

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

OCTOBER 6, 2015

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 6:18 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Tim Snow, Lisa Bradshaw, Diane Erikson, Tina Becker, Kristine Cunningham, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dave Rachowicz, Steve Burnham, Lisa Henthorne, Jeff Getting, Tina Keifer, Julie Pioche, Mary Balkema, Amanda Woodin, and Pat Crowley

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

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for October 6, 2015 totaled \$1,866,209.91.

2. United Way Campaign Resolution

Commissioner Rogers reminded all that Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties combined their efforts for the United Way campaign several years ago. She indicated United Way was requesting Kalamazoo County adopt a resolution similar to that of Calhoun County as a gesture of support. Commissioner Rogers stated that as County employees who had actively participated in this endeavor for many years, it was appropriate to endorse this resolution for the United Way.

Commissioner Heppler stated the County had participated for many years and supported this.

Commissioner Tuinier arrived at 3:05 p.m.

Chairman Taylor stated this would be placed on the consent agenda in two weeks.

3. 2016 Budget Continued Discussion

Commissioner Shugars arrived at 3:10 p.m.

Commissioner Moore arrived at 3:15 p.m.

Chairperson Taylor called attention to the Administrative Budget Recommendation handout and recognized that a few amendments to this budget had been suggested by Commissioners. He indicated that by the end of the meeting this date, he would like to have a show of hands in favor of an adopted budget.

Commissioner Rogers elaborated on the Sustainability budget policy and discussed creation of a committee called the Sustainability Taskforce that would meet regularly over the next year. The specific responsibility and focus of the Taskforce would be to examine the County's current baselines and develop recommendations and guidelines for sustainable practices within Kalamazoo County. She indicated that the Taskforce would be

made up of representatives from the Board of Commissioners, environmental leaders and community citizens. Commissioner Rogers recommended researching what other counties' best practices were for sustainability, and coming back to the Board with recommendations.

Commissioner Seals discussed hiring an administrative person to work at HCS within the Veterans office and Community Action Agency (CAA) to provide administrative duties for both. This individual would be trained sufficiently to provide service to each office as a needed. He indicated he would like to amend the Budget to accommodate that position. Commissioner Seals would also like to amend the budget to allow for an increase in the Soldiers and Sailors Relief fund by \$5,000.

Chairperson Taylor suggested keeping these two items separate for voting purposes and requested comments from the Board.

Discussion ensued.

Chairperson Taylor asked for a show of hands supporting the new administrative position at HCS to work with both the Veterans office and CAA. Support passed by a majority and this position would become a part of the 2016 budget.

Commissioner Seals discussed the need for an additional \$5,000 for the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund and indicated the amount in that fund should be increased annually. He stated those funds were used for food vouchers and gas cards for Veterans in need of assistance and emergency relief.

Discussion ensued and it was determined that at this time, the fund allocation would remain the same and additional funds for the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund would be reviewed on a quarterly basis hereafter.

Discussion regarding 2016 final budget numbers ensued.

4. Any other items

Interim County Administrator John Faul presented a handout regarding the relocation of Health & Community Services. He stated Administration and County Treasurer reached out to the City through their Brownfield Authority to explore the possibility of purchasing land adjacent on Alcott Street. He reviewed the City's proposal as provided in the handout.

Several Commissioners had concerns about the environmental toxins on that property.

Corporate Counsel Thom Canny stated the proposed agreement indicated the County would be responsible for Environmental Due Diligence.

Treasurer Mary Balkema stated City of Kalamazoo Brownfield would give an assessment of land and indicated the possibility of DEQ getting involved with the clean up.

Commissioner McGraw stated he had concerns paying for the contamination clean up if the County didn't cause the contamination.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Taylor asked for show of hands that supported Administration to engage in the land purchase discussions with the City. By show if hands, this was supported.

5. Executive Session

Commissioner Heppler moved and it was duly seconded that Board that the Board of Commissioners, functioning as a Committee of the Whole, go into a closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) to review and

consider the contents of applications for employment to a public office because the candidates have requested that the applications remain confidential.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All members present

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: None

Committee of the Whole returned to regular session at 6:10 p.m.

Chairman Taylor discussed the option to move the November 3rd meetings to November 4th due to the County-wide elections that will take place November 3rd. By a show of hands, a vote was taken and it was agreed to move the meetings to November 4th.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline of the next phase of the interviews.

It was determined Hiring Solutions would bring back their top 5 recommendations to the Board at the November 4th Committee of the Whole.

6. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners