



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

## MINUTES

### KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 2:36 p.m. – 5:41 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, James VanDyken, Mary Balkema, Pat Crowley, Mega Buwalda, Lisa Henthorn, Amanda Morse, Jeff Getting, Rick Fuller, Dina Sutton

Chair Moore convened the Committee of the Whole at 2:36 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Amanda Morse, Deputy County Administrator stated claims for February 20, 2018 totaled \$1,758,398.79. She indicated there was one budgetary transfer for the Treasurer's Office.

2. Interviews for Corporate Counsel



Mr. Matt Nordfjord reviewed the process taken to get the Board to this point.

Chair Moore asked if the Commissioners wanted to participate in asking questions and the majority of the Commissioners wished to do so.

Discussion ensued on the process. Commissioners removed questions #6 & #8 from the list.

Commissioners introduced themselves to each candidate. The Board interviewed the following candidates:

- Richard Cherry
- Christopher Cooke
- Elizabeth White

Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 3:35 p.m.

Commissioner Gisler arrived at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Moore inquired of the Board if they wished to discuss the interviews.

Commissioner Hall inquired about the next steps, was it the time to discuss and deliberate and Chair Moore indicated the Board should discuss the next steps, expectations.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Mr. Nordfjord for bringing qualified candidates to the Board. She indicated Mr. Cooke's social media was more political compared to the other two candidates. She stated Mr. Cherry or Ms. White were both good, qualified candidates.

Commissioner Hall stated she too felt Mr. Cherry and Ms. White interviewed well and was impressed with their answers.

Commissioner Quinn commended the selection team for bringing such qualified candidates. He stated he would be comfortable with any of them.

Commissioner Tuinier stated of the two candidates he heard he felt Mr. Cooke had more of a diverse background than Ms. White.

Commissioner Wordelman stated a big part of the job was someone who would work with the Board and the various departments. He stated he was most impressed with Ms. White and her answers.

Commissioner Seals stated all three candidates were good. He stated the person would need to be able to grow with Kalamazoo County. He indicated Ms. White had good enthusiasm.



Vice Chair Shugars inquired of the three candidates did any have real estate/foreclosure experience and Mr. Nordfjord indicated Ms. White did.

Vice Chair Shugars inquired of the three candidates did any have experience with the Sheriff's Office and Mr. Nordfjord indicated Mr. Cooke did. Mr. Nordfjord indicated all three were qualified.

Vice Chair Shugars inquired of the three candidates did any have Drain experience and Mr. Nordfjord indicated Mr. Cherry did.

Vice Chair Shugars indicated all three candidates were qualified and would do the job well.

Chair Moore stated she was impressed with Ms. White and Mr. Cooke. She stated she leaned towards Mr. Cherry due to his sound advice.

Commissioner Rogers moved and it was duly seconded to approve a conditional offer of employment for the position of Corporation Counsel for Kalamazoo County to Ms. Elizabeth White, subject to the successful completion of the County's background check process and negotiation of the terms of an employment contract, consistent with the County's wage and fringe benefits policies, and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract upon review and approval as to form by the County's labor counsel.

Vice Chair Shugars stated he would like to rank the candidates.

Commissioner Hall stated she was conflicted.

Commissioner McGraw stated all candidates were outstanding.

Commissioner Quinn suggested allowing the absent Commissioners to watch the interviews before taking a vote.

Chair Moore inquired of Commissioners Gisler and Tuinier if they wished to watch the interviews.

Commissioner Rogers stated she would urge the Board to make a decision.

Commissioner Seals concurred with Commissioner Rogers comments.

Commissioner Seals called the question.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All members present, except  
Nays: Commissioners Moore, Seals  
Abstains: None



Absent: None

The motion carried.

Commissioner Seals moved and it was duly seconded to consider the motion unanimously. There being no discussion, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Chair Moore inquired for citizen comments.

Mr. Zach Lassiter stated a vote during a Committee of the Whole meeting was not allowed.

Mr. Nordfjord indicated the Board acted correctly.

Chair Moore closed citizen comments.

3. Any other items

There were no other items.

4. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

5. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

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Stephanie Moore, Chair  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

