

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Jeff Heppler, Scott McGraw, Stephanie Moore, Larry Provancher, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, John Taylor, Roger Tuinier and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Lisa Bradshaw, Kristine Cunningham, Mary Balkema, Tim Snow, Pat Crowley, Lisa Thompson, Lotta Jarnefelt, Jeff Getting, Lucinda Stinson, Lynne Norman, Rachel Grover, Ken Bobo, Paul Matyas, Dina Sutton

Chairman Taylor convened the Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for February 3, 2015 totaled \$2,227,970.56.

2. Board Retreat

Chairman Taylor stated the Retreat would be held on February 28th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the County Administration Building.

Commissioner Rogers stated she would like the tables set up differently, maybe in a circle/roundtable type setting.

3. MAC Legislative Conference

Chairman Taylor suggested that new Commissioners attend this Conference as it was very beneficial. Many Commissioners expressed interest.

4. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

Chairman Taylor asked Mr. Kyle Peczynski from Levin Energy Partners to do a presentation about PACE. Mr. Peczynski gave a summary of what PACE was and how it worked.

Commissioner Tuinier wanted to know if the funds were going to be used for County buildings or private properties and Mr. Peczynski indicated any property would be eligible.

Commissioner Shugars wanted to know what the interest rates would be and what would happen if the property was located within the City of Kalamazoo. Mr. Peczynski stated no public dollars would be used and that interest rates would be floated.

Discussion ensued.

Corporate Counsel Mr. Thom Canny indicated the funding was with a private lender and a private business. He stated a PACE District would be created and a special assessment would be done on the property and the County would be the guarantor.

Treasurer Balkema indicated language would be added that stated the PACE lien runs with the property and has the same priority and status as other property taxed and assessment liens. The County has all rights in the case of delinquency and the payment of an assessment as it does with other delinquent property taxes.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to know if there would be an administrative fee charged to offset any expenses incurred by the county Treasurer. Mr. Peczynski indicated there was a provision in the language that would allow for administrative fees; however the language did not set the rate. She also wanted to know if there would be an annual report to the Board and Mr. Peczynski indicated he would be willing to do so. He also indicated the information would be entered in the Energy Star Portfolio at a later time. Commissioner Rogers indicated she was very supportive of this Program and indicated the County could be a leader for energy efficiency.

Commissioner Provancher inquired if the local municipalities could also do a PACE District and Mr. Peczynski indicated that yes they could.

Mr. Canny stated if the Board was interested Administration would prepare a Resolution to start the PACE Program and could discuss at the next meeting.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired what Kalsec would do with the funds and they indicated they were looking at solar programs in the amount of \$500,000.

Commissioner Seals stated he was very supportive of this.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the economic development impact could be beneficial to Kalamazoo County. He wanted to know if this program was for existing companies or could it be for new businesses and Mr. Peczynski indicated both.

5. Amendments to Personnel Policies

Ms. Kristine Cunningham, Human Resources Director indicated the policies were for discussion only and were related to non-union employees. She indicated they were minor changes and would bring the policies up to date. She indicated labor attorneys would be reviewing the entire Personnel Policy Manual later this year.

Commissioner Moore stated Ms. Cunningham was doing a great job. She reviewed her recommendations.

Commissioner Rogers reviewed her recommendations.

Commissioner Gisler suggested that the Board might want to wait to make these changes until the outside counsel reviewed the Manual.

Commissioner Shugars cautioned the Board that there were legal, financial, and unintentional consequences that the Board should be aware of. He suggested maybe an ad hoc committee be formed.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tuinier stated there were things legally that employers cannot do. He also stated it was important that the Board support Human Resources and felt some clarification on some items was acceptable.

Ms. Moored stated there was an employee benefit book that Administration could go through with any Commissioner. She stated 90% of the recommended changes mirrored what was negotiated with the County's collective bargaining units first and now were being made to the non-union employee personnel policies.

Commissioner Wordelman wanted to know what the timeline was for reviewing the Policies and Ms. Cunningham stated labor counsel would review the personnel policies in March. He suggested an ad hoc Committee be created.

Commissioner Gisler stated that with a large organization there would be employees who would take advantage of the system and the Board should be cautious when making too many changes as it may hurt more employees than do good.

Commissioner Shugars suggested the Board give written comments to staff and let staff and legal counsel review them and bring back the recommendations and have a conversation at that time.

Commissioner Gisler stated he didn't want the Board to draft the policy; he would rather see what outside counsel comes up with and review the policies then.

Chairman Taylor stated these policies would be on for action on February 17th and asked the Board to pass on their notes to Human Resources.

6. Administrator Search

Ms. Cunningham stated the top three firms submitted by Commissioners were as follows:

1. GovHR USA
2. Slavin Management Consultants
3. Hiring Solutions, LLC

Commissioner Shugars thanked Ms. Cunningham for her work on her RFP and stated he thought it was a beneficial process for her to go through.

Discussion ensued on time line.

Mr. Canny suggested meeting on March 10 and do interviews with the top 3 firms.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Taylor stated that interviews would occur on March 10th starting at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Moore stated that process should be as open as possible.

Chairman Taylor stated people would be more interested in the candidates vs. the search firms.

Ms. Cunningham stated she would prepare draft questions and send to the Board ahead of time.

7. Any other items

There were no other items.

8. Executive Session

Commissioner Seals moved and it was duly seconded that the Board of Commissioners, functioning as a Committee of the Whole, go into a closed session pursuant to Section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of consulting with the County's attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in the matter of Westfield

vs. Kalamazoo County, et al because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial 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: None

The motion carried.

9. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners