirk, Brian Johnson, John Heppler, Dave Maturen, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Mike Quinn, John Taylor, Jack Urban, John Zull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners John Nieuwenhuis and Frank Thompson

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, Thom Canny, John Faul, Tina Becker, Lisa Bradshaw, Mary Balkema, Tim Snow, Linda Buzas, Jo Woods, Anne Conn, Pat Crowley, Dave Artley, Tammy Lahman, Steve Yanni, Lisa Thompson, David Diegel, Paul Baker, Lotta Jarnefelt

Chairperson Buskirk convened the Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Finance Director Tracie Moored stated that claims for February 17, 2009 totaled \$3,211,891.72.

2. Transfer of Homeless Shelter to Community Health

Ms. Linda Buzas reviewed her memo in the packet. She requested approval at tonight's Board meeting to transfer the Emergency Overnight Shelter Operations to Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services that would be effective Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Commissioner John Nieuwenhuis arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Mr. Jeff Patton, Director of KCMHS thanked everyone involved for working out the details of this transition. Mr. Patton stated he was open for questions and discussion.

Commissioner Heppler had concerns about the annual appropriations of \$67,600 being allocated. He stated he thought it was \$50,000 that was allocated.

County Administration Peter Battani stated that CMH had requested this to cover additional supervision and overseeing the shelter operations. He stated in order to move forward with this, Administration had proposed to increase the General Fund Allocation by \$17,600.

Commissioner Ansari had concerns how the County would benefit once the funds are transferred over to KCMHSAS. County Administrator Peter Battani stated the benefit would be to get better service provisions than the County offered. Mr. Patton added that the County would also benefit from the added services and stated individuals would receive services they need that they are not currently getting, not only for the outreach program for mentally disabled individuals, but for substance abuse individuals as well.

Several Commissioners support this request.

3. GIS Tactical Plan

Ms. Lotta Jarnefelt reviewed her handouts. She requested Board approval of the GIS Tactical Plan and the guide for the County's GIS future. She stated at this time no funding would be requested.

Commissioner Frank Thompson arrived at 4:30 p.m.

Vice Chair Buchholtz-Heimstra stated several years ago there was a GIS committee that a commissioner sat on and representatives from several local jurisdictions and asked if this was something they would now need. Ms. Jarnefelt stated yes, activating that was one of the steps in the plan to bring in the stakeholders and get everybody's voices heard.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Urban stated if work progressed, would there be a need to hire a coordinator? Ms. Jarnefelt stated yes, but that would be down the road a ways.

Several Commissioners support this and felt it would be a great economic tool and will benefit the entire County.

Commissioner Maturen stated Kalamazoo County is way behind other counties that are much smaller that have GIS. He stated he is in full support of this GIS plan.

Commissioner Ann Nieuwenhuis stated this is a great way to increase potential revenue to Kalamazoo County.

Commissioner Urban stated for the record several years ago when he first got started as a Commissioner, one of the first proposals was to create a countywide GIS and it couldn't get started; consequently everyone gave up on the idea. He stated we are extremely fortunate to find Lotta to implement this once again.

County Administrator Battani wanted to clarify on the issue of staffing, that nothing had been discussed in the past year or two about the potential of staffing for GIS. However, the County had been looking at GIS for about eight years and since the beginning of discussions with GIS, staffing was discussed at that time. He stated it was Administrations job to advise and inform the Commissioners that GIS is one of the priorities. He stated he concurred with Commissioner Maturen when he articulated the County is way behind the eight ball and Southwest Michigan First would really like to see the County have a quality GIS system that can help them do their job better with economic development. He stated we are getting good cooperation from the County's township partners. He also stated at this time there were no plans to bring a request for staff this year but, to get to the level it needs to be, staff would be needed.

4. Proposed Personnel Policy

This item was removed from the agenda.

5. Convening Local Governments/Economic Development

County Administrator Mr. Peter Battani stated during the Board's Strategic Planning sessions, one of the Boards priorities identified was the concept of the County to act as a convener of local governments. He stated this was a concept Administration recommended for discussion tonight that the County take the leadership opportunity and work in conjunction with Southwest Michigan First to host a quarterly series of half-day economic development, employment and education. Administrator Battani stated SWMF had made a commitment to pay the costs of keynote speaker(s) and the County's goal would be to incur as little direct cost as possible.

Discussion ensued.

Some Commissioners had concerns about "been there, done that" from past efforts.

Commissioner Johnson stated he believes this is a good thing.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Buskirk stated it was the intent of Administration to put something together as a pilot and see where it goes from there.

6. Proposed Peace Corp. Resolution

Chair Buskirk stated Commissioner Quinn approached him about a resolution regarding Peace Corps in recognition of the service of returned and currently serving Peace Corps volunteers.

Many commissioners support this resolution.

It was recommended to put this on the next Board meeting consent agenda on March 3rd.

7. Any Other Items

Chair Buskirk stated he had a request from the office of Emergency Management and asked for approval to create a new position to hire a Regional Coordinator under the Office of Emergency Management. He reviewed the proposed motion handout.

Commissioner Zull had concerns about the 38% fringe benefit rate. Lt. Paul Baker stated that would be fully funded by Homeland Security Funds. Commissioner Barnard had concerns about the term of the position. Lt. Baker stated this position will run until funds run out which is anticipated approximately 4 years.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Buskirk asked for a show of hands who would participate with the Board Retreat. He stated by show of hands, most would participate. Chair Buskirk stated again how important this would be to all and would like to see 100% participation. He stated this may be moved up to May rather than March which was originally discussed.

8. Executive Session

Commissioner Mike Quinn moved and it was duly seconded that the Board of Commissioners acting as a Committee of the Whole, go into closed session pursuant to Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes:	All members present
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Absent:	Commissioner Thompson

The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 5:30 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:27 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Buskirk adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

David Buskirk, Chair
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners