

MINUTES

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DECEMBER 20, 2016

PLACE: Room 207A, County Administration Building

TIME: 3:30 p.m. – 5:41 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, Tim Snow, Lotta Jarnefelt, Megan Buwalda, Kristine Cunningham, Lisa Robert, Lynne Norman, Charlotte Smith, Jeff Getting, Mary Balkema, Dina Sutton

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

1. Review of Transfers and Disbursements

Ms. Lisa Robert, Finance Director stated claims for December 20, 2016 totaled \$3,353,536.39. She also indicated there were several department budgetary adjustments.

2. Commissioner Compensation Policies

Commissioner Seals indicated the per diem policy changes only affected the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Wordelman stated he had concerns with completing the necessary paperwork to be reimbursed for per diem.

Commissioner Gisler indicated he along with Commissioner Seals had met with Ms. Moored and it was decided the ownership would be placed on the Commissioners and not saddle the staff with additional work.

Commissioner Wordelman inquired about the difference between liaisons and appointed voting member.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Taylor indicated he felt the intention was that the Chair would make the appointments to the Advisory Boards.

Commissioner Rogers stated this would be an additional work load for staff. She would suggest the Board get the same compensation adjustments as the County employees.

Commissioner Moore stated the process should be fair, equitable, and transparent. She indicated it should be salary based.

Chairman Taylor indicated he concurred with making it a base salary change.

Commissioner Moore moved and it was duly seconded to increase Board of Commissioner salary by \$2,000 annually.

Commissioner Shugars stated it was disingenuous to the constituents to vote on this after an election; he felt the new Board should take this up in 2017.

Ms. Tracie Moored, County Administrator indicated the budget adjustments would come from contingency.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired about Commissioner Rogers' recommendation. Ms. Moored indicated if non-unions received a 2% salary compensation so would the Board.

Commissioner Tuinier stated he was not in favor of voting for a raise.

Commissioner Gisler stated he felt the Board needed additional compensation to pay for the extra items.

Commissioner Wordelman stated it was a touchy topic for sure, he stated he felt time was most valuable to him and he felt fair compensation was critical. He stated he would support being reimbursed for mileage.

Commissioner Shugars stated he asked staff to obtain comparable county commissioner compensation information and indicated surrounding counties were comparable.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McGraw indicated he wasn't in favor of voting for a raise.

Commissioner Moore stated she felt this would allow anyone to participate and do this job.

Commissioner Provancher stated he felt the Board did need to be better compensated.

Commissioner Seals stated at one time the Board received 50% compensation for healthcare, dental and vision. He also stated the Board had to pay for their own cell phone, personal computers, etc.

Commissioner Shugars stated should this vote fail he felt the next Commission should work on this issue.

Chairman Taylor asked for a Roll Call Vote:

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Gisler, Heppler, Moore, Provancher, Taylor, Wordelman
Nays: Commissioners McGraw, Rogers, Seals, Shugars, Tuinier
Abstains: None
Absent: None

The motion carried.

Corporate Counsel indicated the Board still needed to make a decision on Item DD. (amendment to Board Bylaws).

Commissioner Wordelman stated he didn't feel it was an issue to make the decision tonight.

Commissioner Moore stated she was uncomfortable with having this discussion.

Mr. Canny indicated he would work on the motion in between the two meetings and will discuss at the Board meeting.

Commissioner McGraw stated there were a lot of good comments made and asked Mr. Canny to look into the matter.

Mr. Canny stated it was both an IRS issue as well as legal issue.

Discussion ensued.

This item was postponed until the Board of Commissioners meeting at 7 p.m.

3. County ID Program Task Force

Commissioner Provancher distributed a revised resolution that would create a County ID Program Task Force.

Commissioner Tuinier inquired about the time table of the Task Force and Commissioner Provancher indicated the Task Force would need to report to the Board in March. He stated the initial meeting was scheduled for January 9, 2017.

Commissioner Gisler stated he had concerns with listing organizations vs. individuals; not having financial institutes included as well as other funding sources besides County.

Commissioner McGraw stated the Task Force should also include representatives from banks as well as other municipalities.

Commissioner Moore inquired which two Commissioner Representatives would serve on the Task Force.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if Prison Reentry Initiative was through Michigan Works! or another entity.

Chairman Taylor indicated it was his intent to be the State Prison Reentry and Commissioner Rogers indicated it was spearheaded by Michigan Works!

Commissioner Provancher stated it was also his intent for it to be the State Prison Reentry.

Commissioner Shugars stated he had a lot of concerns with this right now.

Commissioner Wordelman stated should the County take this step would it be reasonable to think a report could be given in March and he felt it was feasible.

4. Health & Community Services Location: Lease with Plaza Corp.

Chairman Taylor stated the Administrative Team did an excellent job with negotiating a lease agreement with Plaza Corp.

Ms. Moored stated the \$5M would come from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund and would reduce the annual lease payment.

Chairman Taylor thanked Treasurer Balkema for working with Administration and allowing use of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

Commissioner Rogers thanked those involved. She inquired about the total cost and Ms. Moored indicated \$14M. She also inquired about the utilities and Ms. Moored indicated currently the County paid \$193,000 annually for HCS and the new facility would be \$122,000 annually. She stated the building square footage was reducing however there was an increase in cost per square foot.

Commissioner Wordelman thanked everyone for all their work. He inquired about leasing solar panels and was there room within the lease to allow for additional energy efficiencies.

Ms. Moored stated the County was responsible for utilities and if the County was looking at different mechanisms discussions would need to be had with Plaza Corp.

Vice Chair Heppler thanked all those involved for resolving this issue and this was a good step towards the County's Facilities Master Plan.

5. Resolution Honoring WMU Karate Club

Vice Chairman Heppler stated he would like to honor the WMU Karate Club for their participation in an international competition.

6. Any other items

There no other items.

7. Executive Session

Commissioner Wordelman 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) and 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing issues related to the County's labor negotiations and to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with a pending Worker's Compensation claim.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

8. Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Chairperson
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners