

## MINUTES

### KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE LEGISLATIVE MEETING

APRIL 24, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 7:30 a.m. - 9:07 a.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: Commissioner Roger Tuinier

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator O'Brien, Representative Jon Hoadley, Representative Dave Maturen, Representative Aric Nesbitt, Representative Brandt Iden, John Faul, Tracie Moored, Dina Sutton, Dr. Gillian Stoltman

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Taylor convened the Committee of the Whole at 7:30 a.m.

2. Commissioner Requested Updates

Chairman Taylor stated there were several issues to discuss, as listed below.

➤ MDCH/MDHHS: merger and affect on Child Care Fund

Representative Nesbitt stated there were a lot of questions about the merger, currently they were still looked as being two separate entities but work was being done the fill that gap. He stated there hadn't been any funding cuts yet. He stated the goal was to have a one-stop for constituents to make it easier for them. He stated there was going to be a lot of work to be done with the Federal Government at well.

Representative Hoadley stated the appropriations committee met on Wednesday and there were no cuts to the budget.

Senator O'Brien stated there were concerns with adult foster care inspections, nursing homes, etc. She also stated there were individual areas that both departments have had their own issues. She stated with the merger those issues may not be corrected. She asked that the County keep the legislators apprized of any issues.

Chairman Taylor inquired if there was a dollar amount of savings, and Representative Hoadley indicated it would be around \$2.5 million. Senator O'Brien stated they didn't expect to see any savings in the first year particularly.

Representative Nesbitt stated with any merger initially there would be additional costs.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he liked the one-stop shopping, and the County was having discussions as to where to place its HCS Department and the FHC is also opening a branch and CMH already has a branch there. He stated the County was asking for support to have a MDCH/MDHHS office to also be located on this campus.

Commissioner Seals stated during the regionalization of DHS there were some balls dropped and urged caution when merging. He wanted to know what the role of the DHS Board would be. He stated the makeup of that Board made it difficult to accomplish anything.

Commissioner Gisler inquired how much of the State's budget was allocated to these two departments and Senator O'Brien indicated about 40%.

Commissioner Rogers stated during the County's process of the Child Care Fund, Judge Curtiss Bell discovered there were some case management issues and the Courts have now been working on correcting those issues.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated the goal was to serve those who needed the services the most, however cost shouldn't be the only consideration, he stated those services still needed to be provided efficiently.

➤ County Best Practices and Potential Incentives

Chairman Taylor stated the County had been working on a lot of issues over the last year. He reviewed them via the memo he distributed.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated the County had been successful with its Diversion Courts. He stated the County has kept the number of individuals out of State prisons by utilizing these Courts and Programs.

Representative Hoadley stated there were 106 Specialty Courts in the State of Michigan and they were all fully funded. He stated there were also 18 Swift and Sure Programs in the State and the fund was more than fully funded for the County of Kalamazoo.

Representative Maturen stated he was proud of Kalamazoo County.

Commissioner Rogers urged caution on Brownfield Redevelopment Funds and stated the tax incentives really did work with BRA. She wanted to preserve BRA funds.

Representative Hoadley stated he wasn't opposed to how MEDC disbursed those funds now; he was encouraged that there was a bi-partisan group working on the tax credits. He stated he was comfortable with championing Brownfield Redevelopment funds.

Discussion ensued on Brownfield Redevelopment funds.

Commissioner Gisler stated he was aware that the State of Indiana had a program that allowed the State, County and Municipalities get together and declared sites buildable.

Representative Iden indicated in the State of Michigan one of the issues was MDEQ. He indicated SWMF was heavily involved in changing this. He also indicated there were so many different zoning laws amongst the Townships, Cities, and Villages.

Representative Maturen stated he toured 4 counties with SWMF and identified property available for development.

➤ Medical Marijuana

Chairman Taylor stated the Sheriff had concerns with medical marijuana. He also stated some Commissioners had concerns with the sale of methamphetamines.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated law enforcement had concerns with those who had medical marijuana access and was distributing to school aged children and there were other mixes/concoctions of the product being made, thus putting a straining on law enforcement and the medical community.

Representative Nesbitt stated there were a few issues: medical marijuana was voted in by the people and stated it would be difficult to change the law; however, additional language had been done to strengthen the law. He stated recreational marijuana was gaining support; and there were still the issues of the federal laws but it's regulated by the States. He stated there were a lot of factors involved.

Senator O'Brien stated they did define Dr./Patient relationship. She also indicated there were HIPPA issues involved. She stated dealing with the actual plant was an issue. She stated nobody knows the long-term effects of the use.

Commissioner Wordelman stated his issue was with methamphetamines. He stated he felt the State of Michigan really needed to concentrate on making Sudafed a prescription drug vs. being available over the counter.

Senator O'Brien stated making Sudafed a prescription may be problematic, people would have to see their Drs., the cost may be prohibitive to individuals. She stated pharmaceutical companies were working on changing the ingredients in Sudafed that makes it not be a component for making methamphetamine.

Representative Hoadley stated there was a larger public health issue involved.

Commissioner Seals stated he agreed with Senator O'Brien and with her concerns, but he also agreed with Commissioner Wordelman and his concerns. He stated there would always be another way to make a drug.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Taylor stated recreational marijuana was going to be legal in the near future and he urged the legislature to be in forefront.

Representative Hoadley stated there needed to be a lot of education.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated discussions needed to occur so the State was prepared to handle what was coming.

3. Additional Updates from Legislators

There were no additional updates.

4. Citizens Time

There were no Citizen's who addressed the Board.

5. Any other items

Commissioner Provancher wanted to know about payday lending and what could be done to regulate these companies. He stated people were being taken advantage of and these people were the most vulnerable.

Representative Nesbitt stated the State of Michigan did have some user laws. He also stated it was a fine line to regulate access to capital.

Discussion ensued.

Senator O'Brien stated she wasn't a fan of payday loans as well and she was working on the issue. She stated she has had conversations with lending institutes and they have said financial institutes would not be willing to give these individuals loans because they were such high risks.

Commissioner Shugars inquired about the status of Revenue Sharing.

The legislators stated it was staying status quo.

Commissioner Shugars stated the County at one time was interested in a Dangerous Dog Law and wanted to know if the legislators would be willing to assist the County on this issue.

Senator O'Brien stated the law had a lot of loop holes and was a tough issue.

Commissioner Seals inquired about the Veterans Property Tax and the bills being introduced.

The legislators were working on a few bills and nothing had been finalized as of yet but did have bipartisan support.

Commissioner McGraw thanked everyone for coming and stated it was great to have this dialogue.

Senator O'Brien stated she appreciated these meetings.

Representative Nesbitt thanked the Board for the work they did and he too appreciated these meetings. He stated the goal was to have the budget finalized by June. He stated the unknown would be the results from Proposal 1. He stated he was working on energy issues.

Representative Hoadley stated the appropriations committee was working on a septic code study. He stated he had met with Clerk Tim Snow and shared some ideas on election reforms that would help the Clerks.

Commissioner Provancher thanked the legislators for attending.

Commissioner Seals thanked everyone for participating in these discussions.

Representative Maturen stated the February election was eliminated and that would be of assistance to the County Clerks. He stated the Missile Defense initiative was moving forward and was between Michigan and the State of Ohio. He stated there was County presence in Lansing which was good.

Chairman Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

Vice Chairman Heppler inquired about any progress on the I-94 corridor. He stated that was an issue that the State, Federal and local governments needed to address and fix.

## 6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

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John Taylor, Chairman  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners