

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

January 17, 2008

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan on January 17, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., as set; Chairman McNeal presiding.

The invocation was offered by Commissioner Campbell.

The Clerk led the board in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The following Commissioners were present:

DIST # 1	TERRY BURNS	DIST # 7	DON BLACK [ex 12 00 p m]
DIST # 2	STEVE McNEAL	DIST # 8	TOM JESSUP
DIST # 3	PAUL VanECK [ex 12 30 p m]	DIST # 9	FRITZ SPREITZER
DIST # 4	MARK DeYOUNG	DIST #10	JON CAMPBELL
DIST # 5	DEAN KAPENGA	DIST #11	LARRY JONES
DIST # 6	MAX THIELE		

Public Participation – No Comments

2/ Chairman McNeal opened the meeting to public participation. As there were no comments from the public, he declared the meeting closed to public participation.

Minutes of December 20, 2007 Session – Adopt as Distributed

3/ Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the minutes of the December 20, 2007 session as distributed. Motion carried.

Agenda – Additions and Amendment

4/ Chairman McNeal called for any additions or amendments to the meeting agenda. Commissioner Black asked to add the election to fill the vacant education position on the Planning Commission to the action portion of the agenda. Chairman McNeal asked to have a closed session added at the end of the agenda to conclude the Administrator’s evaluation.

Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to authorize the agenda amendments as presented. Motion carried with one dissenting vote from Commissioner Thiele.

Agenda – Approved as Amended

5/ Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Proposed Allegan County Phosphorus Ordinance, Schedule Timeline & Ordinance Language

6/ Rob Sarro introduced discussion of the proposed ordinance language, timeline for adoption and implementation by January 1, 2009. He explained that delaying implementation allows for sufficient time to educate the public and permits businesses to get appropriate stock in place.

January 17, 2008

Page 1

David Williams, Allegan City resident, cautioned that wording should be included so as not to hinder organic gardeners.

Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the proposed timeline for ordinance adoption, the proposed ordinance language and separate fine schedule. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to discontinue discussion of this issue. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 1 vote. Absent – 0 votes with dissent from Commissioner Thiele.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Campbell to amend the motion to include, “pending legal review by County Counsel”. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 8 votes. Nays – 3 votes. Absent – 0 votes. Dissent by Burns, VanEck and Jessup.

The original motion as amended: “to approve the proposed timeline for ordinance adoption and the proposed ordinance language and separate fine schedule pending legal review by County Counsel” carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 11 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 0 votes.

Break – 10:22 A.M.

7/ Moved by Commissioner DeYoung, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to recess for 13 minutes. Motion carried.

Upon reconvening at 10:38 a.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, McNeal, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Spreitzer, Campbell and Jones. Absent – none.

Goal review for 2007

8/ Rob Sarro referred the Board members to the listing of goals set for 2007, reported on the status of each goal and asked them to determine which goals, if any, need to be retained as goals for 2008.

(1.) Assure that the citizens of the County of Allegan are provided sufficient and reasonable level of constitutionally mandated services.

Rob suggested that perhaps the mission, vision and value statements already address this issue and this is the core responsibility of a County Commissioner.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to remove goal number 1 from the listing. Motion carried.

(2.) Assure funding collected from the Senior Services millage is effectively implemented for those citizens eligible to benefit from them.

(3.) Continue efforts to consistently improve and provide better governmental services.

Rob suggested that goal number 2 is not a specific goal and reported that the structural changes to the COA have been implemented during 2007.

Naomi Whetzel, Hopkins Township, stated she felt COA money shouldn't be dispensed without oversight and reporting mechanisms in place.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to remove goal #2 and #3 from the listing and to set them on the meeting agenda for January 24, 2008, to further define reporting responsibilities of the COA. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 9 votes. Nays – 2 votes. Absent – 0 votes. Dissenting; Commissioners Jessup and Spreitzer.

(4.) Develop a county-wide strategic plan.

Rob explained that planning should be an on-going process and is essential prior to adopting the annual budget. We are still defining the process and he recommended that the Board retain this as a goal. Commissioner Burns requested that Rob put together information addressing where we were, what we have done, and where we are going on this process. In 2007, the board worked on defining the process and in 2008 focus should be on refining expectations on information flow. Commissioner Kapenga requested that at the end of the sentence, we should add, "and follow its guidelines". Rob suggested that the plan should be leading us on a path to help achieve our goals.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Burns to retain item #4 **[Develop a county-wide strategic planning process.]** on the goals sheet and work on defining it further at the strategic planning session in February. Motion carried.

(5.) Develop and exercise team building strategies (as well as other management training opportunities) that will aid in the cooperative efforts of the Board of Commissioners and Administration, Elected Officials, and Department Heads to succeed in their goals and objectives.

Rob explained that this is still an important focus for the Administrative team. He showed a chart depicting how the Administrative team used this objective to help them improve the communication process. The essence of this item is contained within the Code of Ethics and may no longer need to be listed on the formal goals sheet.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to remove this item from the goals listing. Motion carried with dissent from Commissioners Black and Spreitzer.

(6.) Continue plans to move the Probate Court downtown bringing all court functions together in one facility.

Rob stated this process is in the works and gave a brief update on the progress of the project which will conclude by the end of 2008.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to remove this item from the goals sheet. Motion carried with dissent from Commissioners Jessup and Spreitzer.

(7.) Research and develop a business case for implementing county-wide wireless system.

Rob stated that while he and Steve Sedore are working together on this goal, he is not sure what their approach should be regarding this issue.

Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Jones to remove item #7 from the goals list. Motion carried.

(8.) Actively participate in forming the long-term funding solution for 911 operations.

Rob explained that this is basically complete. Since the 911 funding legislation passed, we just need to apply for the state-wide surcharge for the county. However, we do need to watch the sunset dates contained in the legislation.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to remove this item from the goals list. Motion carried.

(9.) Review existing policies and procedures and form new procedures resulting in a single management manual regarding policies and procedures. (Including but not limited to purchasing, budget, grants, contracts, etc).

Rob stated that this is still an important priority. The policies we need to review and conclude are the policies on purchasing and personnel.

Commissioner Thiele asked to have the “etc.” defined. Rob stated that “etc.” would include the policies relating to mileage and vehicles.

Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to leave this item as part of the goals listing. Motion carried.

(10.) Evaluate a process for recording Board of Commissioner’s meetings and delivering those proceedings to the public.

Rob suggested that the original intent of this goal has been met. The board has discussed this after Steve Sedore’s demonstration. Money was put into the budget for this item.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to strike item #10 from the goal list and put on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Motion carried.

Prioritization of Non-Mandated Services

9/ Legislation addressing this issue has been introduced in the Legislature, but it is unlikely that it will pass in time to be of any value for this board. Prioritization of Non-Mandated services should occur at the February 21, 2008 planning session.

Education Rep./Planning Commission – Election to Fill Vacancy-Tabled to 1/24/08

10/ Chairman McNeal opened the nominations for the election of an education representative to the Planning Commission to replace Tom Martin.

Commissioner Jones nominated Dawn Buist.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Jessup to table this election (as well as the replacement of Commissioner Black) until the January 24, 2008 agenda. Motion carried.

Closed Session to Conclude the Evaluation of the Administrator - Reset

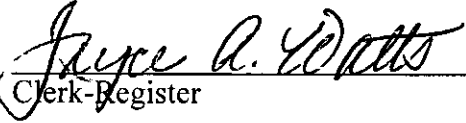
11/ Commissioner Thiele suggested that the Evaluation of the Administrator and subsequent closed session be set on the January 21, 2008 agenda; everyone should review the materials they have and be prepared to vote at that time. Commissioner McNeal stated he has completed the majority draft of those issues for which there was agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Jessup to table the conclusion of the County Administrator’s evaluation until January 21, 2008. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 2 votes.

There appeared to be consensus to convene the January 21, 2008 Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. for purposes of recessing to closed session; the regular Board Meeting to convene at 1:00 p.m. as set.

Adjourn until February 7, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.

12/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn until February 7, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 1:00 p.m.


Clerk-Register

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BOARD PLANNING SESSION-AGENDA

Thursday, January 17, 2008 - 9:30 a.m.
Board Room - County Services Building

- 9:30 a.m. **OPENING PRAYER:** Commissioner Campbell
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
ROLL CALL:
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 20, 2007
ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:
APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) Proposed Allegan County Phosphorus Ordinance; schedule timeline for ordinance approval.
- 2) Review 2007 Board of Commissioners Goals.
- 3) Discuss 2008 Board of Commissioners Goals.

OTHER ITEMS:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADJOURNMENT: Thursday, February 7, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. @ BOARD ROOM -
COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, COUNTY SERVICES COMPLEX @ DUMONT.

Mission Statement

"The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper"

January 17, 2008