

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 4, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:18 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, David Rachowicz, Mary Balkema, Linda Vail, Kelly Clarke, Roxanne Bruce, Lotta Jarnefelt, Lisa Bradshaw, Timothy Snow, Jeff Getting, Judy Sivak, Kelly Ball, Dina Sutton

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

1. Land Bank Interviews

The Board introduced themselves and interviewed Michael Collins for a vacancy on the Land Bank Authority. The two other candidates were unable to make the interviews for various reasons and it was the will of the Board to reschedule them for an interview at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

2. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for February 4, 2014 totaled \$3,303,085.26. She indicated there was one budget transfer in the Sheriff's Office.

3. OPEB/Legacy Costs

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator stated it was Administration's hope that the Board would adopt the packet of proposals. He stated he felt the proposals were fair and equitable.

Commissioner Rogers stated she had received calls from both retirees and non retirees and stated there was support for the proposals. She stated she would support the proposals but if changes were made she would not be willing to support them.

Commissioner Zull stated he too concurred with Commissioner Rogers and felt the Board needed to take the necessary steps.

Commissioner Stinchcomb stated he wasn't 100% on Board, but he wouldn't hold the process up.

Commissioner Taylor stated he concurred with the comments made by other Commissioners and he too would support the recommendations.

Commissioner Alford stated she was happy that Commissioner Rogers was happy with the proposals and appreciated the Board leadership and Administration for meeting with her and explaining everything. She would like the County to give retirees additional income to assist them in covering their healthcare costs.

Commissioner Seals thanked the Board leadership for working with Administration and the Board to come up with these recommendations.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated the Board leadership had asked many questions to get to the point where these recommendations were possible. He stated there was a lot of work to do and the insurance companies need to be part of the discussions to get solutions for everyone.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he really appreciated the dialogue that occurred on this issue.

Commissioner Iden arrived at 4:47 p.m.

Chairman Maturen stated this was a good compromise for everyone.

4. Next Generation E911 Dispatch

Mr. Battani reviewed his memo as included in the packet. He stated it was the Steering Committee's recommendation for a Leadership Group to be made up of representatives from each PSAP. He indicated he was looking for two Commissioners to serve on the Group to vet various issues. He stated Commissioner Hepler currently served as part of the group for the townships and he was asking for a democratic representative.

Commissioner Seals stated he would be willing to serve on the committee.

Vice Chairman Buskirk hoped the elected officials listened to their representatives and not be held up by politics.

Commissioner Alford stated she had heard that the City of Portage was not part of this and wanted to know from Mr. Battani if this was accurate.

Mr. Battani stated the City of Portage has been a tremendous leader with this effort and he had a very long term view and was an asset to intergovernmental cooperation, but there was a political changing of the guard at the City of Portage and was feeling less support from his Council.

Commissioner Alford inquired if Mr. Battani felt outside professional leadership would be needed and Mr. Battani stated he did feel this was going to be needed at some point.

Commissioner Zull stated not only did the City of Portage have concerns, but the outlining townships had concerns; he stated he hoped work was done for the fire side of this.

5. Fair Council Update

Mr. David Rachowicz, Parks Director and Ms. Roxanne Bruce, Fair Council Coordinator presented a power point presentation on the Kalamazoo County Fair Strategic Plan 2014-2016.

Commissioner Zull complimented Ms. Bruce and Mr. Rachowicz for their work.

Mr. Rachowicz stated the Fair Council was meeting this week and would share the entertainment information with the Board once available.

Commissioner Alford inquired if Mr. Frank Warren served on the Council and Mr. Rachowicz stated he wasn't a member but did attend the meetings.

6. Older Adult Services Advisory Council Resolution

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated the Older Adult Services Advisory Council requested the Board to honor Mr. Verne Johnson for serving for 17 years.

7. Any other items

Chairman Maturen reminded the Board of the Enbridge meeting on February 12th.

Commissioner Rogers, Heppler, Tuinier, and Taylor stated they would be attending.

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 5:18 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners