

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

September 18, 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 September 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., as set; Chairman McNeal presiding.

The invocation was offered by Commissioner DeYoung.

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

The following Commissioners were present:

DIST # 1	TERRY BURNS	DIST # 7	- EXCUSED -
DIST # 2	STEVE McNEAL	DIST # 8	TOM JESSUP
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 appeared and offered comments:

1. Naomi Whetzel, Hopkins Township, distributed copies of the 2007 Annual report of the Commission on aging and encouraged Board members to read the report.

Minutes of the August 21, 2008 and September 4, 2008 Sessions – Adopt as Distributed

3/ Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the minutes of the August 21, 2008 and September 4, 2008 sessions as distributed. Motion carried.

Agenda – Adopted as Distributed

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

Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the agenda as distributed. Motion carried.

General Update

5/ Rob Sarro reported that the New World law enforcement package cut-over from the AS/400 to a networked version occurred this week and he commended all who worked to make this happen. He stated he would be including Department Head’s quarterly reports in his written updates. He noted that Allegan City Manager, Rob Hilliard asked that the joint meeting date be moved to October 9, 2008. He stated that the questions from the Township and City are still coming in. He will review them with the Board before he sends responses to the municipalities. There was discussion concerning the date of the next joint meeting and there appeared to be consensus to change the planning session meeting to convene October 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. instead of the normal 9:30 a.m. time making it more convenient to re-convene at 6:00 p.m. for the joint intergovernmental meeting.

Commissioner Campbell stated that there is a legislative hearing scheduled for next week on a house bill that would require the county to address 911 funding issues in a manner not beneficial to the county. There was consensus to have Commissioner Campbell attend the hearing to state the concerns of the county.

2009 Draft Budget

6/ Finance David Van de Roovaart walked through the proposed 2009 budget for General Fund revenues and Special Revenue accounts and addressed the various questions of the Board.

Rob reminded everyone of issues previously discussed:

- Equalization/LIS will no longer be billing municipalities for providing the basic parcel layer information which the county develops for its own operation
- Law Enforcement Contracts - administrative costs for 2009 have been suspended while we review the situation according to the project timeline
- Capital expenditures --the source of these operational and infrastructure capital monies
- PTO funding – use PTO liability funds to fund PTO payouts
- Move LIS into the general fund instead of a special revenue account in the budget
- 1% increase in match for unrepresented employee retirement contributions
- Animal shelter repairs or building a new facility

Break – 10:00 A.M.

7/ Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to recess for ten minutes. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 10:00 a.m.

Upon reconvening at 10:15 a.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, McNeal, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Jessup, Spreitzer, Campbell and Jones. Absent – Commissioner Black.

Projects

8/ Rob showed the listing of projects with timelines illustrated. The listing does not include the non-discretionary projects such as budgets or audits. Rob stressed that there needs to be more focus on the prioritized issues so as not to get bogged down in planning projects not scheduled for the current time frame or trying to respond to the “issue of the week”. There was discussion regarding whether re-implementing the Board committee structure would be of value, whether the listing of projects is a “wish list” or a “needs” list or whether it would be beneficial to restrict the number of issues placed on the list.

Rob explained that making group decisions and sticking to them would resolve the problem. Re-visiting each of the issues over and over again is counter productive and restricts progress on issues previously decided.

Suspend Board Rules to Consider Resolution Opposing HB 6070

9/ Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to suspend the Board Rules to consider a resolution opposing HB 6070. Motion carried.

Resolution – House Bill 6070

10/ The Allegan County Board of Commissioners hereby declares its strongest opposition to House Bill 6070, which would require Public Service Commission approval before a county 911

surcharge proposal can be presented to the electors of the county. The bill language actually reads: “A county **MAY NOT seek voter approval for a 9-1-1 surcharge unless the proposed 9-1-1 surcharge has been approved by the commission.**”

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners opposes any oversight of local 911 funding by the Michigan Public Service Commission, since local control of local services should remain with the unit of government charged with the operation thereof.

And finally, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners strongly encourages the Legislature to quickly resolve the 911 funding issues based on the position of the Michigan Association of Counties.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—FUNDING PROJECT AND 2008 COUNTY FUNDING ALLOCATION

11/ WHEREAS, Allegan County Community Mental Health Services is an agency of Allegan County government, and as such, receives funding from the County general fund to support general fund activities of said Agency; and

WHEREAS, generally speaking, the downturn in the economy, including, but not limited to, unemployment and the housing market crisis has led Community Mental Health to identify increased demand for services from uninsured and underinsured individuals from 40% to 60%. The aforementioned individuals who do not qualify for other state and federal programs, combined with decreasing revenue from the State are major contributing factors that have led to the current CMH financial crisis and

WHEREAS, a number of contributing financial factors have caused Allegan County Community Mental Health to exhaust the Agency’s fund balance and other sources normally utilized to pay for such services; and

WHEREAS, while having already been substantially cut causing the discontinuation of some services and the elimination of staff positions, it is evident upon preliminary discussion with Community Mental Health that their 2009 proposed budget, will only be in balance with an additional appropriation from County funds; and

WHEREAS, County Administration was charged by the Board of Commissioners with recommending modification to the proposed 2008 budget allocation, including, but not limited to, examination of current Community Mental Health services, funding and other structural issues facing Community Mental Health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that to avoid further services being cut, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the recommendation from the County Administrator and the Budget and Finance Director to increase the County funding allocation to Community Mental Health Services in the amount of \$170,000 from the 2008 General Contingency Fund to balance the 2009 Community Mental Health Services budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the project plan presented by the County Administrator that will accomplish the following:

- define CMH service and funding level.
- gain full knowledge and understanding of CMH funding and services.
- seek clarification on several points of the Mental Health Code from the State of Michigan.

- full research and analysis of funding and structural options conducted by County Administration and the Community Mental Health Management Team to include, but not limited to:
 - establishment of an Authority;
 - Administrative Services consolidation with the County;
 - potential partnership, authority, or consolidation with external/neighboring agencies;
 - maintaining existing/modified CMH structure with increased funding from County and/or other sources;
 - Other options as they are identified;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a comprehensive review of all findings will be presented by March 30, 2009; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Budget and Finance Director is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments to complete this action.

Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

Public Participation – Comments

12/ Chairman McNeal opened the meeting to public comment and the following individual offered comments:

Naomi Whetzel reminded everyone that there are four (4) members of the Commission on Aging whose terms will expire. She encouraged board members to promptly re-elect or replace those individuals, but the Board needs to address this election timely.

Adjourn until October 2, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.

13/ Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adjourn until October 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 12:52 p.m.


Clerk-Register

All gan C unty Board of Commissioners



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BOARD PLANNING SESSION-AGENDA

Thursday, September 18, 2008 - 9:30 a.m.
Board Room - County Services Building

Revised 09/15/08

[Click here](#) for full packet: 492.92 (KB)

- 9:30 a.m. **OPENING PRAYER:** Commissioner DeYoung
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
ROLL CALL:
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 21, 2008 & September 4, 2008
ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:
APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) General Updates
- 2) 2009 Draft Budget
- 3) 08-09 Project Planning

OTHER ITEMS:

- 1) ACTION - Community Mental Health Services--funding project and 2009 County funding allocation
- 2) APPOINTMENT-Commissioner(s) participation on the Transit Research and Marketing Study work group

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADJOURNMENT: Thursday, October 2, 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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