

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:51 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: Terrence Neuzil, Tracie Moored, John Faul, Thom Canny, Kristine Cunningham, Sue Darling, Mary Balkema, Paul Matyas, Julie Pioch, Lynne Norman, Ann Filkins, Lotta Jarnefelt, David Rachowicz, Tim Snow, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Steve Lawrence, Lisa Bradshaw, Jeff Getting, Pat Crowley, Rick Fuller, Vern Johnson, 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 2, 2016 totaled \$2,815,534.96. She indicated there were budget re-alignments within the Sheriff's Office.

2. Law Enforcement Millage

Chairman Taylor stated the millage would be a straight renewal and not a recapture.

Vice Chairman Heppler indicated it was straightforward and was critical for the operations on various departments.

Mr. Terrence Neuzil, County Administrator, stated at the last meeting there had been discussion regarding maintenance language and he indicated the maintenance of effort language was not included in the resolution.

Commissioner Gisler inquired about what the maintenance of effort language meant and Mr. Canny indicated that by levying and collecting the millage it would only utilize the funds for law enforcement services and would maintain the current funding level.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he was opposed to the language and policy; however, it was important to approve the ballot language.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was supportive of the renewal and was needed to continue operating levels.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the new language that prohibits utilizing public funds for promotion of the millage. Mr. Canny gave a review of the language and stated he would send the language to the Board.

Commissioner Shugars arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 4:08 p.m.

Commissioner Provancher inquired about a pending lawsuit and Mr. Canny indicated there had been no injunction at this time.

Commissioner McGraw stated if the County were to do anything, the material should be educational only.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moore arrived at 4:16 p.m.

3. Dispatch Office Space Needs

Vice Chairman Heppler indicated the Dispatch Authority Board was in need of office space for staff for approximately 6-12 months. He indicated there would be space available at County facilities and the County would charge approximately \$400/month. He indicated the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage and Western Michigan University have all offered space to the Authority at no cost. He indicated he wanted the Board to have a discussion.

Chairman Taylor indicated that central service costs were charged to other Authorities and Programs and if the Board decided not to charge it may open up other liabilities.

Commissioner McGraw stated maybe the temporary situation preclude the policy.

Commissioner Seals stated one of the issues with the history of Dispatch was territorial.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers stated she did not support setting a precedent.

Commissioner Shugars stated the Board should not change the policy of charging rent, but put appropriations in the Board's budget to cover the associated costs.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the options should be presented to the new Director and let him make the decision where he wanted to be housed.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he did not feel the Board should change its policy.

Commissioner Provancher stated he would be in favor of housing Mr. Troyer for a year.

Commissioner Gisler stated he too felt the decision should be made by Mr. Troyer and the Board should not change its policy and set a precedent.

Discussion ensued.

4. Personnel Policy 7.03

Ms. Kristine Cunningham, Human Resources Director, reviewed the proposed policy as distributed.

Commissioner McGraw inquired about searching an employee's vehicle and Mr. Canny indicated the County would not be able to search a County employee's personal vehicle only a County owned vehicle.

Commissioner Rogers stated she supported the Policy.

5. Parks Master Plan Update

Mr. David Rachowicz, Parks Director presented a power point presentation to the Board on the Parks Master Plan.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Mr. Rachowicz for his report and appreciated the community input.

Commissioner Provancher stated he would like to see more diverse community input.

Commissioner Gisler thanked Mr. Rachowicz for his hard work and dedication to the County Parks.

Commissioner Seals commended Mr. Rachowicz for hosting the public input session and stated it was a good opportunity to express their priorities.

Commissioner McGraw inquired if the trend was to keep the Parks self sustaining and Mr. Rachowicz stated that was the plan.

Commissioner Shugars stated the infrastructure for the Trail was important and was pleased that the Parks Department was continuing its work on the Trail.

Commissioner Wordelman stated as the Trail grew it would be an equalizer for the County.

Commissioner Moore stated the decision making people at the table were not diversified.

Commissioner Tuinier stated the splash pad at River Oaks was fabulous and was a great asset to the Park.

Chairman Taylor thanked Mr. Rachowicz for hosting the SMART Counties meeting.

6. MSU Extension Annual Report

Ms. Julie Pioch, MSU Extension Director, presented the annual report to the Board.

Vice Chairman Heppler thanked Ms. Pioch for her report.

Commissioner Tuinier thanked Ms. Pioch for her hard work.

7. HCS Lead Remediation Program Update

Dr. Gillian Stoltman, HCS Director, provided the Board with a lead update. She stated funding for lead testing and remediation dropped in 2009. She indicated there were not a lot of children in Kalamazoo County with elevated lead levels, but even one child with elevated lead levels was unacceptable. She indicated there was no Lead Remediation Program in Kalamazoo County and increased testing needed to occur. She also stated better education for parents and physicians needed to occur.

Commissioner Provancher inquired if there were training procedures for those individuals painting homes and Dr. Stoltman stated there were educational opportunities.

Commissioner Rogers stated she, along with several other Commissioners and staff, met with State legislators on Monday on this issue.

Commissioner McGraw stated there was lead remediation training and program requirements.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated many of the entities had their own water lines and water supplies and were required to maintain a plan.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the unknown number of children who tested positive for elevated lead levels was concerning and hoped that all levels of government would step up and do what was required and necessary.

Commissioner Seals stated additional work needed to be done to take the steps to remove lead from the water pipes.

Commissioner Gisler mentioned the article in the Kalamazoo Gazette and Dr. Stoltman indicated the City of Kalamazoo was within the acceptable limits.

Commissioner Shugars inquired if the County had any authority over the water supplies within the County and Dr. Stoltman indicated they were overseen by the State of Michigan.

Commissioner Moore stated she would be supportive for additional resources. She stated education was important but also resources.

8. Board Retreat Update

Mr. Neuzil reviewed his memo. He indicated Administration did not feel two evenings would be necessary and proposed to host one on February 12th.

9. Any other items

There were no other items.

10. Executive Session

Commissioner Rogers 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 [MCL 15.268(e)] to consult with the County's attorneys regarding trial or settlement strategy in Lanier v Kalamazoo County, et al, U.S. District Court case number 15-cv-00665 and Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All members present
Nays: None
Abstains: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners