

MINUTES

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

May 20, 2016

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 7:38 a.m. – 9:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Jeff Heppler, Scott McGraw, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, John Taylor, and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Stephanie Moore, Larry Provancher, and Roger Tuinier

OTHERS PRESENT: Congressman Fred Upton, Senator O'Brien, Representative Jon Hoadley, Representative Dave Maturen, Representative Aric Nesbitt, Representative Brandt Iden, John Faul, Tracie Moored, Dina Sutton, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, David Reid, Julio Pioch, Rick Fuller, Lotta Jarnefelt, Mary Balkema, Steve Lawrence, Thom Canny, Tim Snow

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Taylor convened the Committee of the Whole at 7:38 a.m.

2. Commissioner Requested Updates

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

➤ DHHS/Alcott Property

Senator O'Brien stated the winning bid would be announced today or Monday and MDHHS was not able to make that public at this time, however, she stated she would let the County know as soon as possible.

Representative Hoadley indicated letters of support were sent for a co-location setting.

➤ Alerts/Community System for Emergency Situations

Chairman Taylor stated Representatives Iden and Hoadley had been working on this issue.

Representative Hoadley said all 3 Bills had passed. He stated Representative Iden's office took the lead on this issue.

Representative Iden stated the Bill came out of the House last week with overwhelming support. He thanked the Sheriff, Prosecutor and Smith family for testifying. He stated Senate would be working on this soon, possibly Tuesday.

Senator O'Brien stated in the FY 2017 budget, Emergency 911 Statewide would be done at a cost of only \$2.2 million and would complement the Bills. She stated Michigan would be one of three States who would have Smart 911.

Commissioner Wordelman inquired about the amber alert sent out last week that was received but was for a situation in the Metro Detroit area.

Representative Hoadley indicated the platform was decided upon by the Michigan State Police and Bills being discussed would allow for a smaller geographical area to be notified vs. Statewide.

➤ Expansion of the Public Housing Commission

Chairman Taylor stated the County currently had 5 members on the PHC and they do a lot of work and the County would like to expand the membership by 2 to get some additional expertise on the Commission.

Chairman Taylor asked the Legislators to look into changing the statute to allow for additional membership.

Commissioner Seals stated the DHHS Board membership was also limited 3 members and with it now being regionalized he felt there should be representation from each County.

Representative Hoadley stated the language could be broad and state up to a certain number of members.

Discussion ensued.

Rep. Hoadley indicated he would review the language/legislation and get with others and get back to the County.

Mr. Canny stated he would distribute the citation/section and a proposed fix to the Legislators.

Representative Maturen inquired if there were other boards that needed to be looked at and Mr. Faul indicated the Veterans Affairs Committee dealt with similar issues the PHC was facing.

- Infrastructure

Vice Chairman Heppler indicated infrastructure was a concern for him. He stated the States infrastructure was failing which affected industry and tourism. He indicated roads, water, sewer issues needed to be addressed. He indicated additional money was needed for I-94 for improvements.

Representative Nesbit stated continued work was being done and additional funding was being allocated by the State. He indicated the Federal government was also allocating some funds to the State. He stated starting in FY 2017 work was beginning on infrastructure to the region and would continue through the next 5 years.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about Federal funding and Congressman Upton stated he signed a letter to get a Fast Lane Grant for the State. He was encouraged the State would get it.

Commissioner Seals inquired about the Business Loop 131/31 and Representative Hoadley stated MDOT was getting ready to look at the traffic in downtown Kalamazoo and maybe we could ask them to look at the Business Loop 131 as well.

Discussion ensued.

Senator O'Brien stated KATS should provide an updated needs list to the State.

Commissioner Rogers inquired of Congressman Upton on what the Federal government was doing regarding the replacement of lead pipes.

Congressman Upton indicated he sponsored a Bill that if in the future that any Federal agency was aware of an issue it had to notify the State within the 24 hours and the EPA would have to come up with a remediation plan.

Discussion ensued on lead issues.

- State ID

This item was not discussed.

- Future of the Community Action Agency
This item was not discussed.

3. Additional Updates from Legislators

Congressman Upton stated opiates were a huge issue and he was going to be Conference Chair to start working on the issue. He also stated the Energy Bill was passed 2 weeks ago and was a real opportunity. He stated work was being done on the following Bills: Pipeline Safety, Zika, Mental Health, and Chemical.

Representative Hoadley stated with State Revenue Sharing there was less money to spend and additional cuts were probably going to be made. He also stated there was a huge funding issue with the Detroit school system. He stated the House was working on a Bill that would require the State government to be more transparent. He said the House was also working on a public threat Bill.

Representative Maturen stated he was working with the Michigan Tax Tribunal concerning Big Box Assessment.

Representative Nesbitt stated the income tax revenue was on the rise which was beneficial; however sales tax revenue was down. He also stated the Detroit Public Schools funding was a challenge because there were 46,000 students who deserved a quality education.

Discussion ensued on use tax.

4. Citizens Time

There were no Citizen's who addressed the Board.

5. Any other items

There were no other items.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners