



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

PLACE: Room 204, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 6:04 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, Amber Beebe, Rick Fuller, Jim VanDyken, Jeff Getting, Kristine Cunningham, Amanda Morse, Lisa Henthorn, Jim Rutherford, Thom Canny, 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 21, 2017 totaled \$2,542,229.72. She indicated there was a release of funds for Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health as well as several departmental budgetary line item adjustments.

Commissioner Quinn inquired about the budget adjustments for the Veterans Office.

Ms. Morse indicated these adjustments were reflective on behalf of the departments to make the line items whole.



2. Veterans Affairs Presentation

Ms. Tracie Moored, County Administrator presented a Power Point presentation as included in the packet concerning the transfer of the Veterans Service Office to Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services. Ms. Moored introduced Mr. Jeff Patton, CMH Executive Director.

Mr. Patton stated the Veterans Service Office would not be a mental health office but would be a system of care around the Veterans Affairs Services. Mr. Patton stated CMH had explored two grant opportunities. He indicated CMH was asked if they would be interested in being a community site and Mr. Patton indicated they were excited about that.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Ms. Moored and Mr. Patton for their presentation. She thanked Administration and the Task Force for all of their hard work on this issue over the last year. She stated she was excited to learn about the possibility for some grant funds for the program.

Commissioner Seals stated one of the issues that was most impressive was County Administration recognized how important this program was and was pleased to hear that the County would not be charging anything for office space at HCS. He stated it was a tough issue. He stated he wanted the program to succeed and provide the services to the veterans.

Commissioner Tuinier stated his goal was to help the veterans in the best way possible. He stated the employees would be veterans. He stated he was excited about the increase of service being offered to the veterans and was in favor of this transition.

Commissioner McGraw thanked Mr. Patton for his hard work and opportunities he had been seeking on behalf of the program. He stated it was an opportunity to provide more services and not just veterans but their families as well.

Commissioner Quinn stated he heard that Ms. Moored and Commissioner Rogers had reached out to a lot of veterans and did not reach out to the existing Veterans Affairs Committee who had been appointed by previous Boards. He wanted to know why the current Veterans Affairs Committee was excluded from discussions.

Ms. Moored indicated that she had met with 12-15 veterans that were referred by Commissioners.

Ms. Moored indicated she had spoken with CMH. She indicated since being Administrator it was her understanding the current Committee had been involved and was working on a Memorandum of Understanding that come to fruition.

Commissioner Quinn stated the MOU had not been finalized.

Ms. Moored indicated a MOU was not feasible.



Vice Chair Moore indicated she reached out to veterans and asked them to meet with County Administrator Moored and herself. She stated they were from groups such as Christian Life, Ministry with Community and was a diverse group.

Commissioner Quinn stated in the presentation it included assistance with completing necessary paperwork for veterans; he stated currently millions of dollars were filtered within the community for veterans in Kalamazoo County.

Commissioner Quinn inquired about the accreditation of the officers filed the claims for the veterans. He indicated he had inquired about the accreditation issue and Ms. Beebe indicated she was not aware of the process. He wanted to know what assurances there were if transferred if the accreditation was secure.

Ms. Moored indicated the County had a legal opinion that indicated the County was eligible. She states she also met with Mr. Michael Price and he assured her that this was not an issue. She also stated the County had reached to third party attorney who also concurred there would be no issue.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Quinn inquired about to seeing the Agreement.

Ms. Moored indicated it was not normal practice to see the Agreement, but would provide.

Commissioner Quinn stated the plan was prepared to exclude the existing Committee and purpose of the plan was not so much to help the veterans but to abolish of the Committee. Administration refused to continue discussion regarding the MOU.

Commissioner Quinn indicated CMH had failed to receive a huge grant and that concerned him.

Commissioner Seals indicated the grant failed due to CMH was one of the best in the Country.

Mr. Patton indicated CMH met all the requirements however, Michigan was not selected as a demonstration site.

Commissioner Kendall stated he had attended several of the meetings and the Committee had said over and over they wanted more ways to provide services to the veterans and the proposed plan presented would allow for this to occur. He stated there were always discussions concerning providing one-stop shopping and this was another way to allow for this to happen; he stated this was a great plan and beneficial to the veterans and their families.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Moore stated she wanted to acknowledge some of the issues Commissioner Quinn mentioned. She stated one of the things that struck her the most was the retired marine



female veteran and her issues and access to services. She stated the needs were so diversified and great and services needed to be expanded and gave kudos to County Administration for reaching out to CMH and collaborating. She stated this was an opportunity to serve the veterans better. She thanked Mr. Patton for his willingness to work with Ms. Moored and the County. She thanked the Task Force for their work on this issue.

Chair Shugars thanked Mr. Patton for his time.

3. Any other items

There were no other items.

4. Executive Session

Commissioner Seals 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 (c) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations and to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state statute.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

5. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Shugars adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Dale Shugars, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

