

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

October 6, 2009

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:12 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Robert Barnard, Jeff Balkema, Deb Buchholtz, Brian Johnson, Dave Maturen, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Mike Quinn, John Taylor, Frank Thompson, Jack Urban

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Carolyn Alford, Nasim Ansari, Dave Buskirk, Grady Biby, Jeff Heppler, John Nieuwenhuis, and John Zull

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tina Becker, Tracie Moored, Lisa Bradshaw, Jimyo Ferworn, Tim Snow, Dave Artley, Lotta Jarnefelt, Undersheriff Paul Matyas, Anne Conn, Jo Woods, Jean Michaud, Dave Rachowicz, Lisa Thompson, Jeannie Himmelein, Kyle Lewis

Vice Chairperson Buchholtz 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 October 6, 2009 totaled \$3,419,313.81. Ms. Moored reviewed the transfers and disbursements on page 2.

2. Parks & Expo Center Items

Mr. Dave Rachowicz reviewed his memos in the packet and gave a brief presentation on the Master Plan for Prairie View Park and Scotts Mill Park. He asked for Board approval to adopt these Master Plans at this evening's Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Kyle Lewis reviewed the memo in the packet regarding the Trail Usage Study for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. He stated the goal was to hire Michigan State University to conduct a 3-year study of trail usage on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail for the amount of \$59,256. He stated the Kalamazoo County Parks was developing and implementing programs and events to increase usage and maximize the benefits of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

Mr. Dave Rachowicz reviewed his memo in the packet and asked for the Board to approve changes to the Kalamazoo County Park Rules. He stated the proposed changes would make the County Park Rules related to the possession, transportation, and discharge of firearms compliant with State Laws.

3. Pension Appeals Committee

Ms. Tracie Moored reviewed her memo in the packet. She stated it was noted in the Retirement System Resolution that the system members had the ability to appeal pension benefit matters to the Pension Appeals Committee. She stated the committee had not yet been appointed. She stated this matter would be placed on the October 20, 2009 Consent Agenda for the approval of this committee. Ms. Moored stated the committee would consist of County Chairperson (or designee), County Corporation Counsel, County Human Resources Director and County Finance Director – acting as secretary with no voting authorization.

4. Evaluations

Vice Chair Buchholtz reviewed the evaluation summaries for Administrator Peter Battani and Corporate Counsel Thom Canny. She suggested putting something on the strategic calendar in January 2010 to look at and consider evaluations in general, i.e. to change them or put specific goals into them.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Quinn had concerns that evaluations given once a year wasn't often enough to give feedback.

Corporate Counsel Thom Canny thanked the Commissioners for filling out the evaluations. He stated he greatly appreciates being Corporate Counsel and enjoys working with all the Commissioners.

County Administrator Peter Battani thanked the Commissioners sincerely for his evaluation. He stated he's learned a lot with his job. He stated he was better than he was last year and would be better again next year. He stated he had the best job in the community and remarked he loved working for the Commissioners as a group as well as individually. He stated his door was always open. He stated if he were to get a raise out of this, he would donate the raise to the Drug Court Foundation.

5. Resolution Supporting Project 2020

Commissioner Ann Nieuwenhuis reviewed the resolution in the packet and stated this resolution was in support of Project 2020 "Building on the Promise of Home and Community-Based Services". She stated there was a need to keep people in their homes rather than putting them into assisted living or other facilities. She stated it would be hopeful that the federal government would put more money into investing in home and community based care. She stated this would be economical for the County and better for citizens.

Ms. Judy Sivak stated Representative Upton and Senator Stabenow are co sponsors of legislation and waiting for Senator Levin to come on board. She stated across the state all of the Area on Aging Directors were going to their County Commissions asking for their support to this resolution.

Commissioner Johnson stated he was glad to see this item on the agenda and would be in support of this resolution to be adopted at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting under New Business. He stated this was consistent with the mission of our Area Agency. He stated it had been a constant effort to try and help seniors become more independent.

Ms. Judy Sivak stated this had been studied and proven to save money in Medicare and Medicaid.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chairperson Buchholtz stated if Representative Upton would be co-sponsoring she would like to include his name as well in the resolution.

Discussion ensued. Many Commissioners felt this resolution should be approved at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting. Vice Chairperson Buchholtz stated this item would be added under New Business at the 7:00 p.m. Board of Commissioners meeting.

6. Wellness Program

Ms. Anne Conn gave a brief presentation on the Wellness Program. She requested contract renewal with Holtyn and Associates for the County Wellness Program. She stated the Wellness program continued to surpass earlier expectations. She stated employee participation exceeded the best practice standards, employees were making positive lifestyle changes, and the County was seeing excellent results in cost savings to the County's health care plan. She stated the County had established a solid plan that was not only of great benefit to employees, but had also been featured in the community, and across the State. She also requested approval of the 2010 Wellness Incentive Proposal. She reviewed the incentives in the packet and stated the cost for these incentives were expected to be approximately \$100,000 per year.

Many Commissioners supported this program and applauded Human Resources for doing a great job with the wellness program.

Discussion ensued.

Administrator Battani stated it was his hope that the Sheriff's Department would be able to participate in this program sometime next year.

Chairperson Buskirk arrived at 5:15 p.m.

7. Continued Budget Discussion

Chairperson Buskirk asked the Board if another budget meeting should be held next week. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the October 13, 2009 Budget meeting.

Administrator Battani stated he would like to request from the Board to adopt the budget by October 20 due to the many uncertainties with the state budget. He stated once something was in place it could always be amended later on.

Commissioner Ann Nieuwenhuis thanked Administration and Finance Director Ms. Moored for answering questions concerning the budget. She stated responses were well written and communicated.

Discussion ensued.

8. Executive Session

Commissioner Maturen moved and it was duly seconded that the Board of Commissioners functioning 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 a pending Worker's Compensation claim since an open meeting would have 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 Carolyn Alford, Nasim Ansari, Grady Biby, John Nieuwenhuis, Frank Thompson and John Zull

The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 5:33 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:12 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Buskirk adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

David Buskirk, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners