

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JUNE 17, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Lisa Bradshaw, Pat Crowley, Lynne Norman, Lucinda Stinson, Tammy Lahman, Tim Snow, Jeff Getting, Dina Sutton

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

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Lisa Bradshaw, Deputy Finance Director stated claims for June 17, 2014 totaled \$2,937,779.96. She indicated there were departmental line item transfers.

2. Oshtemo Township – S. Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel reviewed his memo as included in the packet. He indicated the Board had expressed interest in participating in the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan but not how it wanted to participate and there was a statutory deadline in which the Board needed to make a decision; therefore the Board needed to approve a resolution exempting the County taxes from capture by the South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority, but stated the County could rescind the resolution at a future date.

Discussion ensued on a Tax Increment Financing Participation Policy.

Commissioner Heppler arrived at 4:12 p.m.

Mr. Canny clarified what the agreement with Oshtemo Township would accomplish.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if the Board had received the letter from Oshtemo concerning their request for how they'd like the policy to be and Mr. Battani indicated that it had not been shared with the Board at this time because the County was not ready for this piece of discussion. She stated she was frustrated that the County was opting out of this project as other projects had been rubber stamped. She did agree a policy needed to be adopted for future projects.

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator reviewed his memo as included in the packet; specifically, his thoughts that the draft policy would be distributed to the Board, local taxing units, etc. and have comments submitted by June 30 and the Board, at their July 15 meeting would discuss the draft policy and adopt on August 6.

Commissioner Seals stated when he attend the Parchment City Council meeting last night and indicated they had heard about the TIF Policy and wanted to make sure all local units were aware.

Commissioner Taylor inquired when the property would be assessed again and Chairman Maturen indicated whatever work was completed by December 31, 2014 would be assessed for 2015.

Commissioner Rogers indicated Oshtemo was requesting a 90 day notice.

Discussion ensued.

3. Drain Commission Annual Report & Revolving Drain Fund

Ms. Pat Crowley, Drain Commissioner presented the Annual Report & Revolving Drain Fund as included in the packet.

Ms. Crowley reviewed the Revolving Drain Fund Policy as included in the packet.

Commissioner Zull stated it was his understanding that the Drain Office was satisfied with the agreement with Administration and Ms. Crowley stated she agreed to the recommendation from Administration but that was not her initial request.

Commissioner Zull stated he's had a great working relationship with Ms. Crowley, particularly on outside projects and he also had a great respect for Administration and was surprised to hear from Ms. Crowley of her displeasure of Administration.

Ms. Crowley stated she really needed assistance and support from Administration and did not feel she was receiving that.

Commissioner Rogers wanted clarification on what the subcommittee discussed concerning the policy.

Mr. Canny indicated a few meetings had occurred and an agreement was made and at that time it was felt that a subcommittee wasn't needed.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Taylor stated he felt maybe the Board needed to meet with Elected Officials on a regular basis.

Commissioner Seals indicated the County needed to look at other counties in similar sizes as to their number of employees as well as their Revolving Drain Fund.

Commissioner Iden stated he was disappointed in how this discussion was being handled. He directed the Drain Office and Administration work together to get it resolved.

Commissioner Zull stated he felt the Board did need to be made aware of these issues. He too urged the Drain Office to work with Administration.

4. Area Agency on Aging Annual Implementation Plan

Ms. Judy Sivak, Older Adult Services Director reviewed her memo as included in the packet. She reviewed the Area Agency on Aging Implementation Plan.

Commissioner Taylor stated he was amazed by the services that were provided with the resources Older Adult Services had.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the decrease in funding vs. increased funding.

Ms. Sivak indicated the decrease was on the federal side and the increase was from the state general fund. Commissioner Rogers stated she was proud of the services and programs provided.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if there was any discussion on the Senior Millage and Ms. Sivak indicated the advisory board was waiting to hear from the County Board on its decision.

Commissioner Heppler stated he too was very pleased by the services and programs provided. He wanted to know how many individuals were being helped. Ms. Sivak stated so far this year 180 people have been helped. She stated that was just those served by the County programs but not the other providers. Commissioner Heppler stated he would like to see the financial report when available.

Commissioner Seals thanked Ms. Sivak and her staff for their work.

Commissioner Zull stated it was his perception that there were more private, non-profit organizations that worked with dementia patients as well as daycare services. Ms. Sivak indicated there were some, but a major daycare center closed.

5. Board Representation on MSU Extension Board

Chairman Maturen indicated the MSU Extension Board was looking for a County Commissioner Representative to sit on its District 13 Advisory Council. He indicated the District included Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Branch, Cass, Berrien, Van Buren, and St. Joseph Counties. He stated the term would end December 2015. He indicated they met 4 times a year.

Commissioners Taylor and Heppler indicated they would be willing to serve. It was decided Commissioner Taylor would serve and Commissioner Heppler would be an alternate.

6. Any other items

Commissioner Rogers stated she had someone show up at her work concerning a subcontractor who was working on a County Project stating allegations.

Mr. Canny indicated the County had followed up and there was no indication that the information was accurate.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Taylor stated he would like an update on Housing and it was noted it was scheduled for the July 15 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Commissioner Seals state HB 206B was being looked at by the Finance Department

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 5:45 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners