

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

May 15, 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 May 15, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., as set; Chairman McNeal presiding.

The invocation was offered by Reverend Brian Steenhoek, Pastor of the Voice of Hope Church of Allegan.

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
DIST # 2	STEVE McNEAL	DIST # 8	TOM JESSUP [left 11:30 a.m.]
DIST # 3	PAUL VanECK	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 – Comments

2/ Chairman McNeal opened the meeting to public participation and the following individual offered comments:

1. Naomi Whetzel, Hopkins Township, thanked Pastor Steenhoek for such an all encompassing and meaningful prayer to start the meeting.
2. Commissioner DeYoung reported that former District Court Administrator Carol Barnhart's mother passed away recently.

Minutes of April 17, 2008 and May 1, 2008 Sessions – Adopt as Distributed

3/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the minutes of the April 17, 2008 and May 1, 2008 sessions as distributed. Motion carried.

Agenda – Adopted as Distributed

4/ Chairman McNeal called for any additions or amendments to the meeting agenda and there were none offered.

Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Project Planning:

5/ Administrator Sarro explained that the Appointed Department Heads met yesterday afternoon and he updated the Board about the Health Department and Transportation Departments' concerns. As far as today's planning is concerned, the Board needs to agree upon the intent of the projects listed so there is good understanding before beginning the ranking process. Attached listing shows the final agreed upon language after discussion.

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a) Jail: There was discussion on what should be incorporated into the definition; should it be 400 bed (expandable to 800) county jail and Sheriff's services facility? Some felt that the Sheriff's services facility verbiage should be removed because the jail is the first priority. Rob reviewed the resolutions passed that call for both to be planned for; the Board still decides on what gets built and when. Rob stated that this will be a guide to Administration in very broad terms to give the direction in which to proceed.

b) Facilities Master Plan: Commissioner Jones described Ottawa County's Facilities Layout where the county is divided in 4 quadrants with Grand Haven as the County Seat, using a "425" agreements with the municipalities where the facilities are. Discussion on wording addressed the facilities master plan going forth and not being delayed if the Jail project is bogged down for any reason.

c) County Management Manual:

Administration will review and evaluate changes to existing policies and/or create new policies resulting in a single management manual. (Personnel, purchasing, grants, contracts, etc.)

d) Law Enforcement Overtime: limited wording changes.

e) Funding of Human Services: This needs to be addressed promptly. Administration has sufficient direction to develop a listing of unfunded mandates by July 2, 2008. Because the statutory language regarding level of funding includes the phrase, "when funds are available", Commissioner Thiele asked if it is futile to charge the Administrator to develop any project in this area. Rob suggested that this should address exploring options for full funding of these services.

Break – 11:00 A.M.

6/ Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to recess for 15 minutes. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 11:00 a.m..

Upon reconvening at 11:15 a.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, McNeal, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Spreitzer, Campbell and Jones. Absent – none.

Discussion, continued

7/ Human services funding: "research adequate funding" would provide a better description and allow more workable project options.

f) Funding Solution for 911 Operations: add "research".

g) Revise County Non-Smoking Policy: Commissioner VanEck stated that the Health Services Committee is addressing a policy for employees and visitors to the building. He didn't think that it would extend to the County Parks, and how could it be enforced? It was determined that discussion of this issue will occur after the Health Services Committee makes its recommendation. There was consensus to keep "including Parks".

h) County Public Transportation: eliminate the second sentence.

i) Senior/Special Needs Transportation: This should be separate since if we can't afford the previous item, we at least need to develop services for this population.

j. Coordinated Economic Development: Put period after the word "activity" and strike the last 2 ½ lines.

k) County-wide Strategic Planning Process: remove "County-wide" and "thus far".

- l) Farmland/Greenspace Preservation: Commissioner Campbell suggested putting a period after the word "County" and eliminating the remainder of the sentence.
- m) Assisted Living Facilities: Leave this item on the list just to see where it falls; but limit the issue only to county owned facilities. Delete the word "Facilities" and insert the word "Programs" in the title. Language change to description: Research the feasibility of additional county-run assisted living programs.
- n) Advanced Education: Change wording to: "Research opportunities for a post-secondary education presence in Allegan County",
- o) County Provided Local Law Enforcement: Change wording to: "Evaluate the current and future service levels with regard to the Allegan County Criminal Justice System."
- p) Coordination of Services: This is from the point of view of how we can all work together rather than all doing the same things. This was left the same.
- q) Regional Jail: Leave the same.
- r) County Property Acquisition: Leave the same.
- s) Water Authority: Change language to read: "Pursue a Lake Michigan water supply solution for Allegan County". Also, change the word "Authority" to "Supply" in the title.
- t) Senior Centers: assign to the Commission on aging.
- u) County Seat: There was discussion as to whether this is already being addressed when we develop the master plan. It was decided to return to the original language: "Recentralizing County Government . . . County Seat."
- v) Alternative Fuels: Leave as is.

Rob explained that he will e-mail the amended listing out today and would like Commissioners to prioritize them and return by May 29, 2008.

Adjourn until June 5, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.

8/ Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adjourn until June 5, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.


Clerk-Register

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BOARD PLANNING SESSION-AGENDA

Thursday, May 15, 2008 - 9:30 a.m.
Board Room - County Services Building

REVISED 05/08/08

For full packet click [here](#): (852 KB)

9:30 a.m. OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Brian Steenhoek, Voice of Hope

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 17, 2008 and May 1, 2008

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Project Planning
2. Budget - Goals and Objectives

OTHER ITEMS:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADJOURNMENT: Thursday, June 5, 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"

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2008 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL GOALS/ISSUES

RANK	CONSENSUS	PROJECT - ISSUE
13		<u>Jail (3)</u> Plan for and construct a single site (Dumont Lake Complex), 400 bed (expandable to 800) County jail and Sheriff's services facility.
19		<u>Facilities Master Plan (1)</u> As outlined in 8/9/07 Board Action, development of a project plan to address Allegan County Government's facility and space needs, resulting in a single comprehensive Facility Master Plan, via a project team (to include the City of Allegan, Allegan Township and the Allegan County Planning Commission), that will incorporate the Jail Project.
19		<u>County Management Manual (6)</u> Administration will review and evaluate changes to existing policies and/or create new policies resulting in a single management manual. (Personnel, purchasing, grants, contracts, etc.)
21		<u>Law Enforcement Overtime (24)</u> Research law enforcement overtime due to court processes (or other factors), comparing to other counties; identify options to reduce the overtime.
22		<u>Funding Of Human Services (19)</u> Research, and actively participate in, efforts to develop adequate funding of human services for Allegan County; including health, mental health, and welfare to alleviate the pressure from the County's budget.
23		<u>Funding Solution For 911 Operations (5)</u> Research, and actively participate in, forming a long-term funding solution for 911 operations.
25		<u>Revise County Non-Smoking Policy (25)</u> Revise current County non-smoking policy to prohibit smoking in and around any county owned property and facilities, including Parks, and the enforcement of same.
26		<u>County Public Transportation (16)</u> Research options to increase budget for the County's Transportation program to assist citizens who have difficulties commuting.

29	<p><u>Senior/Special Needs Transportation (26)</u> Develop a plan and funding source through the Transportation Department to provide commuting routes for the senior citizens above the age of 65 and individuals with special needs/disabilities. (Coordinate efforts with the public transportation planning).</p>
30	<p><u>Coordinated Economic Development (2)</u> Continue the development of a coordinated process/department that promotes economic development among local municipalities, agencies and businesses within the county; focusing on promotion of more intensive and more advanced economic activity.</p>
37	<p><u>Strategic Planning Process (4)</u> Take the issues identified by the Board and create a defined process that will guide policy and resource allocation decisions – “Where would we like to see Allegan County in 3-5 years and how do we get there?” Provide a “yard-stick” against which to measure/evaluate future policy decisions resource allocation decisions – “is this decision consistent with our long-term vision for the county?”</p>
37	<p><u>Farmland/Greenspace Preservation (9)</u> Promote community involvement with preserving farms and other green space within the County.</p>
40	<p><u>Assisted Living Programs (7)</u> Research the feasibility of additional County-run assisted living programs.</p>
41	<p><u>Advanced Education (12)</u> Research opportunities for a post-secondary education presence in Allegan County, focusing on needs and desires of its residents; and feasibility (including possible funding sources) incorporating all stakeholders i.e. county departments, local agencies, school boards, university/college representatives.</p>
41	<p><u>County Provided Local Law Enforcement (13)</u> Evaluate the current and future service levels with regard to the Allegan County Criminal Justice System.</p>
42	<p><u>Coordination of Services (15)</u> Research the coordination of services between county departments and local governmental units, i.e. planning, zoning, and other processes.</p>

42	<u>Regional Jail (11)</u> Continue exploratory committee work to research and develop a needs analysis for a regional jail to serve Allegan, Kent, and Kalamazoo counties (or any other county who has a need and is able to contribute funding) to incorporate long-range plans to meet future needs of sentenced inmates.
43	<u>County Property Acquisition (10)</u> Strategic acquisition of park property and other property for the future use.
44	<u>Water Supply (8)</u> Pursue a Lake Michigan water supply solution for Allegan County.
45	<u>Senior Centers (17)</u> Research/plan for the availability of senior centers throughout all of Allegan County to enhance access for all seniors to benefit from all services that the County and other agencies provide its senior citizens.
47	<u>County Seat (18)</u> Recentralizing County government...County Seat.
52	<u>Alternative Fuels (21)</u> Due to the increase of fuel costs, research ways to conserve fuel sources and focus on alternate fuel types i.e. anaerobic digesters, wind energy, etc.

