

## MINUTES

### KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

May 5, 2009

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:07p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Grady Biby, Jeff Heppler, Ann Nieuwenhuis and Frank Thompson

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, Lisa Bradshaw, Jimyo Ferworn, Thom Canny, Tina Becker, Tim Snow, Dave Artley, Lotta Jarnefelt, Sheriff Rick Fuller, Undersheriff Paul Matyas, Jo Woods, Anne Conn, Jean Michaud, Dave McCaffery, Sue Darling, Mary Balkema, Frank Weichlein, Ron Kuivenhoven, Susan Sayles

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 May 5, 2009 totaled \$2,578,145.43. Ms. Moored reviewed the transfers and disbursements on page 2.

#### 2. Mac Presentation

Mr. Tim McGuire, Executive Director of MAC reviewed the memo he handed out regarding the outline of the \$204 million in Executive Order Cuts enacted. He stated Counties were not cut however Cities, Villages, Townships got up to about \$41 million cut. He stated there was a 4% reduction in Medicaid provider that will impact Community Mental Health programs. He stated in Human Services the After School and 0-3 programs may increase counties burdens with regards to the Child Care Fund. Mr. McGuire stated there was a 6.6% reduction in the Juvenile Justice Community Support services. He stated other key issues being worked on right now was with the Department of Corrections and Sentencing Guidelines and how that would affect the County at a local level. He also stated MAC had 6 standing committees and he encouraged the Commissioners to get involved in the committees.

Discussion ensued.

Administrator Peter Battani stated County health services would be taking a substantial hit. He reviewed the State Executive Order Impact memo handout that stated the preliminary key HC programs/services that would be affected. He stated Tracie Moored would be working with the various department heads and elected officials to get a complete and comprehensive list showing what the impact would be.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Urban thanked Mr. McGuire for his help regarding a land bank issue. He stated if a Commissioner had an issue that he/she needed help with, to contact MAC and they could provide advice and consultation.

Commissioner Zull stated the County would be hosting a meeting for the SMART counties group on June 10, 2009 and invited Mr. McGuire.

#### 3. Creation of Positions at the Juvenile Home

Ms. Sue Darling reviewed her memo in the packet and requested board approval at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting for 16 positions needed to staff the opening of the new Juvenile Home. She stated funding for these positions would be available through redirected Child Care Fund expenditures and an increase in State funds.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Biby arrived at 4:20 p.m.

#### 4. Creation of Positions in Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Dave McCaffery requested Board approval of two custodial positions for the new Juvenile Home at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting. He stated these positions would be replacement of current contracted custodial service with Buildings & Grounds. He stated these positions would be funded through the Child Care Fund as well as the existing Juvenile Home Custodial Fund. Additionally, he stated they would be sharing one of the two positions from the existing Gull Road Court House. He stated 3 custodians would be ideal; however he stated B&G is confident that 2.5 custodians would be able to provide the anticipated level of care due to the current budget amounts, the newness of the building and the experienced staff planned to be assigned.

Commissioner Heppler arrived at 4:25 p.m.

Chair Buskirk had concerns why B&G was asking for these positions to be brought back in house. He stated 7 years ago it was brought before the Board to contract these positions out and now it was being brought in front of the Board to switch this around again.

Mr. McCaffery stated he felt it was a matter of management style between the current superintendent and the previous superintendent.

Mr. Ron Kuivenhoven stated outside contracting had been difficult to manage. He stated he was on his third custodial contract. He stated there were also concerns with not getting the job done, including behavioral issues, and work quality issues.

Vice Chair Buchholz-Heimstra had concerns bringing these positions back in house. She stated she would prefer positions to be bid out first.

Discussion ensued.

Several Commissioners stated they were in support of this request.

#### 5. Health Benefit Plan Design

Administrator Peter Battani stated the two things being brought back for discussion per Board request are Medicare Supplement and Premium Sharing for current retirees. He stated reasonable action now would result in less drastic cuts later. He stated this would encourage retirees to help control health care costs and support their own wellness. He stated the recommendation balances three goals, one to provide essential services to our citizens, second to fiscally be responsible to our tax payers and, third to continue to provide health care to our retirees. In conclusion, he stated Administration acknowledges change is difficult; however, change is a constant.

Deputy Administrator John Faul stated Administration was looking for direction and discussion from the Board at this time regarding the proposed changes. He stated the first change proposed would be to change the post Medicare eligible retirees from a self insured plan to a fully insured plan and second, to increase the retiree premium. He stated Administration would be seeking consideration to implement these changes in increments, i.e. phase in the premium participation at 5% in 2010, 10% in 2011, and in 2012, and going forward, the premium share would be the same as active employees. He stated another benefit to the plan design itself included up to \$500 in preventative coverage.

Ms. Tracie Moored, Director of Finance reviewed her handout provided to the Board. She stated the key points were Implementation Statistics, Retiree Plan Statistics and Impact on Retirees.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Johnson stated retiree's would be affected long term more than existing employees.

Many Commissioners agreed with the Medicare supplement proposal. About half of the Commissioners did not support an increase of cost to retirees; the other half didn't feel retirees should be exempt from change(s).

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Alford commended Administration and staff involved. She stated everyone needed to share in the burden at this difficult point and time.

Vice Chair Buchholz-Heimstra stated the Cities of Portage & Battle Creek in addition to others, required retirees to pay significantly more than what the County was asking of their retirees to pay.

Chair Buskirk stated due to no increase in the retirees' pension over the past 7 years, he does not support raising retiree health care premiums.

6. Construction Manager for Airport Terminal Project

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel gave a brief update on the Airport Terminal construction project. He stated Reynolds, Smith and Hills were currently preparing construction drawing documents for the actual construction. He stated there was a need to hire a construction manager to oversee the construction of the new terminal. He stated representatives of the Aeronautics Board, Building Authority, Airport Administration and representatives from County Administration had interviewed several Construction Management firms. He stated Skanska USA, an International Firm located in Portage, Michigan was selected as Construction Manager for the Airport Terminal Project.

7. National Children's Mental Health Day Resolution

Chair Buskirk reviewed the National Children's Mental Health Day Resolution.

8. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual YWCA of Kalamazoo Women of Achievement Proclamation

Chair Buskirk reviewed the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual YWCA of Kalamazoo Women of Achievement Proclamation.

9. Executive Session

Commissioner Jack Urban 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) and 8 (e) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations and to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the lawsuit Sampsell vs. Kalamazoo County, since an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigation or settlement position of the County.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes:	All members present
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Absent:	Commissioners Ann Nieuwenhuis and Frank Thompson

The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 5:50 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:07 p.m.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Buskirk adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

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David Buskirk, Chair  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners