

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JUNE 16, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:28 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Jeff Heppler, Scott McGraw, Stephanie Moore, Larry Provancher, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, John Taylor, Roger Tuinier and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Kristine Cunningham, Lisa Bradshaw, Jeff Getting, Mary Balkema, Tim Snow, Rachel Grover, Amanda Woodin, Rick Fuller, Dina Sutton

Chairman Taylor 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 16, 2015 totaled \$3,678,622.89. She indicated there was one departmental budget line item adjustment.

2. PHC/Local Housing Assistance Fund Report

Mr. David Anderson, Chair, Public Housing Commission (PHC) reviewed his information as included in the packet.

Commissioner Moore inquired if there would be requirements to prove homelessness and Mr. Anderson stated yes that would be the case, although what would be required had not yet been determined.

Commissioner McGraw inquired about the definitions as listed on the chart, i.e. shelter, transitional housing, etc. and Mr. Anderson provided the definition of those.

Commissioner McGraw inquired how the millage would work and Mr. Anderson stated most of the current work was done by the PHC members. He indicated the millage would allow PHC to hire a staff person to assist the PHC and most of the monies would be used to contract with non-profit entities to place families into affordable housing.

Commissioner Rogers wanted clarification that the PHC supported the millage request to the County Board.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the 60% AMI for qualification. Mr. Anderson stated there was a new qualifying low housing income tax credit that would serve those up to the 60% AMI.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to know the timeline that the PHC would like the Board of Commissioners to make a decision.

Clerk Tim Snow indicated that date to get it on the ballot was August 18, 2015; but the Board would need to be decided by August 4, 2015.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated the PHC – Local Housing Assistance Fund had been successful and this was to assist families to afford housing and/or obtain housing.

Mr. Anderson indicated the millage would be for 6 years, although most participants would be in the program for a year, but some would be considerably less. He indicated the focus would be on school-aged families.

Vice Chairman Heppler inquired if the millage would be on the burden of Kalamazoo County.

Mr. Anderson stated the HUD monies that are currently received go to Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) and was only for short-term needs and it was his hope that this program would be able to work with HRI and assist those families in need.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked Mr. Anderson and the PHC for this proposal. He inquired about the one year cap on services; he wanted to know if there was a safety net.

Mr. Anderson indicated the PHC would assist families with other resources and services and access those in a timely manner. He stated the other piece was to make those families successful.

Commissioner Moore stated she wasn't sure if this funding was going to be sufficient to serve those who need it.

Mr. Anderson stated that it may not be enough funds, however, voters needed to be comfortable and supportive of the millage. He indicated serving 100 would be impactful.

Commissioner McGraw inquired if the PHC had prepared a budget.

Mr. Anderson indicated a budget had not been prepared as of today; however, it was something that could easily be done.

Commissioner McGraw wanted to know how success would be measured.

Mr. Anderson stated there would be benchmarks, such as:

- Where are they when no longer being served
- Are people going back to homelessness or are they now renting their own place
- As well as others

Commissioner Gisler wanted to know:

- How many local agencies are involved in homelessness?
- How much money is spent on homelessness?
- Why a 6 year millage?
- He would like the definitions of homeless as being applied by those doing the monitoring?

Commissioner Shugars stated he would like a one page summary millage, matrix on spending, and where the revenue is coming from.

Commissioner Shugars wanted to know what the intent was of the County.

Chairman Taylor stated he would support putting it on the ballot for this year.

Commissioner Shugars stated if the County was going to ask for a millage for homelessness, then the County should also look at having a millage for seniors, veterans, etc. He did not want to piece meal programs by doing various millages.

Commissioner Provancher stated this millage would assist those families with children, which was very much needed.

Commissioner Rogers stated there was a litany of need in this community; however, she said this proposal would have a huge impact within the community.

Chairman Taylor stated the proposal was a means for self sufficiency and meeting long term needs.

3. Resolution Honoring Laura Misner

Commissioner Shugars stated he was asking the Board to support a resolution for Ms. Misner at the next meeting.

Chairman Taylor inquired if there were any objections and there was none.

4. Resolution Honoring Kalamazoo Rotary

Commissioner Wordelman stated he was asking the Board to support a resolution for Kalamazoo Rotary.

Chairman Taylor inquired if there were any objections and there was none.

Commissioner Shugars suggested officers be invited to attend the meeting.

5. Responsible Bidders Policy

Commissioner Wordelman distributed a revised policy to the Board for discussion. He stated he along with Commissioner McGraw had met and made some additional changes.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired about #15 and Commissioner McGraw indicated this was based on some of what the contractors had expressed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Shugars inquired about 7 years and Commissioner McGraw indicated it was mutually agreed upon.

Commissioner Gisler inquired how many complaints had there been against the current responsible bidder policy.

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel indicated there were 5-10 companies that were not allowed to bid because they did not meet the current policy requirements.

Commissioner Shugars stated he heard from one contractor that it would be beneficial to only renew paperwork annually vs. per job.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the contractor would need to renew the paperwork annually; but certain parts would need to be submitted for each project.

Commissioner Rogers stated she's heard from constituents that jobs were being lost.

6. Any other items

Chairman Taylor thanked Administration for putting together the candidate schedule for June 29th.

Commissioner McGraw inquired about the golf cart issue.

Mr. Canny stated responses had been received on the golf cart issue and those would be put together for the July 7 meeting.

Vice Chairman Heppler stated the Dispatch Authority had met and prepared a budget. He indicated the Authority was asking for a cash advance from the County that would be paid back to the County and the amount being requested was \$173,000. This would allow the Authority to get up and running and pay bills.

Commissioner Seals stated there were a lot of issues that need to be dealt with that required funds.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was confused about the request.

Mr. George Cochran, Kalamazoo Township Treasurer, stated the Authority created a budget for the Authority based on its needs. He stated a Director needed to be hired and the Director needed to come up with a plan. He also stated the Authority needed a legal firm, liability insurance, accountant, etc. but the cash advance was necessary until revenue started to come in and staff was hired.

Discussion ensued.

7. Executive 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) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations and to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state statute.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

8. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners