



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

## MINUTES

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

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:24 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, Lisa Henthorn, Amanda Morse, Kristine Cunningham, Jeff Getting, Rick Fuller, Pat Crowley, Jim Rutherford, Thom Canny, Vern Johnson, Lotta Jarnefelt, Judge Santoni, Megan Buwalda, Julie Pioch, Alan Harbaugh, James VanDyken, 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 November 7, 2017 totaled \$2,010,590.49.

She indicated there were several departmental budget adjustments as well as release of funds for various line items.



## 2. Building Projects Update

Ms. Tracie Moored, County Administrator introduced Mr. Jerry VanderVeen who was the County's Owner's Representative for the new County Building project.

Mr. VanderVeen reviewed the timeline as included in the packet.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if Mr. VanderVeen in his past projects were community charrettes utilized.

Mr. VanderVeen indicated the process would include an internal charrette process and then a few town hall events would be held.

Commissioner Seals indicated the committee reviewed five out of seven firms and Tower Pinkster was chosen unanimously.

Commissioner McGraw indicated it was a long, drawn out process, and he indicated Tower Pinkster was the lowest, local bidder.

Chair Shugars inquired about the bonding process and inquired of Ms. Moored if the County could move them up from spring 2019 to 2018. Ms. Moored indicated the County would be able to go out sooner, possibly February 2018.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was sensitive of saving money, however, she felt the project needed to be done right.

Commissioner Wordelman inquired about the relationship between owner's representative, the Board and the construction manager.

Mr. VanderVeen indicated the construction manager did the construction, the owner's representative was essentially the owner and would oversee the construction manager.

## 3. Road Commission Communication Opportunities

Chair Shugars indicated the Road Commissioner leadership meant with the County Board leadership to discuss communication between the two boards. He indicated there was going to be a work session.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he received questions from constituents concerning dirt roads and wanted to know how best to get the message to the Road Commission.

Mr. Dan Moyle, Road Commission Chair indicated educating the public was important. He indicated the Road Commission had service requests that constituents should complete.



Commissioner Kendall inquired if there was a formal appeal process if a constituent wasn't happy. Mr. Moyle indicated there was and the process varied based on the issue.

Commissioner Rogers thanked the Road Commission for attending the meeting and they did an amazing job for the dollars allocated. She stated she heard from local elected officials concerning the lack of communication with them and felt better communication with them would be beneficial.

Commissioner Rogers wanted clarification that the best practice was for constituents to do a service request via the web portal.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McGraw stated as the former liaison to the Road Commission he indicated he had great working relationships with them and staff.

Discussion ensued and it was the preferred method to include communication to the Road Commission and include the liaison. He indicated the constituent should be responsible for making a complaint to the Road Commission.

Commissioner Seals thanked the Road Commission for working with Kalamazoo Township on their recent road and sidewalk projects. He indicated he had concerns with constituent's complaints not being dealt with to their satisfaction.

Commissioner Seals indicated he felt the time the Road Commission met had been an issue historically.

Chair Shugars indicated Ms. Moored had been working on a County Newsletter and indicated the Road Commission information was part of that.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked the Road Commission for attending the meeting today. He asked Ms. Johnson to explain the joint chip seal project with the City of Kalamazoo on Burdick Street in which she did.

Commissioner Wordelman indicated the need of customer service was essential. He indicated there were too many levels of government. He encouraged the Road Commission and the County to work together.

Commissioner Gisler stated he wanted to facilitate the communication process vs. get involved. He indicated he too would like the time of the meetings to be changed.

Vice Chair Moore stated she had heard from constituents that follow up had occurred from the Road Commission staff.

The Road Commissioner's introduced themselves.



Chair Moyle thanked the Board for the opportunity to come and a great start.

Chair Shugars indicated he would like to have another meeting in three months. He thanked everyone for their comments and it was up to the County Board to educate the community.

#### 4. Indigent Defense Update

Chair Shugars introduced the participants who worked on the Indigent Defense plan.

Ms. Amber Beebe, Assistant Corporate Counsel presented a Power Point Presentation, as well as reviewed her memo as included in the Packet.

Commissioner Gisler inquired what the Pratt Bar Association was and Ms. Beebe indicated it was a local bar association that dealt with diverse individuals.

Commissioner Seals commended the committee for their work on this project. He indicated additional spaced was going to be needed at the jail as well as at the new county building.

Commissioner Quinn inquired about having an ex offender on the Board. Ms. Beebe indicated it would depend on the offense.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired about the potential cost and Ms. Beebe indicated the \$1.1 million was the local base line and the State would assist with a grant.

Commissioner Rogers also inquired about the cost difference from \$840,000 vs. \$1.1 million. Ms. Beebe indicated the \$840,000 was part of the draft plan and since that time the Finance Department indicated \$1.1 million was what was needed.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the process of selecting members and Chair Shugars indicated there would be a process and would be independent from the County.

Chair Shugars indicated Ms. Beebe needed authority from the Board tonight to move forward with this plan.

Commissioner McGraw stated for clarification purposes it would be a 501c3, Board driven, the Public Defender would report to the Board and the personnel was adequate and Ms. Beebe indicated that was correct.



Commissioner Wordelman thanked Ms. Beebe for her presentation and the committee for their work on this. He stated he had concerns if family court would be included and Ms. Beebe indicated family court was not included as it was not part of the State mandate.

Commissioner Kendall inquired why the current system utilized by the County did not achieve the State requirements. Ms. Beebe indicated the current system would not meet the necessary requirements.

Commissioner Kendall inquired what assurances did the County have against the State should the State did not uphold its end and Ms. Beebe indicated the lawsuit.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers inquired was there any thought to include law students in this model. Ms. Beebe indicated having the law school would be beneficial.

Chair Shugars stated if the Board had any other comments or input to get those to Ms. Beebe or Ms. Moored.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Beebe indicated she was asking authority from the Board to move forward with the plan.

5. Any other items

There was no other items.

6. Executive Session

Commissioner Rogers 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 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

7. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.



There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Shugars adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

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Dale Shugars, Chairman  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

