

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MAY 5, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:49 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Roger Tuinier

OTHERS PRESENT: John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Kristine Cunningham, Lisa Bradshaw, Mary Balkema, Paul Matyas, Jeff Getting, Tom O'Brien, Amanda Woodin, Lotta Jarnefelt, Pat Crowley, 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 May 5, 2015 totaled \$2,863,333.21. She indicated there were a few budget transfers.

2. 2015 Budget Review

Ms. Moored reviewed her memo and supporting documents as included in the packet.

Commissioner Shugars inquired if there would be additional funds available to the law enforcement fund and Ms. Moored indicated that would not be the case. She indicated those funds would be available next year.

3. Allocated Fund Balance

Ms. Moored reviewed her memo as included in the packet.

Commissioner McGraw inquired about the JAVS project and Ms. Moored indicated Circuit Court did not utilize their entire operating budget last year and normally those funds were returned to the General Fund, however, Circuit Court had made a request to keep those funds for the JAVS project.

Commissioner Rogers wanted clarification on the \$1 million technology budget. Ms. Moored stated that those funds would not be available until next year.

Discussion ensued on technology.

4. 2015 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Resolution

Chairman Taylor indicated this resolution would be on tonight's agenda if there weren't any objections.

5. 2015 Healthy Michigan Proclamation

Commissioner Shugars indicated he would like a Proclamation presented to Ms. Misner for the 2015 Governor's Fitness Award.

Commissioner Rogers stated it was her understanding it was the responsibility of the Commissioner requesting the Proclamation was responsible for preparing the language and Mr. John Faul, Interim County Administrator indicated that was correct. Commissioner Shugars stated he would get a Proclamation to the Board for their review.

6. Responsible Bidder Policy Discussion

Commissioner Wordelman read a prepared statement.

Commissioner McGraw stated included in the packet was a proposal prepared by Commissioner Wordelman; he indicated he was still having a hard time wrapping his arms around the proposal. He thought maybe the proposal might hinder smaller business owners. He stated he would like to have a special meeting with local contractors and builders to receive their input before changing the current Policy.

Commissioner Seals stated he would not only like to hear from the contractors and builders, but the laborers as well. He stated he had concerns with companies opening offices here and utilizing their employees from other cities. He stated personally he liked the Ingham County Policy.

Commissioner Gisler stated he would have appreciated receiving Commissioner Wordelman's statement prior to today's meeting.

Commissioner Moore stated she felt public comment was important. She stated she didn't feel that the lowest bid was always the best company for the job and may exclude some small businesses. She wanted to know why a criminal background check was necessary. She expressed her concerns with the proposal.

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel indicated there may be some bonding requirements that may require the County to perform criminal background checks.

Commissioner Wordelman inquired if there were current county policies for discrimination and Mr. Canny indicated there were.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers stated she wanted further discussion before she would be ready to vote on this proposal.

Commissioner Provancher stated he had concerns with the language with illegal individuals. He stated a lot of immigrants worked on construction projects.

Commissioner Wordelman stated most of the information in the proposal was already being gathered by bidders and was an effort to expand and improve the Policy.

Commissioner Gisler stated he felt the Board needed to take time and review the proposal.

Commissioner Seals stated he would ask that a public hearing should be scheduled.

Commissioner McGraw stated he would like to not only have a public hearing but to have a special meeting to allow others to participate. He stated he would like a copy of the existing Policy to compare the two. He stated he would like to be consistent with lowest, qualified bidder.

Chairman Taylor stated he felt a public hearing be scheduled for May 19th.

Commissioner Shugars stated he was unaware that there was a problem and wondered if the County did pass a policy, would the bids be lower or higher. He suggested maybe have the Upjohn Institute perform a study. Discussion ensued.

Treasurer Balkema requested the proposal be vetted by the County's various authorities as well as Purchasing Department and Finance.

Further discussion ensued.

7. Commissioners' Roles and Responsibilities Discussion

Chairman Taylor stated he received a request from Commissioner Moore to have this conversation.

Commissioner Gisler stated in his experience he had no issues.

Commissioner Rogers echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Gisler. She stated she had conversations with previous Commissioners and it had been practice over the last 20 years. She stated she would not be opposed to reviewing the Board Bylaws and strengthen those.

Commissioner Provancher stated it was up to Board leadership to make those decisions. Chairman Taylor stated it had always been the decision of the Board Chair.

Commissioner Moore stated she wanted to know of the appropriate process to be followed for notification.

8. Any other items

Commissioner Taylor stated Commissioner Moore was requesting travel advance in the amount of \$200 for a Land Bank Conference. There were no objections from the Board.

Mr. Canny stated he followed up to a citizen inquiry about a tree that was planted for former Commissioner Ozier that was no longer present. He said Buildings & Grounds recommended not planting any new trees.

Commissioner Shugars stated communication was vital when decisions were being made concerning Board appointments.

Commissioner Seals stated he suggested planting a tree and having a plaque at the Gull Road Complex for former Commissioner Ozier.

Discussion ensued.

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 5:49 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners