

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JUNE 4, 2013

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Carolyn Alford

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Dina Sutton, Mary Balkema, Tim Snow, Lisa Bradshaw, Steve Lawrence, Sue Darling, Bonnie Payton, Mathew Hansen

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 4, 2013 totaled \$3,314,666.47. She indicated there was one budget transfer from one grant line item to another.

2. Public Housing Commission (PHC) Report

Mr. David Anderson, Chair stated behalf of the PHC hews asking the Board to put in their 2014 Budget a \$125,000 line item for the PHC. He stated there was no growth in the Section 8 housing funds and although the PHC was receiving some other funding, the \$125,000 was essential to the programs.

Mr. David Artley reviewed a handout concerning the reporting numbers for the PHC. He thanked the Board for supporting this program over the last six years.

Commissioner Zull stated he was on the Board when this was created and wanted to encourage the Board and Administration to keep funding this program.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Mr. Anderson and Mr. Artley for their presentation. She stated this was just a portion of the success, she stated it helped keep people from the emergency rooms, Community Mental Health, etc.

Commissioner Seals thanked Mr. Anderson and Mr. Artley for their work. He thanked the commission before him who created this program and for being proactive.

3. Request to Solicit Bids for Healy Street Center

Mr. John Faul, Deputy County Administrator reviewed his memo included in the packet.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated the county would deal with one construction manager and they would handle all the contracts, etc.

4. Animal Care & Resource Center

Mr. Faul introduced Steve Lawrence and Aaron Winters who have been working on this project.

Mr. Steve Lawrence, Director of Animal Services & Enforcement (ASE) and Mr. Aaron Winters, presented a power point presentation concerning the Animal Care & Resource Center.

Commissioner Seals inquired if there was a partnership like this in the past and Mr. Lawrence stated not for AS&E. Mr. Canny indicated the Parks Department and Parks Foundation was a model. Commissioner Seals stated he was excited about this project.

Commissioner Rogers thanked them for their presentation. She stated she visited the animal shelter and stated it was deplorable. She stated she supported this collaboration and felt it would be more successful with partnering together vs. the County doing it on their own.

Commissioner Heppler stated he would like to see the numbers, wanted to know if it was a county owned building. Mr. Lawrence indicated the County would be leasing space from the Humane Society.

5. Labor Counsel Recommendation

Chairman Maturen indicated there was a committee that interviewed the candidates and was recommending Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, PC. He indicated it was the recommendation to enter into a one year agreement with options to extend for three years.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated there were three interviews, and two of them were good candidates. He indicated both of firms had issues, and as much as he would like to award locally, he deferred to the staff who would be working with the individuals.

Sheriff Rick Fuller stated he was confident in the firm that was being recommended.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to know if the attorney the county had two times ago was with Cohl and it was indicated this was not correct. She also wanted to know about the travel costs associated with this firm. Mr. Canny stated it was typical for an attorney to charge for travel time, however, he had not seen the agreement. Ms. Moored indicated she had spoken to the firm concerning this as well as the 30 day out clause.

Chairman Maturen stated Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, PC was very qualified and this was their sole focus and specialty. He stated Kreis Enderle only had two attorneys' that had the knowledge and experience.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 5:01 p.m.

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator stated the hiring of labor counsel was one of the most important decisions the Board was going to make this year. He stated this could affect the county monetarily. He stated Kreis Enderle was a good firm, but did not specialize in this area.

Discussion ensued.

6. Equalization Director Retirement/Appointment

Mr. Battani reviewed his memo as included in the packet. He stated it was his recommendation, along with Administration to promote Mr. Mathew Hansen, Deputy Director of Equalization as Equalization Director upon Ms. Payton's retirement.

Commissioner Taylor stated he concurred with this recommendation and succession plan.

Chairman Maturen stated Item F. on the Board agenda at tonight's meeting was a Resolution to Levy; Chairman Maturen indicated that this was a formality of approving a millage that was already adopted during the 2013 budget process. He indicated the Board was only adopting the millage rate.

Commissioner Zull thanked Ms. Payton for her service to the County.

7. Pension Plans Review (Continued)

This item was postponed.

8. Any other items

Ms. Mary Balkema, Treasurer, reviewed her memo in the Board packet concerning the Resolution to acquire tax foreclosed properties. She indicated many of the properties had clouded titles.

Discussion ensued.

9. Executive Session

Commissioner Seals moved that the Board of Commissioners, functioning as a Committee of the Whole, go into a closed session pursuant to Section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of consulting with the County's attorney regarding trial or settlement negotiations in the matter of Anderson vs. Kalamazoo County et al and Armstead vs. Kalamazoo County et al because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation or settlement position of the County.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes:	All members present
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Absent:	None

The motion carried.

The motion carried and the Board moved into executive session at 5:46 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:25 p.m.

10. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners