

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MARCH 17, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 3:56 p.m. – 6:25 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, Dina Sutton, Kristine Cunningham, Lisa Bradshaw, Rick Fuller, Mary Balkema, Tina Keifer, Judge Bell, Judge Santoni, Rebecca May, Steve Burnham, Pat Crowley, Lotta Jarnefelt, Sue Darling, Ann Filkins, Ruth Gruizenga, Rachel Grover, Jeff Getting, Ken Bobo

Chairman Taylor convened the Committee of the Whole at 3:56 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for March 17, 2015 totaled \$3,959,311.93. She indicated there were budget transfers for Friend of the Court, Sheriff and Health and Community Services.

2. State of the Courts

Judge Bell presented a power point presentation to the Board.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Judge Bell for his presentation; she stated she was very impressed with the successes of the Courts.

Commissioner Seals thanked Judge Bell for his presentation and thanked the Courts for their hard work.

Commissioner Provancher wanted to know if there were any numbers available on recidivism with the Drug Courts and Judge Bell stated he didn't have those numbers readily available but would get them to the Board.

Commissioner Moore stated she had been working on the Lou Walker events and wanted to know if Circuit Court was going to be a part of the panel and Judge Bell stated it was being community led but would be willing to participate.

Judge Santoni presented a power point presentation to the Board.

Commissioner Shugars inquired what was owed in tax garnishments and Judge Santoni said it was approximately \$8.5 million.

Commissioner Moore inquired if the \$8.5 million included those doing community service to pay down their debt and Judge Santoni indicated that could be part of it and even if they did community service the person still had some fees they had to pay.

Commissioner Moore expressed concerns about the inmate sweep accounts and not putting an individual in further financial hardship and Judge Santoni indicated the Court did work with the individuals.

Commissioner Moore expressed concerns with money garnishments.

3. Business Technology Research Park (BTRP) 2.0 in Oshtemo Township

Ms. Lotta Jarnefelt, Planning & Community Development Director, introduced Mr. Bob Miller, Mr. Greg Milliken and Mr. Joe Agostinelli. She stated the item was for discussion only as County Administration and Finance needed to evaluate the project.

Mr. Miller, Mr. Milliken and Mr. Agostinelli presented a power point presentation to the Board concerning the Business Technology Research Park 2.0 project.

Commissioner Gisler inquired who owned the land to the east side of Drake Road and Mr. Miller indicated WMU owned the property and was part of the Asylum Lake.

Commissioner Wordelman wanted to clarify that without the County's financial support the project would not move forward. Mr. Agostinelli stated the debt service by Oshtemo Township cannot support the project. He stated at this point they had not been able to find any other financing. He stated State grant dollars were available but those funds could not be utilized without backing and support.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was very supportive of economic development and was supportive in general about the project but wanted additional information.

Commissioner Shugars stated he would like the group to look at different financing options.

Commissioner Seals stated there were other areas of the county that needed assistance and he felt Oshtemo Township was benefiting far too much.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he felt the project was worthwhile and felt PA 425 was worth looking into.

Commissioner McGraw inquired if there were any other industrial development parks besides the BTRP 1 and Mr. Agostinelli stated there weren't many.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Taylor inquired if WMU had any thoughts on selling the BTR land and Mr. Miller indicated they did not because it did not fit with WMU's vision.

4. Brownfield Plan Site Loan/Grant with MDEQ

Ms. Jarnefelt reviewed her memo as included in the packet; she indicated it was for discussion only. She stated the BRA was asking the County Board to support the loan application and adopt a Resolution at the April 7th meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers stated MDEQ reached out to the County's Brownfield Authority to apply for the grant.

5. Brownfield Plan Site – Portage

Ms. Jarnefelt reviewed her memo as included in the packet; she indicated it was for discussion only.

Commissioner Wordelman inquired if Accu-Mold owned the land and Mr. Agostinelli indicated they would be new owners of the property.

Commissioner Shugars wanted to know how the sewer/water became contaminated and Mr. Agostinelli indicated the property was not contaminated, but qualified due to functionally obsolete property to high functional use.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was very supportive of this project.

6. Administrator Search Process

Chair Taylor stated at the last meeting the Board was split and was allowing the Board the opportunity to express their concerns. He indicated a decision would be made at the Board meeting tonight.

Commissioner Provancher stated public sector experience was very important to him.

Commissioner Gisler stated public sector experience was important to him as well; although he was not pleased with how Human Resources staff was treated.

Commissioner Moore stated she concurred. She stated the Board needed someone with experience and could deal with the political arena.

Commissioner Shugars stated how a company treated staff spoke volumes. He stated Hiring Solutions had someone who had graduated from college locally and was located within Michigan. He also stated he was impressed with their testing modules.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he felt public experience was important; although he did like to hire locally.

Commissioner McGraw stated there were two qualified candidates. He stated he was leaning towards public sector experience.

Commissioner Rogers stated she reached out to the City of Kalamazoo and received their input and was impressed by GovHR.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he would be abstaining from voting on this issue. He stated all three candidates had pros and cons and stated even the Board had hesitations with the candidates.

Commissioner Seals stated he concurred with Commissioner Shugars comments.

Vice Chair Heppler stated the Administrator candidate was the decision of the Board and he felt experience was important but also felt Hiring Solutions would also do a good job.

Chair Taylor stated due to the discussions it was the conclusion that GovHR would be awarded the Contract.

Discussion ensued.

7. Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution

Commissioner Rogers indicated she would like to have the Board pass a Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution at its next meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

8. Any other items

Chair Taylor indicated, if alright with the Board, in two weeks on the agenda would be a Public Health Week Proclamation.

It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

Chair Taylor stated he was forming an ad hoc committee to review the County's Qualified Bidders Policy and would bring a report back to the Board. He stated he along with Commissioners Seals and McGraw would serve on this committee.

Vice Chair Heppler stated at the Dispatch Authority Board meeting discussion occurred about the County loaning the Dispatch Authority funds until monies levied were received. He stated a formal request would be made in the future.

Commissioner Moore stated she wanted clarification about the Community Action Tripartite Advisory Board (CATAB) appointment on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Chair Taylor reminded Commissioner Moore about his conversations with her concerning this matter and it was his decision to remove her from the CATAB.

9. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

10. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners