

## MINUTES

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2013

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:57 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Battani, John Faul, Thom Canny, Tracie Moored, Tammy Lahman, Rick Fuller, Dane Turner, Paul Matyas, Lisa Bradshaw, Lotta Jarnefelt, Lee Adams, Pat Crowley, Tim Snow, Jeff Getting, 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 November 19, 2013 totaled \$1,485,153.72. She indicated there was one release of funds to Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services.

2. Discover Kalamazoo Presentation

Mr. Greg Ayers, Discover Kalamazoo along with Board Chair Lori Russell provided a bi-annual report to the Board. Mr. Ayers also provided the Board with a memo concerning specific services to be provided by Discover Kalamazoo as outlined in the Management Agreement with Kalamazoo County. Mr. Ayers distributed Discover Kalamazoo Strategic Map 2014-2016.

Commissioner Stinchcomb inquired about exploring new events to the Expo Center and Mr. Ayers stated they were mindful of a number of events already scheduled and have had conversations with Mr. Rachowicz and was excited about those conversations. He also stated it was important to work on existing events.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if Discover Kalamazoo audited their social media network and Mr. Ayers stated they were investing a lot of money into social media networking and advertising and felt it was a good idea to work with a company that could advise them if they were doing the right things. She inquired if Discover Kalamazoo was utilizing the Ambassador Program for social media and Mr. Ayers indicated they used as more word of mouth. Commissioner Rogers indicated one of the biggest complaints she hears from out of town travelers was ground transportation. Mr. Ayers indicated some of the hotels offered ground service transportation and some didn't but there were local companies who did offer these services, particularly at the Airport. He did agree more advertising needed to occur so people were aware these services were available.

Commissioner Taylor thanked Mr. Ayers for his presentation. He asked how close Discover Kalamazoo worked with Pure Michigan and Mr. Ayers stated Discover Kalamazoo did work with Travel Michigan which worked with Pure Michigan.

Commissioner Zull stated he would like to see a budget from Discover Kalamazoo and Mr. Ayers indicated he would get summaries to the Board.

Commissioner Alford inquired if Discover Kalamazoo worked with home grown individuals and Mr. Ayers indicated they had worked with Kevin VanDam and have had conversations with Greg Jennings and Derek Jeeter.

Commissioner Seals stated he was encouraged about the number of hotel rooms being reserved. He stated he would like to see budget information as well.

### 3. Older Adult Services Advisory Council

Ms. Judy Sivak, Older Adult Services Director and Chairman Don Ryan presented a power point presentation to the Board.

Commissioner Taylor thanked them for their presentation and fully supported the need.

Commissioner Zull stated these types of issues were hard for the Board as it was not a mandated service and to provide these additional services was to pass a millage. He stated he would like to see what services and programs the other counties who had millages had.

Commissioner Iden inquired what the current budget was and Ms. Sivak stated it was approximately \$2 million.

Commissioner Rogers stated she the Board should explore all options and if a senior millage isn't a viable option, look at other ways of increasing funding to decrease some the senior wait lists. would be interested in hearing from her fellow Commissioners on their position of a millage.

Discussion ensued on the financial aspect.

Mr. Peter Battani, County Administrator stated ultimately this issue was going to have to be dealt with. He indicated the demographics and finances were real. He indicated he wasn't prepared at this point to make a recommendation to the Board. He indicated there were two transportation millages, surcharge for cost for consolidated dispatch, and the current need for veteran services. He suggested additional discussions occur.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to know if there was a timeline when the Board would make its decision and Chairman Maturen stated he didn't have a specific timeline at this point because further discussion had to occur.

Commissioner Heppler stated there were 4 general election times available to put it a millage on the ballot and wanted to remind the Board that most of the demographic was made up of older adults.

Chairman Maturen stated he was concerned with the younger generation as well and how hard it was going to be on them to absorb those costs.

### 4. Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Grant Agreement

Ms. Pat Crowley, Drain Commissioner reviewed her memo as included in the packet. She indicated the Federal Government had allocated \$450 million to provide new grants for assessment management plan development, stormwater plan development, sewage collection and treatment plan development, and state-funded loads to construct projects identified in the asset management plans. She indicated she was seeking approval of a Resolution to apply for these grant funds.

Commissioner Rogers inquired about the \$15,000 and if that would be part of matching \$135,000 and Ms. Crowley indicated as requests came in the work was completed and the Drain Office would ask the Drain District to pay for the work.

Discussion ensued.

5. Brownfield Plan, 9008 Portage Road, Portage

Ms. Lotta Jarnefelt, Planning & Community Development Director and Mr. Lee Adams reviewed the memo as included in the packet and presented the Board with a Brownfield Plan for 9008 Portage Road. She indicated approval would occur at the December 3, 2013 Board meeting. She indicated the Brownfield Redevelopment Board had authorized up to \$7,500 in funding for work related to the site and MDEQ was supportive of the project.

Commissioner Zull wanted to know if the original owner was the liable party and Ms. Jarnefelt indicated this property was tax foreclosed and there were several issues with the prior owner. She indicated the property was free and clear.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rogers stated as the Commissioner liaison to the Brownfield Authority she fully supported this project.

Commissioner Iden arrived 4:50 p.m.

Discussion ensued.

6. Creation of Civilian Dispatch Positions

Sheriff Rick Fuller reviewed his memo as included in the packet.

Mr. Battani stated Administration supported this request.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired if other counties in Michigan were doing this and Sheriff Fuller indicated they were.

Discussion ensued.

7. Sheriff Audit – 90 Day Update

Sheriff Fuller reviewed his memo as included in the packet.

Commissioner Rogers thanked the Sheriff and Administration for their due diligence on working on these issues.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

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David C. Maturen, Chairman  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners