

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

October 20, 2009

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Carolyn Alford, Nasim Ansari, Robert Barnard, Deb Buchholtz, Brian Johnson, Dave Maturen, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Mike Quinn, John Taylor, Frank Thompson, Jack Urban and John Zull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Jeff Balkema, Dave Buskirk, Grady Biby, Jeff Heppler and John Nieuwenhuis

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tina Becker, Tracie Moored, Lisa Bradshaw, Julie Freeman, Tim Snow, Dave Artley, Lotta Jarnefelt, Sheriff Rick Fuller, Dave Rachowicz, Lisa Thompson, Jeannie Himmelein, Susan Sayles, Tina Keifer, Tammy Lahman, Mary Balkema, Mark Caley, Jeff VanBelle, Jo Woods, Lt. Paul Baker, Dave Schneider

Vice Chair 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 20, 2009 totaled \$2,431,260.05. Ms. Moored reviewed the transfers and disbursements on pages 2-8.

2. At Large Drain Assessment Rolls

Drain Commissioner Pat Crowley reviewed her memo in the packet. She stated she lay before the Board of Commissioners the at-large drain assessments for 2010. She stated these were assessments that are owed by the local units of government, including the Road Commission and railroads that are needed to: 1) replenish money borrowed from the revolving drain fund, 2) pay off notes, and 3) provide minimum funding levels for some districts. She stated it was the Board of Commissioners duty to order and direct that the assessments be spread upon the tax roll of the municipalities at-large affected.

3. Continued Budget Discussion

County Administrator Peter Battani stated his preference would be to adopt the budget as recommended or adopt as the Board choose to amend it at tonight's Board of Commissioner's meeting. He stated the budget must be balanced by law.

Ms. Tracie Moored handed out Budget Book replacement pages 15 & 16 for the Airport section. She stated this was due to the airport updating their annual budget. She also stated Administration was still recognizing the \$85,598,700 operational budget. She stated under new funding requests was the reconciliation of 2010 budget.

Ms. Susan Darling reviewed her handout memo on the Drug Treatment Court Programs. She stated the memo was a breakdown of the three drug treatment courts. She stated under the Men's Drug Treatment Court Program they were awaiting Byrne Grant Funding of \$135,000 to be awarded. Ms. Darling said no programs or services were being cut.

Commissioner Taylor questioned what the total funding dollar amount was last year compared to this year. He stated how it was funded wasn't as important to him as the level of service provided.

Commissioner Johnson had concerns about Juror reimbursement. He stated that the people serving should receive the same reimbursement as County employees do.

Commissioner Urban reviewed the Juror Expenses table handout regarding the mileage and parking expenses. He stated the County should consider raising the reimbursement rate to the IRS rate.

Commissioner Ann Nieuwenhuis stated many citizens consider it their civic duty to serve on a jury and accept the parking and mileage the way it was.

Discussion ensued.

Many Commissioners had concerns with consumers having to pay for their own parking to do their civic duty.

Ms. Tracie Moored stated more research needed to be done regarding the IRS reimbursement. She stated the reimbursement that was established by the IRS was an employer related expense set at 55 cents. She had concerns if the County could reimburse that high since it is a non employee related expense.

Corporate Counsel Thom Canny stated there was no cap with the statute on reimbursement. He stated the County could reimburse jurors above and beyond the current 10 cents per mile at a reasonable rate.

Commissioner Barnard had concerns if the jurors had complained about the mileage and parking in the past. Prosecutor Jeff Fink stated they meet occasionally with jurors to talk about a trial and ask for comments for concerns that they may have. He stated jurors hadn't routinely complained to staff about mileage being low but had on occasion stated a concern.

Many Commissioners recommended free parking for jurors and to increase the mileage rate.

Ms. Tracie Moored stated in the budget there had been an increase from 10 cents per mile to 20 cents per mile.

County Administrator Peter Battani stated it was Administrations recommendation for the mileage being paid out, to be moved from 10 cents to 20 cents per mile.

Commissioner Urban stated a set rate should be established and uniformly disclaimed.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Buchholtz had concerns about the elected officials salaries. She also stated if there were concerns over the Drug Treatment Court Program, parking and mileage and the issue of banding from previous discussions after being placed on the floor at the Board of Commissioners meeting to adopt the budget; a motion to amend the budget could be made at that time.

Discussion ensued.

4. Any other items

Commissioner Barnard had concerns about Item EE under New Business being added at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting. He requested confirmation be made to individuals on the list as to if they had been heard instead of leaving them in limbo.

County Administrator Battani noted this and stated Administration would look into it.

5. Executive Session

Commissioner Zull 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 Jeff Balkema, Grady Biby, Dave Buskirk and John Nieuwenhuis

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

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