



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:14 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Stephanie Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, Amanda Morse, Mary Balkema, Lotta Jarnefelt, Jeff Getting, Jim Rutherford, David Rachowicz, Steve Lawrence, Lisa Henthorn, Thom Canny, Dina Sutton

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 September 5, 2017 totaled \$2,080,147.92. She also indicated there were departmental budgetary adjustments as well as release of funds.

2. 2017 Allocated Fund Balances

Ms. Amanda Morse, Deputy County Administrator presented the 2017 Allocated Fund Balances as included in the packet.



Commissioner Rogers inquired about the nursing costs and Ms. Morse indicated those funds would come from the carryover funds.

Commissioner McGraw stated he would like to see the Animal Services & Enforcement Project dollars to be less. Ms. Moored indicated those funds were just set aside for the project.

Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 4:10 p.m.

3. Animal Services Building Recommendation

Ms. Lisa Henthorn, Deputy County Administrator introduced Mr. David Rachowicz, Parks & Expo Director who had led the project on a new Animal Services Building.

Mr. Rachowicz presented a Power Point presentation on the Animal Services Building recommendation.

Commissioner McGraw thanked Mr. Rachowicz for his presentation. He inquired why Commissioners as well as outside agencies were not invited to participate in the review process.

Ms. Moored indicated any project under \$10,000,000 did not historically have Commissioner input.

Mr. Rachowicz indicated the Animal Services Advisory Board had many individuals with expertise that assisted.

Commissioner McGraw inquired what would happen to the old building and Mr. Rachowicz indicated it would be absorbed by Buildings & Grounds.

Commissioner McGraw inquired who the low bidder was and if they were local.

Mr. Rachowicz indicated Eckert Wordell was the lowest bidder, however, they only bid on a \$4.7 million project.

Commissioner Quinn inquired about shared resources. Mr. Rachowicz indicated Kalamazoo County had planned to partner with individuals and organizations in the County that offered veterinarian, etc.

Commissioner Seals stated he had concerns that none of those on the A&E Team were local.

Commissioner Hall stated she too had similar concerns previously mentioned by Commissioners. She inquired if the AS&E Advisory Board had an opportunity to review the proposals and Mr. Rachowicz indicated they had.

Commissioner Rogers stated she would like to see Commissioners involved in the next phase of the project. She would also like to see strong community involvement.

Commissioner Gisler thanked Mr. Rachowicz for the presentation.

4. 2017 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Report

Mr. Rachowicz presented Mr. Josh Gower, Fair Coordinator. Mr. Rachowicz stated the 2017 Fair was successful.



Mr. Gower presented a Power Point on the 2017 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the corporate sponsorship and Mr. Gower indicated it was \$11,500.

Commissioner Seals stated he attended the Fair and was quite impressed.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he too attended the Fair and was also impressed and felt the Fair was on the right track and thanked them for a good job.

5. Resolution Recognizing September 17th as Constitution and Citizenship Day

Commissioner Gisler reviewed the Resolution as included in the packet.

Commissioner Rogers indicated she would support this Resolution.

6. Discussion of Corporation Counsel

Chair Shugars indicated Mr. Canny was leaving his position in October. He indicated Ms. Amber Beebe was hired as the Assistant Corporate Counsel a year ago.

Commissioner Quinn inquired if Ms. Beebe expressed an interest in the position and Chair Shugars indicated Ms. Beebe did express interest in the position.

Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel, stated Ms. Beebe was an excellent attorney and when he hired her it was his intent to groom her as his replacement.

Commissioner Quinn indicated he felt it appropriate to promote within.

Commissioner Seals indicated he was in favor of giving Ms. Beebe an opportunity.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired about the process. Mr. Canny indicated that would be up to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Canny indicated the Corporate Counsel reported to the Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Canny indicated by statute the Prosecuting Attorney had oversight of the Corporate Counsel's office, however, the Board of Commissioners had the authority to hire its own counsel. Mr. Canny reviewed the history of the Corporate Counsel's Office.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he would like to have discussion with allowing the Prosecuting Attorney's Office have authority of Corporation Counsel.

Commissioner Wordelman requested copies of the Resolutions.

Commissioner Rogers stated she had concerns with the Corporate Counsel under the supervision of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.



Commissioner McGraw stated he was sad to see Mr. Canny leave. He indicated the process needed to start as soon as possible.

Ms. Tracie Moored, County Administrator/Controller stated in preparation of this discussion she contacted Mr. Matt Nordfjord and he indicated their firm would either mentor Ms. Beebe, fill in as guidance. She indicated the Board had the authority to place someone in the position as an Interim Corporate Counsel.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jeff Getting, Prosecuting Attorney indicated if his office were to take over the office he would need additional staff and monies.

Chair Shugars indicated he would like to interview Ms. Beebe.

Ms. Mary Balkema, County Treasurer indicated she would like the ability to hire her own counsel.

Mr. Canny indicated the Elected Official had the right to hire their own counsel at any time but would fiscally be responsible.

Commissioner Gisler stated he supported Commissioner Quinn's recommendation.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if the County would rely on the entire firm vs. Mr. Nordfjord. Ms. Moored indicated that was correct.

Commissioner Kendall arrived at 5:38 p.m.

Discussion ensued.

7. Any other items

Commissioner Gisler indicated the KCTA needed vacancies filled. He indicated he would like

Ms. Linda Teeter, Chair to address the Board.

Ms. Teeter indicated KCTA was at a critical juncture and needed members appointed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Rogers asked for clarification for when a term occurred on a board the person was still

Discussion ensued.

Chair Shugars indicated he would discuss with the Board Appointment Committee Chair.

Chair Shugars stated he would recommend appointing the two individuals

Commissioner McGraw asked for clarification on the appointment process.



Discussion ensued.

8. Executive Session

Commissioner Gisler 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 Section 8e of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing pending litigation: Briggs vs. Kalamazoo County, et al.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

9. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Shugars adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Dale Shugars, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

