

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:26 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Brandt Iden

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Sue Darling, Ann Filkins, Lisa Bradshaw, Mary Balkema, Sheriff Fuller, Tina Keifer, Judge Bridenstine, Tim Snow, Lee Adams, Lotta Jarnefelt, Undersheriff Matyas, Dina Sutton

Chairman Maturen convened the Committee of the Whole at 4:02 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for February 5 totaled \$4,965,438.21. She indicated there were several items that contributed to the claim amount being large. She indicated there were two releases of funds, Child Care Funds and Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority. She also stated there were budget transfers for shift supervisor positions.

Commissioners Heppler and Stinchcomb arrived 4:04 p.m.

2. Review of 2013 Budget/Five Year Projections

Mr. Peter Battani, Administrator indicated he felt it would be a good idea to review the 2013 budget and Five Year Projections.

Ms. Moored reviewed her memo and information included in the packet.

Commissioner Taylor inquired how the property tax numbers were reached and Ms. Moored stated she worked with the Equalization department. He also inquired how the carry over numbers were received and Ms. Moored stated they took the 2013 budget numbers and looked at department activities and divided by the \$88 million. Commissioner Taylor also inquired about the capital improvement funds and wanted to know why we were putting in \$4 million vs. \$2 million that would be required for a bond payment.

Discussion ensued on personal property tax.

Discussion ensued on employee step increases.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was pleased the Board was discussing step increases for employees.

Commissioner Heppler stated he concurred with comments made and wanted to know if there was a policy in place concerning filling vacant positions.

3. District Court – Shaver Road Courthouse

Honorable Paul Bridenstine stated he was before the Board because District Court would be eliminating a judgeship due to a retirement of a judge consequently there was a need to close the District Court Shaver Road Courthouse.

Mr. Peter Battani stated meetings had occurred with the City of Portage concerning this matter. He stated Administration was not prepared to make a recommendation at this time, but was confident an agreement would be reached.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was confused; it was her understanding that the closure was going to happen. Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel stated District Court was going to close the facility, but there were other issues associated with the closure.

Commissioner Zull stated he agreed with closing the District Court Shaver Road Courthouse.

Commissioner Heppler concurred with the comments made.

4. Drug Treatment Court Reserve Funds

Ms. Sue Darling, Circuit Court Administrator, introduced Ms. Ann Filkins. She stated she was before the Board to request \$100,000 from the Drug Treatment Court reserve to cover FY 2013 expenses for the Adult Drug Treatment Court Programs. Mr. Battani indicated Administration agreed with this request.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to know what was being done to reduce operational costs and Ms. Darling stated less grant funds were available and the revenues were not there. Commissioner Taylor stated the Board stated this was a structural/operational issue and needed to plan for this. Mr. Battani stated the Board had instructed Administration that Drug Courts were important to the County and Administration and the Court was working on solutions.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the Drug Court Reserve and wanted clarification that the request was to draw out the funds.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated he agreed with this request; he concurred with Commissioner Taylor's comments.

Commissioner Alford inquired if there were other organizations to seek funds from. Ms. Filkins stated she was working with many organizations, the state, and the federal government to obtain funding.

Commissioner Zull stated he would like to see the mental health court receive additional funding and attention.

Commissioner Heppler stated the expansion at the jail would allow more assessment of inmates.

Discussion ensued.

5. Bylaws Continued Discussion

Mr. Canny reviewed his memo included in the packet.

Commissioner Taylor stated he agreed with interviewing with new appointments but not reappointments. He agreed with the changes recommended for Section 4.1.

Commissioner Stinchcomb stated he concurred with Commissioner Taylor's comments about interviewing but did not agree with Section 4.1.

Commissioner Alford agreed with not interviewing applicants for reappointments.

Commissioner Rogers stated she agreed with the recommended changes to interviewing applicants, she did not agree with Section 4.1.

Commissioner Seals had concerns with Section 2.6C.

Discussion ensued.

6. Board Retreat

Mr. Battani stated the Board Retreat would be held on April 6 at the Gilmore House from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. MAC/NACo Conferences

Chairman Maturen stated the conference information was included in the packet.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated he would be attending the NACo Conference. He stated he felt that another Commissioner should attend and he had spoken with Commissioner Zull and he stated he would be interested in attending.

Chairman Maturen stated there was \$11,000 available to the Board for training.

Commissioner Taylor stated he was fine with sending Commissioners Buskirk and Zull to the NACo Conference. He encouraged Commissioners Rogers and Tuinier to attend the MAC Conference.

Commissioner Rogers stated she would be interested in attending the MAC Conference.

Commissioner Alford asked Vice Chairman Buskirk to send a list of items to be discussed with representatives.

Commissioner Seals indicated he would like to attend the MAC Conference.

8. Reappointments of KCTA Members

Mr. Battani stated it was his recommendation to reappoint the members to KCTA.

Commissioner Rogers supported this recommendation, but would like to spend further time on this issue.

Commissioner Taylor stated he supported this recommendation but would like information on future reappointments.

9. Any other items

There were no other items.

10. Executive Session

Commissioner Zull moved that the Board of Commissioners, functioning as a Committee of the Whole, go into a closed session pursuant to Sections 8 (c) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations and to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state statute.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All members present
Nays: None

Abstains: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 5:48 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:26 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners