

## MINUTES

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

May 19, 2009

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:13 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Jeff Balkema, Frank Thompson and Jack Urban

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, Jean Michaud, Jo Woods, Mary Balkema, Frank Weichlein, Lisa Thompson, Bonnie Payton, Steve Gianni

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 19, 2009 totaled \$3,735,973.28. Ms. Moored reviewed the transfers and disbursements on page 2.

#### 2. State Budget

Mr. Don Gilmer gave a brief update on the state budget situation. He stated an executive order was presented and adopted. He stated revenue sharing was in the executive order and it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in statutory revenue sharing but this wouldn't affect counties until they are ready to come back in at the level which they were at in 2004, not at the level they were able to grow to.

Commissioner Thompson arrived at 4:15 p.m.

Discussion ensued.

Administrator Peter Battani stated 15% of the County's revenue comes from the state. He stated staff is on top of this and tentatively plan to have the 2008 year end presentation at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He stated the 5 month financial report to showing how the County stands for 2009 would be presented at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated he felt there would be an impact on the County organization and a multiplied affect and impact of CMH and on the schools next year and that impact would hit the community hard.

#### 3. Seasonal Marine Division Supervisor Position

Undersheriff Paul Matyas requested approval at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting for a seasonal Marine Supervisor position. He stated this was a temporary action to cover the absence of Sgt. Jim DelaBarre, who provided Marine Division supervision during the boating season. He stated a deputy sheriff would be temporarily named "acting Sgt." and also he stated that the deputy sheriff position would not be backfilled. He stated this request would reduce overtime by approximately \$13,000.

Some discussion ensued.

Chair Buskirk stated he wanted it to be noted that at the next Committee of the Whole meeting Sheriff and Undersheriff would be discussing and presenting a plan to do something at the jail situation, and possibly without going to the tax payers.

#### 4. Countywide Phone System Upgrade

Ms. Lisa Thompson reviewed her Board Agenda Request Form in the packet. She stated no board action was needed at this time; however, contracts related to this project would be brought to the Board of Commissioners meeting in June. She stated this project would replace and upgrade the current phone systems, voice mail systems, call processing systems and digital phone sets at all major county facilities. She stated contracts with Siemens Communications, Inc. would be the primary focus on this project. She stated an in-depth comparison of features and pricing of several systems was done which included Cisco, Nortel and Aaya with Siemens coming in with the lowest quote. She stated Siemens had committed to keep annual maintenance costs in line with current annual maintenance costs for a minimum period of 3 years. She stated the funding source would come from the Technology Fund -112.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Ann Niewenhuis suggested it would be helpful to have some background information on the Technology Fund – 112, i.e. when it was created, how much is being put into the fund and also what the major expenditures that was used for in the past, and what is being projected for the future.

#### 5. Health Benefit Plan Design

Chair Buskirk stated Administration was looking for direction as to what resolutions they would like to see for the current retirees.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Ann Nieuwenhuis stated she would like to see a way to build into the wellness program for retirees.

Commissioner Taylor stated he understood the pressure Administration is under and understood what is going on at the state level. He stated he doesn't feel the County is in a financial situation to do anything right now. He stated maybe in the future retiree health may be something that needed to be looked at.

Vice Chair Buchholtz stated she had concerns about not doing anything. She stated she believed retirees should and expect to share in the costs of their premiums. She stated she believed the retirees understood the predicament the County is in and should share in the cost along with many other cuts that the County will have to make. She stated she would like to vote on the full proposal that was originally introduced.

Commissioner Taylor suggested putting retirees on a slide scale as an option.

Commissioner Maturen stated he would like to see two resolutions, one without retiree participation and one with retiree participation. Several Commissioners agreed with this.

Discussion ensued.

In conclusion to this discussion, Board consensus determined to put on the Consent Agenda for the June 16 Board of Commissioners Meeting a prepared resolution that is in support of all the plan design originally drafted except for the retiree premium participation. It was also determined on the non-consent agenda there would be a compromised resolution for current retirees that would be presented for consideration. Administration was instructed to work on this compromise resolution.

#### 6. Sustainability Covenant

Chair Buskirk reviewed the Draft Southwest Michigan Regional Sustainability Covenant. He stated this is something that the Board along with other city commissions, Western Michigan University and other places of higher education are getting together and making more of statement for this community about sustainability and keeping our economy and issues growing in this community and not just burying them under a rock.

Some discussion ensued.

#### 7. Grant Application for Neighborhood Stabilization Funds

Ms. Mary Balkema requested Board approval to authorize a grant application to seek \$2,274,500 Neighborhood Stabilization Funds from the Michigan State Housing development Authority. She stated this approval to submit a grant application would rehabilitate up to 10 homes in the Edison Neighborhood of the City of Kalamazoo and impart of

Comstock Township and demolish 100 housing units in the same areas that have been deemed vacant, blighted and/or unsafe for occupancy.

Some discussion ensued.

Many Commissioners supported this grant request.

8. Principal Residence Exemption

Ms. Mary Balkema reviewed her memo in the packet. She stated the County Equalization Directors and County Treasurer's were given the opportunity to audit and deny principal residence exemptions. She stated the County elected to opt-out. She stated the earlier this issue can be revisited is January – March 2015.

Discussion ensued.

9. Executive Session

Commissioner Ann Nieuwenhuis 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) 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: Commissioners Jeff Balkema, John Nieuwenhuis, Frank Thompson and Jack Urban

The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 6:07 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:13 p.m.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Buskirk adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

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David Buskirk, Chair  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners