

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

APRIL 19, 2016

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 6:27 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: Tracie Moored, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tom O'Brien, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Lisa Thompson, Eric McNamara, Randy Winterowd, Judge Bell, Judge Santoni, Sue Darling, Ann Filkins, Julie Pioch, Pat Crowley, Mary Balkema, Jeff Getting, Tim Snow, Rick Fuller, Rachel Grover, Steve Burnham, Dina Sutton

Chairman Taylor convened the Committee of the Whole at 2:00 p.m.

1. Retreat Review & Update

Commissioner Rogers arrived at 2:07 p.m.
Commissioner Provancher arrived at 2:11 p.m.
Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 2:36 p.m.

The Board received presentations from the following architectural & engineer firms for the Alcott Street Property site:

- a. Alcott Property Architect & Engineer Interviews
 - i. Tower – Pinkster
 - ii. Eckert – Wordell
 - iii. Diekema – Hamann
 - iv. Discussion

Chairman Taylor asked for input from staff of the firms interviewed.

Dr. Stoltman indicated she would have like to have heard more about lab knowledge and felt the last two had some lab experiences, which was beneficial.

Mr. Winterowd indicated Eckert Wordell had provided a lot of program information to the County over the last few years which had been very beneficial.

Chairman Taylor asked the Board to discuss their selections.

Commissioner Gisler stated he liked the design presented by Tower Pinkster.

Commissioner Seals stated he would like to know how many minorities each company had working for them.

Commissioner Shugars stated all the firms were acceptable, but he would support the lowest bid.

Commissioner Rogers stated two of the firms had great experience with health care buildings and felt that was important; she agreed all three firms were good firms. She stated Eckert Wordell would offer a time advantage as well as them serving as being the architect for the Family Health Center building.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he concurred with comments made by Commissioner Rogers.

Chairman Taylor took a hand vote of the Board and the consensus was to direct Administration to engage in discussions with Eckert Wordell and have a recommendation for the May 3, 2016 meeting.

2. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for April 19, 2016 totaled \$2,489,238.87. She indicated there was a release of funds to the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority in the amount of \$323,004.63. She also indicated there were some budget line adjustments for Health & Community Services.

Commissioner Gisler inquired if the funds being released to the Consolidated Dispatch had already been collected and Ms. Moored confirmed that was correct.

3. State of the Courts Presentation

Judge Bell introduced Mr. Chris Dennie, Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel, who gave an update to the Board on Indigent Defense.

Judge Bell presented a power point presentation to the Board on behalf of Circuit Court.

Judge Santoni presented a power point presentation to the Board on behalf of District Court.

Commissioner Rogers inquired of Mr. Dennie of any best practices and he indicated some initial work had been done and meetings had been occurring concerning creating a Regional Office. She inquired about IT issues occurring within the Courts. Judge Bell indicated the three Courts ran on separate software systems and discussions had occurred and there was a lot of work yet to be done. Judge Santoni indicated the Courts had fundamental different issues which made it difficult to have the same software system.

Commissioner Moore arrived at 4:47 p.m.

Commissioner Seals stated he had some concerns about the GRJC not having a retention pond. He also stated he had received a complaint concerning the indigent defense attorneys not having access to lunch rooms, conference rooms, etc. Judge Bell stated there was a small break room for employees they and didn't want to allow attorney's to utilize this room, however, a possibility would be to utilize the utility room. Commissioner Seals also inquired about drug testing by the Veterans Affairs (VA) and wondered if the Courts would be able to contract with the VA so the Veterans would not be responsible for the cost.

Commissioner Heppler thanked the Judges for the many programs that the Courts have partnered with other law enforcement entities.

Commissioner Gisler inquired about the indigent defense system in the County and Judge Santoni stated the County was as good as it could be, but more funding was needed. Judge Bell stated the quality of attorneys was great, but the system needed to be changed.

Discussion ensued.

4. 911 Surcharge Agreement

Vice Chairman Heppler stated the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority needed to renew an Agreement with the County so the County would continue the collection of the surcharge. He indicated this would be on the May 3, 2016 agenda for approval.

Commissioner Shugars inquired when the Consolidated Dispatch would be up and operational and Mr. Jeff Troyer, Executive Director of the Consolidated Dispatch Authority, indicated at the earliest a consolidated operation would go live August or September of 2017.

Discussion ensued.

5. Brownfield Plan for the City of Portage

Ms. Rachel Grover, Resource Coordinator, reviewed her memo as included in the packet.

Commissioner Rogers stated this was a win-win for everyone involved.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he was very supportive of this.

6. Oshtemo Police Protection Agreement

Chairman Taylor stated continued discussions had been occurring on this issue.

Sheriff Rick Fuller stated he had been very appreciative of those conversations and the partnership that had developed. He stated that further conversations about the future would occur. He stated a revised agreement had been reached, one of those amendments was to include a Community Officer; and another one was to have a Lieutenant assigned to Oshtemo as well as improvement to reporting.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked everyone for their hard work on this issue and was pleased a resolution was reached.

Commissioner Shugars thanked everyone for working together.

7. Administrator Search

Chairman Taylor stated that most Commissioners knew how he felt, but wanted input from each individual Commissioner. He stated there was already an Administrator and an Administrative Team.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the top priority was to do the people's work and fulfill the obligation and what would be most beneficial would be to support Mr. Faul as Administrator through the end of 2016.

Commissioner Gisler stated he concurred with Commissioner Wordelman, however, he stated he didn't necessarily support doing another search, he felt the County had the best man for the job.

Commissioner McGraw stated there was an issue of hiring an Administrator at this time and Mr. Canny stated the Board had statute limitations with a contract length. Commissioner McGraw stated the Board would be pressed to complete a search and offer a 3 year contract to someone before August 1, 2016. He stated the Board should wait and discuss next year.

Commissioner Moore stated she was adamantly opposed with appointing Mr. Faul as the Administrator. She stated there were other options.

Commissioner McGraw stated he thought the Board was commenting on the hiring process vs. appointing someone. He stated there may be internal issues that needed to be addressed and he would fully support hiring an interim, an expert, to address the issues in the County, organizational elements. He stated the Board needed to hire someone not based on party lines.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he was disappointed with the way it came down and how a situation accelerated so fast and the Board had no knowledge of the issues at hand. He stated he would have liked to have known about an issue prior to the situation. He stated some of the Commissioners were made aware and others were not. Commissioner Tuinier stated there was a cultural issue within the County and it needed to be changed.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was confused by the comments being made, did the Board want to appointment Mr. Faul as interim vs. doing a local search until the Board decided to do a full search. Commissioner Rogers stated adding another new person at this time would not be beneficial to solving the cultural issues in the County." She stated she would be supportive of appointing Mr. Faul as the interim County Administrator.

Commissioner Seals stated the Board did have a contract with the search firm to hire the last Administrator and indicated the Board may be able to utilize their services again. Mr. Canny stated Hiring Solutions may not be able to assist the County, depending on what the Boards expectations were. Commissioner Seals concurred with Commissioner Rogers that a Committee needed to be formed to look at these issues.

Commissioner Shugars stated he didn't feel it was useful to look backwards. He stated the structure of an organization should consist of one Administrator/Controller and not two. He stated there were issues with how constituents were being treated and female employees were not being respected. He stated an interim person should be appointed and they should be outside the organization.

Mr. Canny stated the Board should not take a position that the County was not EEOC compliant concerning mistreatment of female employees and he's asking the Board to take position that discrimination had not occurred and not to put the County at liability.

Commissioner Provancher stated he was disappointed with how the issue was handled. He too felt there was a cultural issue and didn't feel the County should move forward with a search firm at this time.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated he felt the search firm could begin the process in November/December. He stated there was a good team in place and the Board was ultimately responsible.

Chairman Taylor stated he was amazed by the comments made by the Commissioners. He stated leadership was hard and the Board was not being leaders. He stated the culture issue was the Board. He stated there was a great team in place.

Commissioner Moore stated something needed to change.

Commissioner Wordelman stated Mr. Faul was the best choice for the County. He stated the Board was limited with its abilities. He stated he supported creating a Human Resources Committee. He stated the Board needed to get its house in order.

8. Board Travel

This item was moved to the Board meeting.

9. Any other items

Clerk Snow distributed the Candidate Primary list for August 2, 2016.

10. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners