

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DECEMBER 6, 2016

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 3:30 p.m. – 6:44 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners John Gisler, Jeff Heppler, Scott McGraw, Stephanie Moore, Larry Provancher, Julie Rogers, Michael Seals, Dale Shugars, John Taylor, Roger Tuinier and Kevin Wordelman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracie Moored, John Faul, Thom Canny, Dina Sutton, Rick Fuller, Paul Matyas, Charlotte Smith, Vern Johnson, Lynne Norman, Lisa Robert, Dave Rachowicz, Mary Balkema, Pat Crowley

Chairman Taylor convened the Committee of the Whole at 3:30 p.m.

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Tracie Moored, Finance Director stated claims for December 6, 2016 totaled \$1,697,227.61. She indicated there were release of funds for Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Public Housing Commission, and Dispatch Authority. She also indicated there were several department budgetary adjustments.

2. Health & Community Services Location Update

Chairman Taylor reviewed the memo as included in the packet.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was pleased to receive the information ahead of time; she stated she was quite surprised by the recommendation by Administration. She stated she was concerned with leasing. She also stated she was concerned with who would do the work on the Illinois Envelope Building. She stated she was supportive of staying in the Administration Building.

Commissioner Gisler stated he would like the County to concentrate on services vs. property owners.

Commissioner Shugars arrived 3:36 p.m.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he was supportive of locating in the Edison neighborhood. He stated he was comfortable with moving forward, however, he wanted to ensure Plaza Corp. listened to the County.

Commissioner Moore arrived at 3:39 p.m.

Commissioner Provancher stated he liked the Alcott location, however, he was not in favor of leasing property. He stated he had concerns with the site.

Commissioner Shugars stated he had questions concerning with the dollar to dollar amount comparisons.

Ms. Moored indicated the costs were cash to cash comparisons. She indicated discussions were being held.

Commissioner Shugars inquired if the State had made a decision and Ms. Moored indicated she had not heard a decision as of today.

Mr. John Faul indicated the State was still considering the Alcott location.

Commissioner Shugars stated he had concerns with parking issues in the downtown area.

Vice Chairperson Heppler stated he was not a fan of leasing, however, he felt it was important to the community.

Commissioner Seals stated he had energy efficiency concerns. He also indicated Community Mental Health did not currently have a clinic on Alcott, but was possible in the future. He also stated he had concerns with transportation. He stated he would support leasing on Alcott, but stressed local preference was vital to this project.

Chairman Taylor stated the County's role was to provide services to the citizens of this community. He stated it did not make any fiscal sense to enter into a long-term lease with a private corporation. He stated HCS clients would be better served downtown vs. Alcott. He said there was an opportunity to reduce the County's footprint and provide better efficiencies.

Chairman Taylor took a poll of Commissioners to see if they wanted to pursue lease negotiations with Plaza Corp or remodel the Administration Building.

Commissioner Moore stated there was an opportunity to provide better services to the citizens by moving to the Alcott location.

Commissioner McGraw arrived at 4:01 p.m.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he liked the Alcott location. He indicated he had concerns with parking. He also indicated he had concerns with heating the facility. He also inquired about the maintenance responsibility and Ms. Moored indicated Plaza Corp. would do the maintenance and bill the County.

Commissioner Seals stated the building was located on the south side of the County, not the east side.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McGraw stated he had concerns with the cost associated with either project.

Discussion ensued.

By a show of hands, the Board directed Administration to enter into negotiations with Plaza Corp. to lease property for the Health & Community Services Department.

Chairman Taylor stated the Board would need to pass a resolution creating a task force.

3. Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board Funding Request

Commissioner McGraw stated Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board was asking for a \$30,000 loan from the County to pay for the engineering/feasibility study, design and implementation of the Gourdneck Lake Improvement project.

Discussion ensued.

4. County ID Program

Commissioner Provancher reviewed the information as included in the packet; he also distributed a draft Resolution. He indicated Ms. Keta Cowan from Synod Community Services would be presenting a Power Point presentation to the Board concerning Washtenaw County's ID Project.

Chairman Taylor stated he appreciated that working with law enforcement offices was vital and necessary and how long did it take to come to fruition.

Ms. Cowan indicated it took approximately 18 months and the Sheriff was a huge supporter of the idea.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked Ms. Cowan for her presentation.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gisler thanked Ms. Cowan for her presentation and would like Ms. Cowan to work with the County of Kalamazoo to get information.

Commissioner Rogers asked for clarification on the public – private collaboration and Ms. Cowan indicated a coalition was created and approached the County of Washtenaw. She indicated there would need to be input from the Clerk, Sheriff, Administration and the County's attorney.

Vice Chairperson Heppler thanked Ms. Cowan for her presentation. He indicated the County of Kalamazoo was instrumental with getting the State Department of Corrections ID so he was confused by the barriers.

Chairman Taylor indicated the project was worthwhile but it would be necessary for the community to buy in and be supportive and could be an asset to the County.

Discussion ensued.

5. Resolution Supporting Non-Motorized Plan

Commissioner Rogers reviewed the resolution as included in the packet.

6. Resolution Honoring Thell Woods

Commissioner Rogers indicated the Economic Development Corporation was asking the Board to honor Thell Woods for his service on that advisory board.

7. Resolution Regarding Citizen's United

Chairman Taylor reviewed the resolution as included in the packet.

8. Any other items

Commissioner Provancher distributed a Resolution creating a County ID program and he would like the Board to adopt the resolution tonight.

Commissioner Provancher moved and it was duly seconded to adopt a Resolution establishing the Kalamazoo County Identification Card Program.

Chairman Taylor stated it was his recommendation to vote on this Resolution at the December 20, 2016 Board meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Taylor stated the Board and Administration needed to look at this closer and do it right.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioner Provancher
Nays: All members present, except
Abstains: Commissioner Moore
Absent: None

The motion failed.

Commissioner Seals indicated he, along with Commissioner Gisler met with Ms. Moored concerning Commissioner Compensation. He asked Ms. Moored to explain the budget policy.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gisler reviewed a handout with proposed policy amendments to Commissioners salaries. He stated he would like the Board to amend policies to Commissioners salaries.

Commissioner Rogers stated she was surprised by the recommendation and she would propose the policy be changed so that the Board receives the same as non-union employees.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he would support Commissioner Rogers' comments. He indicated he would be supportive of paying advisory board members.

Commissioner Seals reviewed amending Section 2.1 of the Board Bylaws.

Discussion ensued.

9. Executive Session

Commissioner Seals moved and it was duly seconded that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, go into a closed session pursuant to Sections 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with its attorneys regarding material exempt from discussion or disclosure by statute.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

10. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

Commissioner Rogers suggested proposing enhancing the Swearing In Ceremony.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

John Taylor, Chairman

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners