



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 6:58 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, Thom Canny, Tim Snow, Mary Balkema, Megan Buwalda, Steve Burnham, Lisa Robert, Lotta Jarnefelt, Ann Filkins, Lisa Henthorn, Amanda Morse, Kristine Cunningham, Jim Rutherford, James VanDyken, Terra Mickolatcher, David Rachowicz, Shellie Stapert, Paul Matyas, Dina Sutton

Chairman Shugars convened the Committee of the Whole at 3:00 p.m.

1. Corporate Counsel Presentation

Ms. Amber Beebe, Assistant Corporate Counsel presented the Board a Power Point presentation.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Ms. Beebe for her presentation. She asked Ms. Beebe what her experience was with her social media.



Ms. Beebe indicated she had quite a lot of experience.

Commissioner Rogers indicated this position had to deal with a variety of individuals from department heads and elected officials, and inquired how Ms. Beebe would handle that.

Ms. Beebe indicated each client was different and would work with them accordingly.

Chair Shugars inquired what the most difficult decision Ms. Beebe had to make.

Ms. Beebe indicated she had not had many difficulties over her tenure here.

Vice Chair Moore inquired about her community based affiliations and Ms. Beebe indicated she did.

Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 3:25 p.m.

2. Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Interviews

The Board of Commissioners introduced themselves and interviewed the following candidates:

- Pamela Goodacre
- James Denham
- Ken Jones
- Alex LaPorte

Commissioner McGraw arrived at 3:43 p.m.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he felt all 4 candidates were good and he preferred Ms. Goodacre and Mr. Jones.

Commissioner Rogers indicated she would support Ms. Goodacre as well as Mr. LaPorte.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired when the vacancies occurred. Ms. Sutton clarified when the vacancies occurred.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he would support Ms. Goodacre as well as Mr. LaPorte.

Commissioner Quinn stated he would support Ms. Goodacre and Mr. Jones, but also liked Mr. LaPorte.

Commissioner McGraw stated he would support Ms. Goodacre and Mr. LaPorte.

Commissioner Seals stated he too supported Ms. Goodacre and Mr. LaPorte.

Commissioner Hall stated she would support Ms. Goodacre and Mr. Denham.

Commissioner Gisler stated he had concerns with Ms. Goodacre's attendance when she served on CCTA.



Commissioner Wordelman stated he felt Mr. LaPorte would be a better candidate for CCTA.

Commissioner Rogers stated Mr. LaPorte interviewed well and was very knowledgeable.

Vice Chair Moore indicated she would support Mr. Denham and Mr. LaPorte.

Commissioner Gisler stated the Board Appointment Committee had discussed input from staff liaisons and Vice Chair Moore indicated she did not feel that would be appropriate at this time.

Commissioner Kendall indicated he did not have a recommendation at this time.

Chair Shugars stated it appeared that two of the candidates had the majority of votes.

Commissioner Gisler stated he would support Mr. Denham and Mr. LaPorte.

Chairman Shugars indicated Ms. Goodacre and Mr. LaPorte had the majority of the votes.

Discussion ensued.

It was the decision of the Board to appoint Ms. Goodacre and Mr. LaPorte under new business at the meeting later that evening. The Board also decided to appoint Mr. Denham for the next available vacancy and keep Mr. Jones' application on file.

3. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Amanda Morse, Deputy County Administrator stated claims for September 19, 2017 totaled \$3,004,277.18. She indicated there were also some release of funds, allocated funds, and departmental budgetary items.

4. Indigent Defense Discussion

Ms. Amber Beebe presented a Power Point presentation to the Board concerning Indigent Defense.

Chair Shugars asked for clarification on the timeline which Ms. Beebe provided.

Chair Shugars indicated the Indigent Defense Task Force would be working on this. He asked the Board to get their thoughts and ideas to Administration as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued.

5. 2018 Budget Discussion

Chair Shugars indicated this was a final opportunity for the Board to get questions answered.

Commissioner Wordelman distributed a revision to the Sustainability Policy he would like the Board to consider.



Commissioner Gisler inquired about a stipend for the Board for a cell phone.

Ms. Moored stated Administration would be bring the policy for the Commissioners in 2019.

Ms. Moored indicated Administration was working on an electronic agenda process and providing the Board with iPads.

Commissioner Rogers asked for clarification on the cell phone stipend for Commissioners.

Ms. Moored indicated Administration worked with Labor Counsel and would be a stipend.

Commissioner Rogers asked Administration to consider an electronic device stipend for the Board.

Commissioner Seals inquired about taking the iPad to the Advisory Board meetings as well.

Commissioner Seals stated he would like a committee formed to evaluate Commissioner Compensation.

Commissioner Kendall stated he did not feel was appropriate for the Commissioners to receive additional compensation when Advisory Board members did not receive any pay.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the recommendation by Administration was good, however, he would like more focus on renewable energy. He stated he would like to amend the Sustainability Policy and would like to discuss at the October 3rd Committee of the Whole meeting.

Commissioner Kendall stated he had concerns with renewable energy.

Commissioner Hall stated she concurred with Commissioner Wordelman.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioners Gisler and McGraw indicated they had issue with putting benchmark numbers in the policy.

Commissioner Rogers stated the intent would be to save cost for the County.

Commissioner Wordelman stated the intent of the policy change was to have bench marks.

Commissioner Hall stated policy goals and bench marks were important.

Discussion ensued.



Commissioner Rogers thanked Administration for sending out answers to the questions from the last meeting.

Commissioner Seals stated the Board expected a lot from County Administration and requested the Board to be aware of that.

6. Any other items

Commissioner Scott McGraw distributed a Resolution encouraging Kalamazoo's citizens to pledge support and assistance to, victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, commending the first responders and civilian volunteers who saved lives threatened by these hurricanes, and for other purposes.

7. Executive Session

Commissioner Wordelman 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 (e) and (c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to 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.

8. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Shugars adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Dale Shugars, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

