

ALLEGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

INDEX

JULY 1, 2010 SESSION

JOURNAL 59

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July 1, 2010 Planning Session

JULY 1, 2010 SESSION - INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, met in the Karl Zimmerman Room of the Human Services Building in the Township of Allegan on July 1, 2010, at 9:30 A.M. in accordance with the motion for adjournment of June 3, 2010, and rules of this Board; Chairman Jones presiding.

The invocation was offered by District #11 Commissioner Jones.

The County Clerk led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Upon roll call the following members answered as Commissioners for the respective Districts:

DIST #1	TERRY BURNS	DIST #7	DON BLACK
DIST #2	- EXCUSED -	DIST #8	TOM JESSUP
DIST #3	PAUL VanECK	DIST #9	- EXCUSED -
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 Jones opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments, he closed the meeting to public participation.

JUNE 3 2010 SESSION MINUTES - ADOPTED AS DISTRIBUTED

3/ Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2010 session as distributed. Motion carried.

AGENDA - ADDITIONS

4/ Chairman Jones asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. No requests were made.

Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to adopt the meeting agenda as requested. Motion carried.

COUNTY LEVEL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

5/ Rob Sarro introduced Kellie Tobolic, Chairman of the County Planning Commission who introduced Kurt H. Schindler, Regional Land Use Educator from MSU to facilitate the meeting. He gave a basic review of the stresses the economy in Michigan is facing and why that necessitates the need to look at economic development differently. Studies show that 66% of the younger generation choose a place to live and THEN look for work or start a business. Michigan is no longer that largely industrial state in which people settle where industry is concentrated. This shift in thinking requires regions to "play up their niche" rather than wait for manufacturing to settle in the area.

He reviewed the ten smart growth tenets which require a bigger, regional scale to accomplish goals since residents of a region don't care where the city, township or county line is. Sustainable development is a balance between environmental integrity, economic prosperity and social equity. Strategic growth creates a unique regional competitive advantage or identity on a global stage.

BREAK - 11:00 A.M.

6/ Upon reconvening at 11:15 A.M., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Campbell and Jones. Absent - Commissioners McNeal and Spreitzer.

DISCUSSION, CONTINUED

7/ Mr. Schindler stated that local government has an important role in facilitating and consensus building for a regional strategic growth plan. There must be consensus and cooperation among the stakeholders or no plan will work. He addressed the fundamental duties and purpose of a planning commission and enumerated the optional duties a commission can perform if the County Board desires. He reminded the Commissioners that the County Board defines the powers of the planning commission; the planning commission reports to the Board on their activities and the Board also has budgetary control.

BREAK - 12:10 P.M.

8/ Upon reconvening at 12:35 P.M., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Campbell and Jones. Absent - McNeal and Spreitzer.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

9/ Mr. Schindler gave examples of counties which used a formal process for making appointments to the body (Alpena/Benzie) and those which were less formal (Manistee/Leelanau). It might be wise to determine the duties of the Planning Commission before making appointments and it might be possible to charge the Planning Commission with creating the Economic Development body. During the brainstorming, the following issues were addressed:

DUTIES

- Build cooperation (around issues, i.e. Broadband) that are of countywide interest
- Not CIP
- Review development projects on behalf of county (need to define process & criteria/cost threshold)
- Define duties based on New Economy principles and what role the Planning Commission should have
- "Convening" role takes resources
- Define communication process between planning commission, board of commissioners & staff (LIS, Community Development & Administration)

- o Based on past practices
- o Based on what is desired
- Define resources that need to be dedicated to perform duties

INTERESTS

Economic Developers


- People with interest in serving, learning and able to think of the Big picture on behalf of the county.
- Agriculture interests
- Brownfield re-development Board
- Land Preservation Board

GROUP ORGANIZATION

- Farm organization - to deal with Agriculture interests

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JULY 15, 2010 AT 9:30 A.M.

10/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adjourn until July 15, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M.


Clerk Register