



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 5, 2018

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Tracy Hall, Ron Kendall, Scott McGraw, Stephanie Moore, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, Roger Tuinier, and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Julie Rogers, Mike Quinn

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, Lisa Henthorn, Amanda Morse, Kristine Cunningham, Tim Snow, Diane Erikson, Mary Balkema, Mathew Hansen, Jeff Getting, Lotta Jarnefelt, Rachael Grover, Tim Meeker, Jim Rutherford

Chair Moore convened the Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Disbursements - Ms. Amanda Morse

Ms. Amanda Morse, Deputy County Administrator indicated there were disbursements in the amount of \$1,759,387.96.

Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 4:14pm.

Commissioner Kendall arrived at 4:15pm.

2. Southwest Michigan First Presentation - Mr. Ron Kitchens

Mr. Ron Kitchens, CEO of Southwest Michigan First, presented the Work Plan 2018 in accordance with its contract with Kalamazoo County. Mr. Kitchens highlighted key factors from the Plan, indicating that the region is at or near full employment, however within the next decade nearly 40% of the current workforce will be retiring. And there will not be enough population growth to keep up with inflation, the cost of public services, or the needs of employers. He maintained that our region is in a global competition for talent and that now is the time to act, to activate our workforce by incentivizing students to remain in the community after graduation, to promote programs soliciting spouses, stay at home parents that need or are ready to return to the work force, and by providing paid internships, assisting with placement, and

other workforce initiatives. Mr. Kitchens described growth and expansion of new facilities, jobs, trades and crafts in the area and reiterated how critical it is that strategy is implemented now to remain relevant and competitive through growth, development, retention and attraction of educated people to our communities. He thanked the Board for its partnership and commitment to ensuring our community is strong and achieving measurable economic development activities.

3. Request Approval for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Resolution on June 15, 2018 - Mr. Jim Rutherford, Ms. Anne Zemlick

Mr. Jim Rutherford, HCS Director, introduced Anne Zemlick, Director of Area Agency on Aging IIIA. Ms. Zemlick addressed the Board to talk about the Elder Abuse Coalition and a resolution before the board to recognize June 15, 2018 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Ms. Zemlick indicated one out of ten people age 60 and older fall victims to abuse, and only 1 in 14 comes to resolution or is reported. She cited awareness, education and strengthening social supports as key to fighting this issue. She thanked the Board of Commissioners for their time and urged them to support this resolution and remind all older adults that they are valued in Kalamazoo County.

4. Resolution Recognizing June 2018 as Pride Month In Kalamazoo County - Commissioner Hall

Commissioner Hall requested continued recognition for June 2018 as Pride Month in Kalamazoo County and the continued celebration of the diversity of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The Resolution acknowledges the County's principal of treating all citizens with dignity, honesty, respect and fairness. Commissioner Hall conveyed that this will be the 11th anniversary of Kalamazoo Pride and that Kalamazoo is host to one of the largest Pride Festivals in the State of Michigan. She thanked the Board for their consideration and support.

5. Justice Against Bullying School (JABS) Awareness Month for June - Commissioner Hall

Commissioner Hall informed the Board that Justice Against Bullying at Schools has been a serious concern for two years, and asked that June be recognized as Justice Against Bullying Awareness Month. JABS Awareness, an anti-bullying initiative, promotes actions, events, and activities aimed at raising awareness about bullying at schools, reaching out to those impacted, and educating the community about its traumatizing effects.

Commissioner Gisler reminded the Commission that resolution limits per meeting were set quite some time ago, and that although he emphatically supports these causes, for the sake of keeping meetings on a timely basis, the limits should be respected.

Discussion ensued.

The above resolutions were moved along to the regular meeting.

6. Set Special Meeting on Public Housing - Chair Moore

Chair Moore presented the opportunity for having a special open meeting to discuss concerns and engage local residents about public housing. The purpose of the meeting would be to determine if there is a will to begin convening a new approach to this very pertinent issue.

Administrator Moored provided some history about the County's concerns and contributions to Public Housing, along with the senior millage issue. Ms. Moored advocated that a special meeting would be a good platform to bring partners together, share expectations, and strategize on how we all can come together to provide the best support.

Commissioner Wordelman talked about providing not only affordable, but hospitable, healthy housing and suggested that HCS Director Jim Rutherford would be a valuable resource for contributing information.

Vice Chair Shugars suggested a compilation of data regarding housing needs in Kalamazoo County is needed and that a new strategy should be adopted that would be more of a catalyst for managing affordable housing.

Administrator Moored indicated the senior millage currently in place expires June 30th, and is hopeful the County can start having that conversation so we have a good handle on what it looks like and present accordingly with the various institutions the County works with.

Commissioner Wordelman maintains that the time has come for reconceptualizing what public housing means in our community.

Vice Chair Shugars recommends establishing discussion before the June 30th expiration date and having a plan in order with other institutions so that collaboration has the best chance of achieving success.

Commissioner Seals recommends meeting prior to the end of the month to assist new families coming in to attend WMU in August have the best opportunities available to them.

7. Consulting Proposal - Chair Moore

Chair Moore and Administrator Moored met with a new consultant, The Bingman Group, to look at policies, inequities, and how the Board of Commissioners can do their best work. Chair Moore requested permission to engage in this endeavor and retain The Bingman Group in terms of helping the Board move forward.

Commissioner Seals stated he was unsure the timing is right. He also advised that additional funding is not in the current Strategic Plan and recommends putting it off for another year.

Commissioner Gisler suggested Chair Moore recuse herself as she is represented on the Bingman website and considers her work with them to be in conflict.

Commissioner Kendall questioned why this work is required at this time and indicated this proposal does not support the County's existing strategic initiative.

Chair Moore confirmed that this firm is needed, and that she brought The Bingman Group forward on a recommendation from another commissioner. The item will be presented on the Board Agenda for June 19th for a vote.

8. Discussion on Moving or Cancelling July 3rd Meeting - Chair Moore

Chair Moore suggested that holding the Board meeting on July 3rd, directly in front of the July 4th holiday, might hinder attendance and queried the other Commissioners about their availability on July 3rd.

Administrator Moored indicated the meeting agenda, at this point in time, is very light, however the consent agenda is unknown until the date gets closer. Ms. Moored suggested holding just a business meeting, possibly earlier in the day, or offered the option of cancelling the meetings all together. Administrator Moored said she had contacted outside organizations to see what their policy regarding pre-holiday meetings were but indicated their meetings fall on different weeks. She asked the Board what they would like to do.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed upon that the business meeting only would proceed as scheduled on July 3rd.

9. Any other items

There were no other items.

10. Closed Session

Commissioner Seals moved and it was duly seconded that the Board of Commissioners, functioning as a Committee of the Whole, go into a closed session pursuant to Sections 8 (c) (e) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to consider a written legal consideration of Legal Counsel.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All members present

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Rogers, Quinn

The motion carried.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairperson Moore adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Stephanie Moore, Chairperson
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners