

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DECEMBER 3, 2013

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:07 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, Steve Burnham, Pat Crowley, Jeff Getting, Mary Balkema, Pat Crowley, Paul Matyas, Kelly Ball, Jean Michaud, Tim Snow, David Rachowicz, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dane Turner, 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 December 3, 2013 totaled \$2,700,739.26. She indicated there was a release of funds to the Land Bank Authority in the amount of \$100,000.

Ms. Moored indicated there was \$1,055,300 in surplus in the Salary & Fringe Benefit Adjustments for year end.

2. Legacy Costs: Retiree Health/Pension Discussion

Chairman Maturen referenced an article in the Kalamazoo Gazette concerning OPEB. He stated today's discussion was just that, a discussion, and a decision would not be made until next year.

County Administrator Mr. Peter Battani stated a lot of work and input had been put into this proposal, particularly elected officials and department heads. He asked the Board to keep an open mind.

Ms. Moored reviewed the information as included in the packet.

Commissioner Taylor inquired if the County could place a cap on pensions? Ms. Moored indicated the County as it was currently set up with the multiplier; we would not be able to.

Commissioner Taylor inquired if there was a means testing for retiree health and Ms. Moored indicated no. Ms. Moored indicated with the Affordable Care Act this allowed retirees to receive discounted plans, etc. Commissioner Taylor indicated he didn't think the County should rely on information on the Affordable Care Act until the future and should not make changes to our retirees.

Commissioner Alford wanted to know what the County was trying to accomplish by making changes to the current retirees. Ms. Moored indicated the gains for those who received a monthly annuity would receive an ad hoc check equal to one month of pension and the negative would be they would be paying 20% of health care costs vs. 0%, 12% and 16%, depending on what the retiree currently paid.

Vice Chairman Buskirk wanted to know what an average employee who paid 16% what the cost would be and Ms. Jean Michaud, Benefits Administrator indicated \$12-\$20 per month depending which plan the retiree had.

Commissioner Seals stated he concurred with Commissioner Taylor; he didn't feel changing costs to retirees was acceptable.

Commissioner Seals wanted to know how many retirees were in the 0%, 12% and 16% plans currently and when/where would they fall off. Ms. Moored indicated there was a mortality valuation calculated for each retiree.

Commissioner Rogers stated she would also like to see how many retirees fell in the 200% poverty level. She stated the ad hoc check would not necessarily assist all retirees for three years, it would depend on what percent the retiree currently paid and their age.

Commissioner Iden stated 35 retirees were paying 0% were because of the means testing and Ms. Michaud verified this was correct.

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated the Affordable Care Act restricted exchanges to be in Michigan only.

Commissioner Rogers stated she appreciated the work on these recommendations, however, she didn't feel that forward thinking or thinking out of the box had occurred and maybe including retirees more in Wellness would be beneficial.

Commissioner Taylor appreciated the work done and having the conversation now and stated additional discussions needed to occur.

3. Any other Items

Vice Chairman Buskirk stated he had sent the Board a letter recognizing the 60th District Service Office and asked each Board member who wished to, to sign the letter.

Undersheriff Matyas stated on the Board Agenda, Item R. there was a request to create 4 Corrections Officer I Positions as part of the Jail/Annex Renovation Project.

Commissioner Heppler inquired if the positions previously approved by the Board were being hired and Undersheriff Matyas indicated positions were being filled.

4. Executive Session

Commissioner Alford 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.

5. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Maturen adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

David C. Maturen, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners