



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

JULY 18, 2017

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:24 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Tracy Hall, Ron Kendall, Scott McGraw, Stephanie Moore, Mike Quinn, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Roger Tuinier

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, Thom Canny, Dina Sutton, Lisa Henthorn, Amanda Morse, Kristine Cunningham, Lotta Jarnefelt, Jim Rutherford, Charlotte Smith, Jeff Getting, Megan Buwalda, Mary Balkema, Eric McNamara, David Rachowicz

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

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Amanda Morse, Deputy County Administrator stated claims for July 18, 2017 totaled \$1,149,196.47. She indicated there were a few departmental budget transfers.



2. Veterans Presentation

Ms. Tracie Moored, County Administrator introduced Mr. Jeff Patton, Community Mental Health (CMH) Director.

She along with Mr. Patton presented a Power Point Presentation to the Board.

Mr. Patton indicated CMH had opportunities to utilize grants to assist Veterans of Kalamazoo County.

Ms. Moored reviewed the transition standards being proposed.

Commissioner Quinn inquired if Mr. Patton had personal experience in the military and Mr. Patton indicated he did not. Commissioner Quinn inquired of Mr. Patton if at a meeting was the law discussed with Mr. Henken and Mr. Patton indicated that was correct and would defer any legal questions to legal counsel.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gisler thanked them both for the presentation. He inquired if the issues at the Federal level would have an impact on the County and Mr. Patton indicated it would be beneficial to improve services at the local level.

Commissioner Rogers stated she fully trusted Mr. Patton and CMH and would be a good entity to take over these services. She stated she stated should the transfer occur she would like annual updates. She stated she was pleased to hear the employees would be allowed to transfer to CMH. She inquired physically where the office would be located and Ms. Moored indicated it would be housed with Health & Community Services currently at Nazareth and at the future site.

Commissioner McGraw inquired how many Veterans were currently being served and Mr. Patton indicated there were currently 117.

Mr. Patton indicated this was an opportunity to broaden the services to Veterans and assist more Veterans in the community.

Commissioner McGraw indicated he too felt this was a great opportunity to assist more Veterans.

Commissioner Kendall thanked Ms. Moored and Mr. Patton for their presentation and he thanked the Task Force for all of their work. He stated he felt this was a benefit to the community. He stated he was pleased that CMH currently had relationships with the VA.



Commissioner Seals thanked Ms. Moored and Mr. Patton for their presentation and for presenting a viable solution. He stated the goal was to improve services to the community and he felt moving the office to CMH would be beneficial.

Commissioner Quinn stated the Veterans Affairs Board did bring a report to the Board last fall and the Board did not act on the recommendations.

Commissioner Quinn inquired what financial impact Veterans had in Kalamazoo County.

Mr. Patton indicated unemployment, training, poverty, as well as reintroduction of Veterans into the community.

Commissioner Quinn stated he would like Mr. Bob Henken to read his letter to the Board.

Chair Shugars indicated every Commissioner received the letter and had the opportunity to read the letter.

Commissioner Wordelman stated HCS was not set up to be a social services agency and there was a lot to look forward to CMH for. He stated there was an issue between Administration and the Veterans Affairs Board with how the Veterans Affairs Board was run.

Commissioner Wordelman inquired of Mr. Canny of the Attorney General's results.

Mr. Thomas Canny, Corporate Counsel, summarized the process that led up to obtaining an AG Opinion and where it was now. He indicated it was his impression that the AG's Office would take quite some time to review and may not result in an AG Opinion.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he would still like to receive an AG Opinion whether the program was transferred to CMH or not. He stated he was hopeful this would work.

Commissioner Kendall stated the AG's Office had acknowledged that Kalamazoo County was unique. He stated he felt it was a unique opportunity to bring beneficial opportunities.

Vice Chair Moore stated she agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Kendall. She thanked Ms. Moored for her conversations with the Vice Chair and Chair concerning the best interest of the Veterans of the community. She thanked Mr. Patton for his willingness to step up and take on the responsibility to allow an opportunity to broaden services to the Veterans. She thanked the Veterans Affairs Committee for their hard work and dedication over the years.

Ms. Moored indicated the next step would be to have the County's labor Counsel, Corporate Counsel and CMH Counsel bring forward an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement.

Mr. Bob Henken, Chair, Veterans Affairs Committee, reviewed his letter he had sent to the Board.



Chair Shugars thanked Mr. Henken for his comments.

3. Grant Award for Area Agency on Aging

Ms. Lisa Henthorn, Deputy County Administrator, clarified the process of grant funds received from the Department of Health & Human Services Aging & Adult Services Agency. She indicated the funds were released throughout the year vs. being received at one time.

4. Senior Millage Discussion

Commissioner Quinn stated due to the proposed Federal cuts to older adults he was requesting the Board put a Senior Millage question on the November ballot.

Commissioner Rogers requested additional information from Administration.

Ms. Moored, thanked Ms. Charlotte Smith for gathering the information in short period of time. She indicated since this was such a specialized program she would like to have Mr. Jim Rutherford, HCS Director to address the issue.

Mr. Rutherford thanked Ms. Smith for putting the information together. Mr. Rutherford reviewed the 2017-2018 budget as included in the packet. He indicated he was not prepared and felt it was premature to know whether a .25 or .50 rate would suffice and Administration did not have enough information to know to make that decision.

Commissioner Wordelman stated approximately three years ago the Older Adult Services Advisory Board had asked previous Board members to place a millage question on the ballot and at the time Administration and the Board allocated an additional \$300,000 to Area Agency on Aging. He stated he fully supported Commissioner Quinn's request.

Commissioner Hall stated she concurred with Commissioners Quinn and Wordelman's comments. She thanked Ms. Smith for her work on the information as well as the Older Adult Services Advisory Council.

Commissioner Seals stated he was supportive of placing a question on the ballot.

Commissioner Kendall stated the Clerk's in his district were concerned with the short time frame. He stated there were other means to put the monies forward and allow County staff the opportunity the time they need.

Commissioner McGraw inquired what direct dollars was spent on seniors and Mr. Rutherford indicated he did not have the information at this time.

Commissioner McGraw stated he was not in favor of placing a millage question on the ballot based on the potential loss of Federal dollars. He stated he felt his questions were valid and needed the time to get those questions answered.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was open to having further discussions and possible to having a hybrid model. She stated she liked giving the voters the opportunity to have a voice.



Commissioner Seals stated he was supportive of placing a millage question on the ballot.

Commissioner Quinn thanked those for their work on this issue.

Mr. Canny stated the Board needed to answer questions tonight.

Chair Shugars cautioned the Board with moving forward with placing this question on the ballot.

Mr. Canny indicated the deadline to submit ballot language was 4 p.m. August 15th. He indicated the question could be simple; however, historically the Board adopted a Resolution on how to spend those dollars.

Commissioner Gisler stated he wanted to use the opportunity to state the Board had to realize the County cannot provide all the services to every need. He stated the County needed to set priorities.

Commissioner McGraw stated he would like the information available at the August 2, 2017 meeting.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he concurred with Commissioner Gisler's comments. He stated he would volunteer to work with Commissioners Quinn and Gisler on the Whereas language for the Resolution.

Ms. Moored stated Administration needed to be included in those discussions as this was an Administrative Department.

Commissioner McGraw stated he would like additional information from Administration.

Commissioner Rogers stated she too would like additional information.

5. Status Update on Land Transfer Agreement

Ms. Moored indicated the County was on schedule to move forward with the property on Bryant Street for HCS Facility.

She indicated she had requested a 30 day extension on the Land Transfer Agreement and that would be brought before to the Board at the August 2nd meeting.

6. Any other items

Chair Shugars stated he was asked by Mr. Jeff Troyer to serve on a citizen advisory committee for Dispatch.

7. Executive Session

Commissioner Hall 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 (h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal 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 Shugars adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Dale Shugars, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

