

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JULY 15, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:32 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, Sue Darling, Judge Giguere, Kelly Ball, Tim Snow, Lisa Henthorn, Lynne Norman, Lucinda Stinson, 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 July 15, 2014 totaled \$2,210,392.38. She stated there were budget adjustments for Circuit Court.

2. Proposed TIF Policy

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator reviewed the Draft Policy as included in the packet.

Commissioner Zull inquired about the number of years to either opt in or opt out of TIF's and Mr. Battani indicated most were up to 30 years but the proposed Draft Policy was for 15 years.

Vice Chairman Buskirk wanted to know if the law allowed for 30 years and Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel indicated he wasn't quite sure.

Commissioner Rogers stated she, along with Commissioner Iden, suggested 15 years because sometimes it takes a decade or more to recapture. She stated she did support the changes to the Policy.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to know if there were any requirements that if the TIF funds run out that the general fund would be able to cover those funds and Mr. Battani indicated that was correct.

Mr. Battani indicated it was the hope of Administration that adoption of the Policy would occur at the August 6, 2014 meeting.

Commissioner Taylor stated he needed more time to review the Draft Policy; he specifically had concerns with Chapter 1 Item 3 b.

Chairman Maturen stated Oshtemo Township could levy a special assessment; he said he would like more information in the introduction before a project would even be considered.

Commissioner Zull indicated the policy stated the County had to be part of a project planning process from the beginning vs. coming to the Board at a later time.

Commissioner Tuinier stated the Board was working on a TIF Policy and needed to look at it separately from the request from Oshtemo and their SoDA request.

Commissioner Rogers stated this Policy wasn't just about Oshtemo Township but other townships and she felt it was a great compromise.

Discussion ensued.

3. DHS/Child Care Fund Update

Mr. Robert Peck, DHS Director reviewed his memo and spreadsheet as distributed. He indicated he, along with Community Mental Health and Circuit Court, were working together.

Commissioner Stinchcomb wanted to know what the 2015 budget request would be.

Mr. Battani stated that Mr. Peck had submitted a budget request for 2015 in the amount of \$2.4 million. Mr. Battani reviewed the discussions the Board had had over the last few months.

Mr. Peck indicated the institutional placement costs were still an issue and the three agencies were working on placing more kids in residential facilities which would help with costs.

Vice Chairman Buskirk wanted clarification on what the County had distributed thus far and would be distributing and Ms. Moored stated the County had distributed \$400,000 thus far and formal approval of the next \$200,000 would be made in August.

Commissioner Taylor inquired what the County had spent in prior years and Ms. Moored indicated it was \$612,000. He stated he was encouraged that everyone was working together and making progress.

Commissioner Seals stated there had not been a budget increase in almost ten years and better monitoring needed to occur.

Commissioner Rogers indicated she would like to hear from the Courts at a future meeting about this issue.

Discussion ensued.

4. Public Housing Commission Update

Mr. David Anderson, Chair of the Public Housing Commission presented the Board with an update on the Public Housing Commission. He reviewed the information as included in the packet.

Commissioner Iden stated according to the report, recidivism rate was about 66% and wanted to know what was keeping that percentage so high.

Mr. David Artley indicated more programs were working together to make sure individuals were not homeless.

Commissioner Zull stated he was impressed with the work being done by the Public Housing Commission.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to talk further about the Elm Street property as well as funding sources.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the funding sources sheet as included in the packet; specifically the meanings of Home Base I, Home Base II, New Beginnings, Second Base, First Base, etc.

Mr. Artley stated many of the occupants of the Elm Street property had either experienced substance abuse issues, chronic homelessness or had a disability of some kind. He indicated there were programs that assisted these individuals to make them successful.

Commissioner Seals stated he was very impressed with the detailed report. He stated he was impressed with the work particularly with the Veterans.

Commissioner Taylor stated he was impressed by how the Public Housing Commission leveraged funds and its success.

Mr. Battani stated there was \$250,000 currently in the budget, \$125,000 was allocated and \$125,000 was carryover.

5. Compensation Policy Recommendations

Mr. Battani reviewed his memo as included in the packet and stated no action was necessary at this point. He stated this discussion was not regarding salary but specific issues.

Commissioner Iden stated he had concerns with the proposed agreement with Circuit Court.

Mr. Battani indicated he too was anxious about the agreement with Circuit Court as it did open a window for other departments. He indicated it was a short window and the Courts have 200 employees and need this to reorganize its operations. He stated Administration had been pushing the Courts to have Concurrent Jurisdictional Courts for the last several years and he felt the County needed to support them and have some flexibility in the rules. He stated the Courts needed to live within their operating budget.

Judge Giguere stated he would like the Board to consider a few issues, he stated the Michigan Supreme Court dictated the Courts to form a Concurrent Jurisdiction Plan; the Courts put together such plan and was approved by the State and the Courts needed this flexibility to accomplish its goals.

Commissioner Iden also stated he wasn't quite sure about the Merit Pay and hoped the County would look further into other options and would like to see further information on this topic.

Commissioner Iden also stated he would like to see documentation concerning competitive marketing adjustments and where this has affected hiring of individuals for the County. Ms. Moored indicated currently there weren't any requests but the County was trying to be proactive so a similar situation doesn't occur like with Information Systems.

Commissioner Zull stated overall managerial flexibility needed to be allowed.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was a proponent of merit pay and maybe that wasn't feasible at the County but would like to see some other options.

Commissioner Rogers indicated she was not satisfied with the Red Circle issues.

Commissioner Stinchcomb stated he would support these recommendations, but did feel more discussions needed to occur on merit based pay.

Mr. Battani wanted clarification from the Board on which items it would support and it was agreed the Board would support Administrations Recommendations but not Administrations Non-Recommendations.

Discussion ensued.

6. MAC Annual Conference

Chairman Maturen stated the information for the MAC Conference was included in the packet. He wanted to know which Commissioners would be interested in attending.

Commissioner Seals stated he would like a lake view room and would be willing to pay the difference.

Commissioner Rogers, Seals, Taylor and Heppler indicated they all wished to attend the MAC Conference.

7. Any other items

Commissioner Seals distributed a chart of the services provided by the County's Veterans Affairs Office.

8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

9. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners