

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JUNE 3, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:54 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Dave Buskirk, Jeff Heppler, Brandt Iden, Dave Maturen, Julie Rogers, Phil Stinchcomb, John Taylor, Roger Tuinier and John Zull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Carolyn Alford and Michael Seals

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Lisa Bradshaw, Tim Snow, Lee Adams, Lotta Jarnefelt, Jeff Getting, Dina Sutton

Chairman Maturen convened the Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for June 3, 2014 totaled \$1,781,248.80.

She stated there was one release of fund to Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health – Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

2. Michigan Works! Update

Mr. Ben Damerow, Director, Michigan Works! reviewed his memo as included in the packet as well as a Power Point presentation as included in the Packet. He stated the counties of Kalamazoo, Barry, Branch and Calhoun would merge the Michigan Works Areas. He also stated the County Board would need to approve an inter-local agreement to allow the four counties to operate together.

Commissioner Rogers stated the Workforce Development Board approved this proposal unanimously.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Damerow stated he would support the County sending letters of support to the legislators.

3. Facilities Master Plan Update/Proposal

Mr. John Faul, Deputy County Administrator reviewed his memo as included in the packet. He stated further discussions needed to occur concerning what to do with Michigan Avenue Courthouse and where to locate Circuit Court and District Court operations.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated he felt this was necessary to look at these areas. He stated he felt the membership of the work group should be expanded and thinking out of the box needed to occur.

Commissioner Taylor stated he concurred with Vice Chairman's comments.

Commissioner Zull stated he felt it made sense to work with the City.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was frustrated with the Board because the County did not have an updated Strategic Plan and she felt a Strategic Plan would help the Board and the County as a whole with planning.

Discussion ensued.

4. Oshtemo Township – S. Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator stated at the last meeting there was discussion regarding the S. Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority/Project as well as the plan developed by Oshtemo; however at the same time most Commissioners expressed interest in pursuing a mutual agreement. He stated Ms. Jarnefelt and Mr. Adams worked on a draft Tax Increment Financing Participation Policy which was distributed to the Board and Oshtemo Township. He stated subsequently a meeting was held on Friday with staff, Board leadership and Oshtemo Township. He indicated it was a good meeting and Oshtemo was willing to work with the County. He indicated that the two attorneys's discussed a plan that would allow extending the June 17 deadline of opting in or opting out of the Authority. It was hoped that at the June 17 Board meeting the Board would adopt a policy on dealing with this Authority and future authorities.

Mr. Adams reviewed the Tax Increment Financing Participation Policy for Kalamazoo County.

Commissioner Rogers stated she would like to see specific statements concerning reasons for opting out.

Commissioner Taylor stated he was impressed with this draft policy.

Commissioner Zull wanted to clarify that the Law Enforcement Millage was not included in this policy and Mr. Adams stated that was correct, as well as the millage for the Juvenile Home.

Commissioner Stinchcomb applauded Oshtemo Township for their work on the SoDA. He stated he initially had concerns but the draft Tax Increment Financing Participation Policy assured him that things were in the right order.

Ms. Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Oshtemo Township Supervisor, stated she was pleased with the work thus far on the SoDA. She indicated Oshtemo had concerns with Items 3b, 4b, and 5b of the draft policy.

Mr. Jim Porter, Oshtemo Township Attorney indicated the Township would like a credit for the police and fire capture of funds. Mr. Porter reviewed handouts that were distributed.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Battani indicated the two attorneys needed to work on an agreement for approval at the June 17 meeting. He also stated the County needed to have further discussion and make a decision on the draft policy no later than August.

5. Finance Quarterly Report

Ms. Moored reviewed the information as included in the packet. She indicated Administration felt the County would be within budget at the end of the year.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the additional \$200,000 request from DHS and if the County would have enough funds and Ms. Moored stated she felt comfortable the County would be fine.

6. Any other items

Commissioner Zull distributed information concerning a "Complete Streets Policy" that Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study was looking at.

Commissioner Rogers stated she supported the Complete Streets Policy and would encourage further discussion.

Commissioner Stinchcomb stated he was aware of this as he serves as the liaison on the Road Commission. He stated it was his understanding that this would take funds away from the Road Commission for road projects.

Commissioner Taylor stated he would like further information on this issue.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Iden arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor inquired when the Board would receive an update from the Public Housing Commission and County Administration indicated staff would get it scheduled.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if the Board would like to send a letter of support to the legislators to support funding for Michigan Works!

7. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

8. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners