

## MINUTES

### KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

OCTOBER 7, 2014

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Dave Buskirk, Jeff Heppler, Brandt Iden, Dave Maturen, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Phil Stinchcomb, John Taylor, Roger Tuinier and John Zull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Carolyn Alford.

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Jeff Getting, Sue Sayles, Sue Darling, Judge Bell, Sheriff Fuller, Treasurer Balkema, Lynne Norman, Lucinda Stinson, Ginger Hentz, Lisa Bradshaw, Tim Snow, Dina Sutton

Chairman Maturen 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 October 7, 2014 totaled \$3,978,135.10. She indicated there a release of funds appropriation to Kalamazoo Community Mental Health Services in the amount of \$387,600 and one release of funds for the Homeless Shelter appropriation in the amount of \$67,600.

2. Sheriff Update

Sheriff Rick Fuller presented a power point presentation and reviewed his memo in the packet concerning equipment utilized by the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Iden inquired what was done with the equipment when the County was finished and Sheriff Fuller indicated depending on the equipment, it was either returned to the military, recycled or sold.

Chairman Maturen thanked the Sheriff and his staff for doing due diligence on behalf of the County.

Sheriff Fuller reviewed his memo as included in the packet concerning radio tower projects which was in conjunction with the County of Kalamazoo, City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township.

Commissioner Rogers inquired how many towers were located in the County. Sheriff Fuller indicated there were different towers for different radio requirements.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to know if it was possible to change from one tower to another tower and Sheriff Fuller indicated the tower would stay the same, but the antennas would be changed out.

Discussion ensued.

Sheriff Fuller stated audit work with BDO was in process and BDO had identified some issues and how those issues occurred and BDO was going to work with the Sheriff in correcting these errors.

Commissioner Heppler inquired if the new accountant had been hired and Sheriff Fuller indicated the Sheriff's Office recently hired a person and would begin work soon.

### 3. DHS Child Care Fund Update

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator stated there were short term and long term issues. He reviewed his memo that he sent the Board on Friday. He also stated Administration wasn't asking for any decision today, however, there were immediate needs. He indicated the State of Michigan was willing to allocate the County's 2014 reimbursement up to \$750,000 and he stated 2015 was even worse. He stated additional funds would need to be allocated to the Child Care Fund in 2015. He stated Administration and Circuit Court was working on a proposal that would allow the County to take over the placement of juveniles and would work with the State of Michigan, Community Mental Health as well as other community partners.

Ms. Sue Darling, Circuit Court Administrator indicated that the Court was working with community partners for immediate needs as well as long term needs.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to know the time-line of the process and Ms. Darling stated the County would work with the State on invoices and billings starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Darling stated the County would be meeting on a regular basis concerning the juveniles currently placed. She stated long term, the County may have a study done.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to know if there had been any communication to providers about the situation or was there a plan to communicate with providers. Ms. Kathy Miller, DHS stated communication had not occurred with some of the providers.

Commissioner Rogers stated she appreciated receiving this information; however, she was not ready to allocate any additional funds at this time.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Battani clarified that he would like the Board to take action at its next meeting concerning the issue of accepting the State's up front reimbursement allocation for the outstanding invoices as well as the allocation for 2015.

Commissioner Stinchcomb stated the Child Care Fund would continue to be an issue for the County in the future. He also stated further information was needed as why the costs were rising.

Mr. Jeff Patton, Community Mental Health (CMH) Director, indicated this was a community-wide issue, not just a County or State issue. He stated CMH was going to work with the County as well as DHS and the providers to get the utilization down and reduce costs.

Commissioner Seals stated the issue wasn't just invoices being held but invoices weren't being submitted in a timely manner either. He indicated the magnitude of the issue wasn't realized until Mr. Hoover from the State brought it to the attention of DHS and the County.

Commissioner Tuinier wanted to know if the County was within budget in the Child Care Fund for 2013 and Mr. Battani indicated DHS spent their fund balance to cover costs.

Commissioner Iden wanted to know when the County looked at costs for Child Care Fund for the County were there bench marks according to surrounding counties and Mr. Battani indicated that was correct. Commissioner Iden wanted to know if counties comparable in size were spending the same or similar and there was no answer to that question. He stated he would like to look at a surrounding county and bring that County in to assist the County and if not, to hire an independent person to do this.

Commissioner Taylor stated he concurred with Commissioner Iden's comments and suggestions.

Mr. Battani stated Commissioner Iden's ideas were good and that the County and the Court was completely blind as to the operations of DHS and the Court was currently working with Ottawa County. He stated ultimately the bills needed to be paid.

Commissioner Rogers stated the County needed to fund the Child Care Fund, however, assurances needed to be made. She wanted a transition proposal between the Courts, County and the State on how this would work going forward.

Discussion ensued.

4. Public Health Officer Appointment

Mr. John Faul, Deputy County Administrator reviewed his memo as included in the packet.

5. Intent to Issue Bonds for CMH Construction Project

Mr. Steve Mann, Miller Canfield reviewed his memo as included in the packet. He stated this was the first step of the process. Mr. Thom Canny, Corporate Counsel reviewed his memo as included in the packet.

6. MSU Extension Annual Report

Ms. Ginger Hinz, MSU Extension District Coordinator presented the annual report for MSU Extension as distributed.

Commissioner Taylor thanked Ms. Hinz and her staff for all their work.

Commissioner Zull thanked MSU Extension, personally Ms. Herbert for her involvement with her work with local landscapers.

Commissioner Tuinier thanked Ms. Hinz, her staff and MSU Extension for all of their hard work, particularly with the 4-H Program.

7. Any other items

Mr. Canny indicated the Acknowledge Agreement received from the State was acceptable.

Discussion ensued.

8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

9. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

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David C. Maturen, Chairman  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners