

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

July 17, 2008, 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 July 17, 2008, at 8:30 a.m., as set; Vice-Chairman Jones presiding.

The invocation was offered by District #5 Commissioner Kapenga.

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	- EXCUSED -	DIST # 8	TOM JESSUP
DIST # 3	PAUL VanECK [left 12:40 pm]	DIST # 9	FRITZ SPREITZER
DIST # 4	MARK DeYOUNG	DIST #10	JON CAMPBELL[arr: 9:30 am]
DIST # 5	DEAN KAPENGA [arr: 8:45 am]	DIST #11	LARRY JONES
DIST # 6	MAX THIELE		

Public Participation – No Comments

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

Minutes of June 19, 2008 Session – Adopt as Distributed

3/ Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Burns to adopt the minutes of the June 19, 2008 session as distributed. Motion carried.

Agenda – Approved as Presented

4/ Vice-Chairman Jones asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. None were offered.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Black to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Economic Development – Presentation

5/ Kevin Ricco outlined what the Economic Development project team has been doing at their monthly meetings. They have performed a SWOT analysis and a Gap analysis to help determine what needs to be done. He explained the various options available and encouraged the Board to look at option A and set aside some capital to permit bringing in an outside consultant to help with the planning process so that recommendations can be made for the 2010 budget. While Option B is a bit more aggressive, it leaves out some of the front-end planning.

Eric Wilson, Manager of the City of Plainwell and project team member, stated that a local buy-in is essential if economic development is to succeed. The revenue side of the equation is important, but the Board needs to agree on what outcomes to expect. Rob explained that we cannot guarantee a return on investment. Eric stated that if an Economic Development Director is put in place, in his opinion the director should report to the County Administrator, not

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the Board of Commissioners. Local units cannot adequately respond to the needs of businesses interested in locating in our area by working separately; coordination is needed. The Director would work with the locals and the potential businesses coming in. Vice-Chairman Jones asked to interrupt the discussion to permit Judge Skocelas to address the Board and keep his court schedule.

Sobriety Court

6/ District Judge Skocelas addressed the concept of the Sobriety Court. Rob explained we have budgeted a small piece in capital and personnel to address this.

Judge Skocelas explained his involvement with sobriety court in the 1990s in Kalamazoo County which gave him an understanding of how this can positively impact the county, save space in the county jail and effectively treat people who have substance abuse problems. He stated that 63 of the 83 counties in Michigan have some form of a sobriety court established to deal with repeat offenders. He stated that in order to bring this plan to fruition, he would need an additional probation officer dedicated to working with people sentenced to sobriety court. Forced treatment is as effective as voluntary treatment and has proven successful for targeted repeat offenders when combined with intensive testing. It is in the community's best interest to keep the person sober and employed but without treatment that will not occur. Judge Skocelas stated that a great deal of statistical information will be kept on the program so that it will be possible to determine how the program is working.

Break – 10:15 A.M.

7/ Upon reconvening at 10:25 a.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Spreitzer, Campbell and Jones. Absent – Commissioner McNeal.

2009 Capital Requests

8/ Rob addressed the budget materials that were distributed to Commissioners. He cautioned them to remember that economic development cannot be done in a vacuum. The most successful models result from a strategy which fosters coordination and cooperation; a single point of entrance, so to speak, to match opportunities to need.

Kevin Ricco explained that how economic development efforts are financed can't be the only consideration. The county has always struggled with structural issues as far as economic development is concerned. The funding request of \$50,000 would be in addition to the current expenditure and would basically fund the study and provide the planning for this project. Preparing the foundation through planning will identify which municipalities are interested in this kind of a project. The county should take a leadership role in coordinating the efforts of those municipalities who would welcome economic growth since growth would ultimately benefit the county. Care should be taken so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past by keeping the planning and benchmarks foremost in everyone's mind. This issue appeared at the top of both the Board's priorities as well as the department head's priorities and Rob stated that this is also an area of interest for the local municipalities.

Rob explained the layout of the funding for the projects on the capital budget sheets and stated discussion is set on the agenda next week. He invited Commissioners to get any questions about items on these sheets to him so that they can be addressed before the next meeting.

Paul Wylie – MSU Extension/Comments

9/ Paul Wylie, MSU Extension Director, stated that there were strong feelings on the committee that the county should take a leadership role in this area. He reminded everyone of the economic value of retaining and growing our agri-businesses.

Project Reprioritization – Law Enforcement Contracts

10/ Rob reported on the vehicles and that he has met with Sgts. Larson and Mattice, Dan Wedge and Bob Wakeman and we are budgeting for about 10-12 vehicles.

Addressing the law enforcement contract service level for the county was initially set to begin within 3 years. There is quite a range in how various Commissioners prioritized this issue. Rob asked if the Board is prepared to move this issue up and if so, is there a willingness to commit the resources needed if it is moved up? Commissioner Kapenga addressed the potential loss in townships being able to afford things the way they are now and asked if the county could at least freeze the township costs until the Board can deal with the issue long term. Rob asked Commissioners to consider how this issue compares with the Jail project and the facilities master plan. How does this issue fit into the county philosophy of who pays for what?

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to add this item to the July 24, 2008 discussion agenda [review of the administrative fee for the Law Enforcement Contracts]. Motion carried.

Employee Selection Process

12/ Rob explained that Administration is looking for some guidance on this issue. It is difficult not having a policy to follow. He asked Human Resource Director, Deb Daniels to address the issues. Deb reviewed things from a historical perspective and addressed the recommendations they are offering and walked through a flow chart depicting a recommended structure. She reported that other comparable counties do not require Board approval, but each one operates a little differently than Allegan. Rob stated that if the Board has specific needs, now is the time for the discussion to occur so that a policy can be written to better describe the process the Board wants followed and which more closely depicts the will of the majority.

Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Jessup to set this on the next agenda [July 24, 2008] for discussion. Motion carried with Commissioners DeYoung and Campbell dissenting.

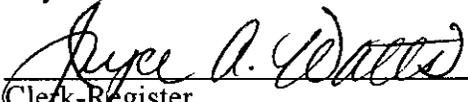
Personnel Guidelines for Budget Process

13/ Rob stated that the preliminary draft of the budget will be presented on July 31, 2008 and he will provide an “overall” picture. He cautioned that the current budget policy guideline limiting the growth in cost for personnel to a percentage of the increase in county revenues will require service cuts in order to accomplish. We have a significant offset with our health care costs; claims are reduced. However, practically, the personnel budget will go over the rate of growth in revenue. He would like to present the current requests and provide a view of the status quo so that discussion can center on what makes sense unless he is directed otherwise.

Moved by Commissioner Jessup, seconded by Commissioner Spreitzer to address the preliminary draft of the 2009 personnel requests [without personnel cuts] at the July 31, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

Adjournment until July 31, 2008 – at 9:30 a.m.

14/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Jessup adjourn until July 31, 2008. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.


Clerk-Register

Alligan County Board of Commissioners



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Steve McNeal, Chairman
Larry "Casey" Jones, Vice Chairman

DISTRICT 1

Terry Burns
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BOARD PLANNING SESSION-AGENDA

Thursday, July 17, 2008 - 8:30 a.m.
Board Room - County Services Building

DISTRICT 2

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For full packet click [here](#): (4.39 MB)

DISTRICT 3

Paul VanEck
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8:30 a.m. **OPENING PRAYER:** Commissioner Kapenga

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 19, 2008

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

DISTRICT 4

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DISTRICT 5

Dean Kapenga
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DISTRICT 6

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DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) Economic Development Presentation
- 2) Sobriety Court
- 3) 2009 Capital Requests
- 4) Employee Selection Process Policy #301 (Revision - ADH Hiring Process)
- 5) Personnel Guideline
- 6) Project Reprioritization - law enforcement contracts
- 7) Facilities Master Plan

DISTRICT 7

Don Black
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DISTRICT 8

Tom Jessup
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OTHER ITEMS:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADJOURNMENT: Thursday, July 31, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. @ BOARD ROOM -

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, COUNTY SERVICES COMPLEX @ DUMONT.

DISTRICT 9

Fritz Spreitzer
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DISTRICT 10

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DISTRICT 11

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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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