

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MAY 23, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 7:30 a.m. – 8:53 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Dave Buskirk, Jeff Heppler, Dave Maturen, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Phil Stinchcomb, and John Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Carolyn Alford, Brandt Iden, Roger Tuinier and John Zull

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Dina Sutton, Thom Canny, Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, State Representative Margaret O'Brien, State Representative Sean McCann, State Representative Aric Nesbitt and Congressman Fred Upton, David, Reid, Suzanne Darling, Lynne Turner, Eddie Speaker, Tim Snow, Tracie Moored, Thom Canny.

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Chair Maturen called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. He welcomed and thanked all in attendance.

2. Commissioner Requested Updates

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

➤ State Revenue Sharing

Commissioner Taylor inquired about balancing Revenue Sharing. Senator Schuitmaker targets were being worked on and more information would be known next week.

➤ Road Funding

Senator Schuitmaker stated information was sent to the Senate from the House. She stated more long-term, sustainability needed to occur. She stated legislation was being worked on to charge 6% on wholesale vs. 19 cent per gallon gas tax and 15 cent diesel tax. She stated the tax hasn't been updated since 1997.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Heppler stated he had major concerns with the infrastructure in Michigan.

Commissioner Rogers stated something needed to be done. Citizens were paying to have their vehicles fixed.

Congressman Upton stated the Highway Bill would expire this year; however, the Great Lakes Water Resource Bill was passed this year, which would impact highway because the St. Joseph port would be utilized for construction of roads. He indicated it was his feeling the Highway Bill would be extended for one year. He also the Highway Trust Fund would be out of funds at the end of July.

Commissioner Taylor stated a non-antiquated way was needed to collect funds for the roads.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated he had concerns in which the roads were being built and felt companies needed to be held accountable.

Discussion ensued on the types of roads being built, weight of trucks allowed on the roads.

➤ Personal Property Tax

Chairman thanked the legislature for approving reimbursement from 80% to 100%.

Representative Nesbitt stated it would remove an oftentimes cumbersome tax that can create a significant amount of for municipalities that sometimes see little gain.

Discussion ensued.

➤ DHS/Child Care Funding

Chairman Maturen stated the County recently dealt with an issue concerning DHS/Child Care Funding. He indicated there was a funding shortage that required an emergency allocation of \$400,000 from the County in May in order to fund its child care placements for the remainder of 2014.

Mr. Battani indicated Counties were 100% responsible for the cost of placing abused and neglected children with the County. He said in 1939 the Child Welfare Fund was enacted and the State now reimbursed 50% and the local DHS was responsible for placement of the children. He indicated the severity and cost had doubled in the last 4 years.

Ms. Darling indicated costs were increasing, especially for out of state placement and residential placement. She stated Circuit Court was working with DHS and CMH to see what solutions would be better feasible.

Commissioner Seals indicated the number of Foster Parents were down. He also stated the regionalization of pay back had come into the equation. He also stated more mental health counseling was needed.

Rep. O'Brien inquired if the County was working with the State. Mr. Battani stated the County and State was working together. He indicated the administrative issues were being worked on and understood; however, the rising cost was not under control at this time.

Commissioner Heppler indicated there was a huge increase in crimes being committed by juveniles.

Discussion ensued.

➤ Road Commission/Department of Labor Determination

Ms. Joanna Johnson stated the updated the FMLA Policy in 2013, they have under 50 employees so a new determination was done. EE's filed a Dept. of Labor, Dept. of Labor integrated employer of Kalamazoo County. KCRC attorney says it's a conflict since it is a separate legal entity from the County of Kalamazoo.

Congressman Upton stated he would be willing to speak with the Department of Labor.

Mr. Canny indicated there was nothing stating in CFR, there was nothing in writing; he stated it has been an informal process, no rules or regulations on how to file an appeal and how the process would work.

Discussion ensued.

➤ Additional Updates by Legislators

Congressman Upton stated a tour of the Allied Paper Site would occur on Tuesday, May 27. He also stated next year work would be done on updating Communications Act and 21st Cure.

Senator Schuitmaker stated she had been working on a bill concerning opiates and having counter active medicine in all emergency personnel vehicles.

Representative McCann stated work was being done on road funding, minimum wage, Detroit bills and energy funding.

Representative O'Brien stated the Board was lucky to have a good County Administrator and staff. She stated there was a great working relationship with the Legislators and the County. She stated over the last three years over \$20 billion of unfunded balances were resolved by the State.

Commissioner Heppler thanked the Legislators for taking time out of their schedule to meet with the County and for all their hard work they are doing.

Mr. David Reid, Airport Director, stated Aviation Funding Bill was being worked on since the current Bill was from 1929.

Vice Chairman inquired when the Airport Trust Fund Bill expired this year and Congressman Upton said he did not think it ended this year.

3. Citizens Time

There were no citizens.

4. Any other items

There were no other items.

5. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

David C. Maturen, Chair
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners