

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 18, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:22 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Carolyn Alford, Dave Buskirk, Jeff Heppler, Dave Maturen, Michael Seals, Phil Stinchcomb, John Taylor, Roger Tuinier and John Zull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Brandt Iden, Julie Rogers.

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Lisa Bradshaw, Timothy Snow, Paul Matyas, Mary Balkema, Judge Bell, Judge Bridenstine, Sue Darling, Steve Burnham, Mary Haskamp, Amanda Mulholland, Ruth Gruizenga, Ann Filkins, Jeff Getting, Linda Vail, Kelly Ball, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dina Sutton

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

1. State of the Courts Presentation

Judge Curtis Bell and Judge Paul Bridenstine presented a PowerPoint presentation concerning the State of the Courts.

Chairman Maturen thanked the Courts for their presentation and stated he was very proud of them.

Commissioner Seals stated he was also proud of the Courts and how well they worked with citizens. He did inquire about the status of the Veterans Court.

Judge Bridenstine indicated there probably were veterans within various courts already, such as Mental Health and Sobriety Court; he stated the Courts were not ready to have a Veterans Court at this time.

Judge Bell concurred with Judge Bridenstine.

Commissioner Seals stated he would like to see how many veterans were going through the various specialty courts; therefore maybe a Veteran's court wasn't necessary.

Commissioner Taylor inquired how the new indigent defense law was working and Judge Bell stated implementation had not occurred yet.

Commissioner Zull inquired about the Michigan Supreme Courts suggestion of having one Chief Judge for all the Courts and Judge Bridenstine indicated the Plan that was submitted was accepted and hoped there wouldn't be any changes as the Courts liked the set up they had now.

Commissioner Alford thanked the Judges and staff for all their hard work. She stated she was very impressed with the use of technology within the Courts. Judge Bell indicated Ms. Ruth Gruizenga was the person responsible for the technology upgrades.

Commissioner Alford inquired about the issue of security and safety within the Courts.

Judge Bell indicated it was still a huge concern, particularly at the Family Court Division. He did state that with the new Gull Road Court Facility some of these concerns would be addressed.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator thanked the Courts for their willingness to work with the County. He stated he felt very fortunate that there were very little issues.

2. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Lisa Bradshaw, Deputy Finance Director stated claims for March 18, 2014 totaled \$1,827,517.04. She indicated there was a release of funds for the Airport Duncan Aviation Project.

3. Deeded Parcels to Land Bank Authority

Ms. Mary Balkema, Treasurer reviewed her memo as included in the packet.

Commissioner Alford inquired what would happen to the properties once demolished and Ms. Balkema stated she would deed the properties back to the County.

Commissioner Taylor inquired what the County's plan was for the properties. Mr. John Faul, Deputy Administrator, indicated short term plan was to use for overflow parking during construction of the Gull Road Court Facility.

Commissioner Alford inquired how long the construction project was going to last and Mr. Faul indicated through 2016.

4. Medical Examiner Contract

Ms. Linda Vail, HCS Director reviewed her memo as included in the packet. She introduced Mr. Hal Jenson, Dean of Western Michigan University School of Medicine and Ms. Joyce DeJong, Medical Examiner.

Ms. DeJong indicated she was very excited about this effort.

Commissioner Stinchcomb arrived at 4:54 p.m.

Mr. Jenson stated he was very excited about the new medical school and the fact that there would be a Pathology Department was going to be very beneficial.

Commissioner Seals inquired if there would be a DNA lab at the school and Ms. DeJong indicated not in the immediate future.

Commissioner Heppler inquired if death certificates would continue to be issued in a timely manner and Ms. DeJong indicated death certificates were not transmitted electronically and there should not be any issues.

5. Next Generation E911 Dispatch

Mr. Battani reviewed his memo as included in the packet. He stated this was a request on behalf of the five PSAPs to assist with the consolidation of E911 Dispatch.

Commissioner Heppler stated he and Commissioner Seals had a meeting with Mr. Wheatley and indicated he felt he was more than qualified and felt he would be able to assist with expediting this process.

Commissioner Taylor inquired what Mr. Wheatley's role would be.

Mr. Battani indicated he would convene the meetings; he indicated Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel, had been working with the other four PSAPs attorneys and was working on language.

Discussion ensued.

6. Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution

Chairman Maturen indicated the resolution would be on the agenda in two weeks unless there were any issues.

7. Any other items

Commissioner Alford stated she would like to know how the decision was made on which presentations were done during the Committee of the Whole and which presentations were done during the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Discussion ensued.

8. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

9. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners