

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Tracy Hall, Ron Kendall, Scott McGraw, Stephanie Moore, Mike Quinn, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, Roger Tuinier and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, John Faul, Thom Canny, Dina Sutton, Lisa Robert, Kristine Cunningham, Jeff Getting, Mary Balkema, Rachael Grover, Tim Snow, Jim Rutherford, Deb Lenz, Lotta Jarnefelt

Vice Chair Moore convened the Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Lisa Robert, Finance Director stated claims for February 7, 2017 totaled \$1,879,271.41

2. Brownfield Plan for Stryker Research & Development Project

Ms. Rachael Grover, Resource Coordinator introduced:

Mr. Pete Michell, Vice President- Rockford Construction
Mr. Brent Lalomia, Vice President, Quality and Facilities- Stryker Instruments

Mr. Lalomia reviewed the project via power point presentation.

Commissioner Rogers indicated the Brownfield Authority (BRA) had approved this plan as well at the City of Portage Brownfield Authority. She stated this was an exciting project and would provide funding to assist the Brownfield Authority to become more self-sufficient.

Commissioner Gisler inquired if there was adequate parking and Mr. Lalomia indicated there would be over 1,300 parking spaces.

Commissioner Kendall inquired about the 105 positions being create, what types of jobs those would be and Mr. Lalomia indicated many Engineering.

Chair Shugars asked Mr. Larry Schaffer, Portage City Manager to say a few words.

Mr. Shaffer applauded the County Brownfield Authority for taking the initiative. He stated Stryker had been a partner with the City of Portage as well as the County and was glad this project was moving forward.

Commissioner Seals stated he served on the United Way Board with John Brown and this project was his vision.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked everyone for speaking on the project. He stated skilled trade jobs throughout Michigan was vital and urged them to look at apprenticeships.

Mr. Joe Agostinelli, BRA Chair, thanked the Board for their support not only on this project, but past and future projects. He thanked the City of Portage for working with the County's BRA.

Chair Shugars thanked Mr. Joe Agostinelli and Mr. Larry Shaffer for their collaborative efforts.

3. Board Chair Appointments to Advisory Boards

Chair Shugars stated he did not hear from any Commissioners concerning the appointments. He also indicated that although some alternates would not be able to vote, it was beneficial to have both Commissioners attend their assigned Advisory Boards.

Commissioner Rogers stated she appreciated the time Chair Shugars spent on this. She inquired if it was the purview of the Chair to assign an alternate to the Workforce Development Board.

Chair Shugars inquired of Commissioner Tuinier if he would be willing to serve on the Workforce Development Board and he indicated he would.

Commissioner Gisler inquired about the Advisory Boards that Commissioners were not able to serve on.

Chair Shugars indicated there were certain Boards Commissioners were not allowed to sit on.

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel indicated in most cases those are because of State Statute or the creation of the Advisory Board.

Commissioner Seals indicated the Aeronautics Board meetings were not held every month, but every other month with the exception of August.

4. Board Bylaws Discussion

Chair Shugars asked Mr. Canny to give a summary of the changes to the Board Bylaws.

Mr. Canny reviewed his memo as included in the packet for Items 1. and 2., which would be voted on at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Canny reviewed his memo as included in the packet for Item 3., he indicated this would be discussed by the Board today and possibly placed on the agenda in two weeks.

Commissioner McGraw stated there seemed to be some confusion concerning the intent of the proposed language to the Board Bylaws. He indicated he hoped this would eliminate a Commissioner making a motion on an issue and be excepted to vote on it at the same meeting; he stated he was concerned that this blocked the opportunity to allow citizens to speak on the issue, as well as, allowing Commissioners the opportunity to research the issue.

Commissioner Wordelman as stated a few weeks ago when this was brought forward, he was not in favor of this and had reservations. He stated he would not support this.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he did not see this as giving Board Leadership more authority. He felt this was a good change.

Commissioner Rogers stated in the past the Board did not feel this change was necessary. She indicated unforeseen events came up and needed to be addressed. She indicated she would not support this measure.

Commissioner Gisler stated it was his understanding the question was timing for most agenda items. He stated he would be supportive of this measure.

Commissioner Quinn stated the Board currently dealt with this through parliament procedure and should take advantage of that. He stated he felt this would limit the Board in accomplishing business items.

Commissioner Hall stated she understood the intent, however, she would not support measure.

Commissioner Seals stated he would not support this.

Chair Shugars indicated this item would be on the next Board agenda of February 21st.

Commissioner McGraw stated his intent was to get this passed by a consensus and not be divisive of the Board and to help the Board govern better. Commissioner McGraw stated he would like to withdraw his proposal and asked that this not be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he felt an issue needed to be on the agenda.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he concurred with Commissioner Tuinier' s comments. He stated the goal and focus should be on good governance.

Chair Shugars stated if any Commissioner brought up an item last minute the Board needed to be cognizance of the repercussions, such as budget, staff time, etc.

5. Board Resolution Procedure

Commissioner Seals wanted to clarification that the Board would follow its normal procedure with Resolutions until the Strategic Planning Session and Chair Shugars indicated that was correct.

Chair Shugars indicated the State was proposing closing two Kalamazoo Public Schools and there was some question on the validity of how schools were evaluated. He indicated he was approached about the County Board adopting a Resolution. He indicated there were some additions to the Resolution.

Vice Chair Moore stated there had been a lot of work done since the announcement of closing these two schools. She indicated she had some language changes however she would defer to Commissioners Rogers and Wordelman at this time.

Commissioner Rogers stated there was a Resolution in front of the Board: Resolution in Support of Kalamazoo Public Schools and Local Control of Local Schools. She stated she appreciated the work done by Senator O'Brien and Representative Hoadley for their support.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked everyone for the great work being done on behalf of the children of the Kalamazoo Public School system.

Commissioner Gisler stated he distributed a document, of which he read the first paragraph.

Commissioner Seals stated he was quite surprised by the State's announcement. He stated closing of these schools would affect the entire neighborhood.

Chair Shugars invited Dr. Michael Rice, KPS Superintendent to speak.

Dr. Rice thanked the Board for allowing him to speak to this issue. He stated the closure of these two schools would affect the community, particularly, those children attending these schools.

6. 2017 New Funding Priorities

Ms. Tracie Moored, County Administrator/Controller reviewed her memo as included in the packet. She indicated the recommendations were approximately \$1 million dollars. These will take the place of the 2018 funding requests.

Commissioner Rogers stated she had asked Ms. Moored what the funding source was and Ms. Moored indicated it came through the general fund.

Commissioner Rogers stated in theory she was supportive of these recommendations. She stated she felt these needed to be discussed further, possibly during Strategic Planning.

Commissioner Seals stated he too had similar concerns. He also stated he had concerns with where Indigent Defense funding might come from.

Commissioner Gisler stated he would like to see the Board proceed slowly on these recommendations; particularly because many were position related.

Ms. Moored stated these recommendations may not come forward based on funding streams.

Chair Shugars stated he would like the Board to support Administrations recommendations.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he appreciated the Chair's comments. He stated if any of these priorities changed between now and the May vote he would like the opportunity to review and discuss.

Ms. Moored stated waiting to vote on this until the next meeting would be fine.

Commissioner Seals stated he too had the same concerns as Commissioner Wordelman. He stated he would like the Board to give direction to the Consolidated Dispatch Authority.

Commissioner Rogers stated once again she would like this Board to address this during a Strategic Planning session.

Commissioner Gisler stated an issue he would like to see addressed was the possibility of returning these funds to the taxpayers.

Commissioner McGraw stated the City of Portage was very close to voting on returning approximately half of those dollars to the taxpayers. He stated maybe the Board could possibly give some of the dollars back.

Chair Shugars asked the Sheriff and members of the Dispatch Authority to address the Board.

Sheriff Fuller indicated he was fine with the Board waiting two weeks to take a vote on this issue; however, the Dispatch Authority would like a decision soon.

Mr. Randy Smith, Brady Township Supervisor, stated he was a proponent of Consolidated Dispatch. He stated he was supportive of returning the money to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he was opposed to returning the money, particularly due to those who were renters.

Commissioner McGraw stated he disagreed with Commissioner Wordelman's comments.

Vice Chair Moore stated she understood the arguments on both sides however, she supported Ms. Moored's recommendations as presented.

7. Any other items

There were no other items.

8. Executive Session

Commissioner Wordelman 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 Sections 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

There being no discussion, the motion carried by a voice vote.

9. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Shugars adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Dale Shugars, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners