

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:23 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Stephanie Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, David Reid, Amanda Woodin, Chris Sieklucki, Lisa Henthorn, Jeff Getting, Mary Balkema, Pat Crowley, Steve Burnham, Lucinda Stinson, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Kristine Cunningham, Lisa Bradshaw, Tim Snow, Lotta Jarnefelt, Terra Mickolatcher, Julie Pioch, Randy Winterowd, 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 September 1, 2015 totaled \$1,925,931.47. She indicated there were a few budget line item transfers.

2. Airport Annual Report

Mr. Gil Collver, Chair, Aeronautics Board presented the Airport's Annual Report as distributed.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the length of the runway and its barrier and Mr. Collver stated it was included in the master plan and he stated it was the hope it would come to fruition within three years.

Commissioner Rogers also inquired about smart phone ticketing at the Airport. Mr. Reid, Airport Director stated it was now available after some further discussions with TSA and the airlines.

Commissioner Shugars arrived at 4:14 p.m.

Commissioner McGraw inquired about the revenue/expenses, particularly with depreciation. Mr. Collver stated this was at the direction of the federal and state government.

Commissioner Provancher inquired about the regulation on the use of drones. Mr. Reid indicated the FAA had a permit users needed to complete but at this time there were no laws in place to enforce the use.

Commissioner Seals stated as the liaison he was quite impressed with the Aeronautics Board as well as the Airport staff.

Vice Chairman Heppler thanked the Aeronautics Board and staff for their work and suggested continued work be done on getting the spring break flights back as access to additional leisure flights.

Commissioner Shugars stated the Board of Commissioners previously had discussions on expanding the Aeronautics Board membership to 9 and wanted to know if the Aeronautics Board was interested in this.

Mr. Collver indicated the Aeronautics Board had discussed this and they felt that the Board membership was fine. He stated the Aeronautics Board relied heavily on the retention committee and they had done great work as well as work done by other committees.

Chairman Taylor stated he was very pleased with the Airport and the Aeronautics Board for all of their hard work, particularly with the enplanements and deplanements.

3. Welcoming Michigan Resolution

Commissioner Provancher reviewed the resolution as included in the packet and as discussed at the last meeting. He indicated it was his thought that there were no costs associated; however, after further investigation he found out it would cost \$200/annually.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he felt it might open doors to grow as a community.

Commissioner Shugars stated he would support the resolution, but urged caution.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he felt Kalamazoo County was already doing some of these things mentioned in the resolution.

Mr. Jonathan Romero, Program Coordinator, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center distributed information to the Board.

Discussion ensued.

4. Sale of Land to Plaza Corp.

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel stated with the demolition of the parking ramp, the sidewalk by the parking ramp and the Rose Street market was no longer of use to the County and the Rose Street Market would need to have that property as required by City regulations. He stated they would like to purchase the land for \$1,000.

Discussion ensued.

5. HCS Relocation

Chairman Taylor inquired of the Board their thoughts concerning the discussion that had occurred on the relocation of HCS.

Commissioner Rogers requested an update from the Finance Director/Controller Ms. Moored.

Ms. Moored reviewed a HCS facility cost analysis as distributed to the Board. Ms. Moored indicated it would cost an additional \$366,200 annually to lease the new facility. Ms. Moored indicated there would be an option to purchase after 20 years of leasing the property.

Commissioner McGraw wanted to know the rent, utilities, etc. at the current location vs. the new location and Ms. Moored indicated it would be an additional cost of \$366,200 at the new facility. She indicated building to building it would cost \$746,000 in additional operations.

Commissioner Provancher inquired about the elimination of the Dental Program and Ms. Moored indicated the intent was that the program would be transferred.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he liked the idea of a Health & Human Services campus in the Edison Neighborhood; he stated the options presented, limited which demographic part of the city would be served. He would also like to hear from DHS and Family Health Center to see if they were still planning on moving to that location. He stated the cost of leasing was high and hoped it would work with the County's budget; however, the Administration Building would also be a viable option to locate HCS.

Commissioner McGraw inquired if these were the only two options the Board needed to look at.

Mr. John Faul, Interim County Administrator indicated Administration, HCS, and Finance have discussed and reviewed various options and it was the recommendation of Administration that these were the two best options.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Shugars stated he felt Administration should hire an expert to review the proposed options.

Commissioner Rogers stated the County needed to make a decision as soon as possible. She stated the costs to move HCS to Alcott were not acceptable or doable for the County to sustain.

Commissioner McGraw inquired how many clients would utilize all four tenants at the all in one campus and Dr. Stoltman guessed approximately 50%.

Commissioner McGraw wanted Administration's recommendation.

Mr. Faul stated Administration worked hard for the campus idea to come to fruition; however, after discussion with many individuals, analyzing all the data, it was Administration's recommendation not to enter into a lease agreement for the health campus. He stated it was not financially prudent to do so.

Ms. Moored stated she too understood the dynamics associated with this decision, and it was her recommendation, based on finances only, it was best to utilize the Administration Building.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Seals stated he felt moving HCS to the Administration Building was a good idea, particularly since the County was pressed to make a decision and it was the most cost effective. He stated the original intent of the Board and the Facility Master Plan was to reduce the footprint of the County.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired if HCS was to move to the Administration Building would there be sufficient time to allow for that to happen. Mr. Canny indicated the County would need to extend its lease for the Nazareth facility for a short term period, and urged the Board to make a decision soon to avoid additional costs associated with deferred maintenance at that facility.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if the County had ever paid a consultant to do a cost analysis of a lease and Mr. Canny indicated not to his knowledge. Commissioner Rogers stated she had full faith in Controller Moored.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Taylor stated the County should support the constituents and be fiducially responsible. He stated during the small group meetings the Commissioners had a consensus to move HCS to the Administration Building and due to politics being inserted that this issue was now being beat to death. He stated the Board needed to do their job and make a decision.

6. Amendment to Board Bylaws

Mr. Canny reviewed his memo as included in the packet.

Discussion ensued.

7. Corporate Counsel Evaluation

This item was postponed to the September 15, 2015 meeting.

8. Budget Follow Up

This item was postponed to the September 15, 2015 meeting.

9. Any other items

There were no any other items.

10. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

11. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners