

Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 9, 2011
(UNAPPROVED)

Meeting called to order by Chair Michael Cox at 4:00 PM, Room #103, Kalkaska County Governmental Center. Roll call of commissioners: All present-Michael Cox, Debra Kimball Antonio Martini, Stuart McKinnon, David Ritter, Carroll Sexton and Craig Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance given by all. Invocation by Pastor Bryan McInerney, Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene.

Call for conflict. None.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by McKinnon to approve agenda with addition of Mr. Saco to appointments and addition of Approval of Closed Minutes of 10-21-2011 resumption meeting. Supported by Sexton. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sexton to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of 10-12-2011. Supported by Wood. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Motion by Sexton to approve 10-21-2011 Resumption of Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes 10-12-2011. Supported by Ritter. 6 yeas. 0 nays. 1 abstain. **Carried.**

Motion by Wood to approve 10-31-2011 Resumption of Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes 10-12-2011. Supported by Kimball. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Motion by Wood to approve Closed Meeting Minutes of Resumption Meeting of 10-21-2011. Supported by Sexton. 6 yeas. 0 nays. 1 abstain. **Carried.**

Public Input:

Jim Collins, Winterfest representative-requested reduced rental fee. **Motion** by Kimball to approve reduced rental fee for Civic Center of \$300.00 for Winterfest for January 2012 dates. Supported by Sexton. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Stuart Rodgers-reserved time.

Jo Ann DeGraaf-reserved time.

Robert Dryden-reserved time.

Brian Kroll-reported concern with Axe report and possible road patrol cuts by Board, advised comparisons of road patrol and Sheriff Department responsibilities with Crawford County are not accurate, reported concerns that comparisons are not properly proportionate with adverse effects on Kalkaska law enforcement. (Chair requested a copy of report provided by Kroll.)

(Board advised gentleman in audience had questions regarding MSHDA, gentleman advised grant was approved but needed further communication-Board to provide further contact information at break)

Appointments:

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments: Presented plaque and recognition to Kalkaska County for participation with Green Energy team for future savings with energy action plan and MPSC Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Local Government, presented to Allen James, Director at Kaliseum.

Sheriff Dave Israel-inquired if any questions regarding November report (copy filed with Clerk), discussion regarding zero tolerance testing including other counties, contractual fire investigation billing to be submitted, and noted to Board that jail passed inspection with 100% compliance.

Jeff Sieting, Village President-advised Board of Village of Kalkaska working toward major improvements to downtown, concern with deterioration, working with several charities and requested support from Kalkaska County. Discussion regarding structures, vacant business areas, parking issues and signage restraints. (Copies of plans filed with Clerk.) **Motion** by Kimball for Chair to send a letter of support for Kalkaska Village development and marketing plan. Supported by Sexton. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Nader Saco, business owner-advised Board of complaints with Prosecutor's Office and Construction Codes department. (Copies filed with Clerk.) Saco advised concern that County/Prosecutor employee made slanderous comments against his business/nationality during county time, reported Prosecutor was not concerned with employee's communication; Saco also advised his business is making construction changes and concern with building department not providing report of inspections, requiring unwarranted building requests and belief that both matters are effected by Prosecutor; advised Board he will hold County accountable. Discussion, Chair advised Board does not have control over elected official, consensus Board will review with County council.

Committee Appointments:

Motion by McKinnon to accept Chair's appointment of Jeff Sieting to EDC Board vacancy for term 11-9-2011 thru 2-28-2015. Supported by Martini. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Approval of Bills:

Motion by Wood to approve Post Approved bills of \$197,283.71, General Fund bills of \$134,562.00, Kaliseum Fund bills of \$2,455.17, Payroll #21 of \$146,893.14, Payroll #22 of \$141,055.73 and Commissioners Per-diem (\$875.00) and Salary (\$3,200.00) of \$4,075.00. Supported by McKinnon. Discussion regarding Chamber of Commerce billing included. Roll call vote: Wood, yes; McKinnon, yes; Kimball, yes; Martini, yes; Ritter, yes; Sexton, yes; and Cox, yes. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Unfinished Business:

Sexton reported on progress of update of County procedures and by-laws, recommended committee and Board continue to review, consensus for Board to address at future meeting.

Chair called for break at 4:47 PM.

Chair called meeting back into session at 5:00 PM.

Committee Reports:

Finance-McKinnon reported policies for payment of non union employee unused sick time reviewed, Court Administrator requested hiring new employee prior to court employee Joan Brand's retirement to allow for training 6 weeks early with current budget, reported Sheriff purchase of new boat with grant money, Zoning Administrator discussed November report and requested budget line item changes (copy filed with Clerk), Road Commissioner Walter requested approval of transfer of Weigh Master fee to County Road. Discussion regarding 4 options provided from Controller to address reimbursement of unused sick time. Wood advised recommendation for payment to two current employees as requested and option 3 for future retirees, consistent with Teamsters contract. Discussion.

Public Input:

Robert Dryden-requested amount of money requested for consideration for unused sick time. (Board advised approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 for two employees retiring.) (Discussion continued, concern with consideration of past retirees, concern of need for implementation of policy in conjunction with decision to pay unused sick time, legal counsel advised precedence not an issue.)

Eric Hendricks-inquired how unlimited sick time can be incurred. Discussion, Chair advised should be policy to prohibit financial liability, consensus to review with labor attorney. **Motion** by Wood to pay Frank Wright and Sharon Zakrajsek in full for unused sick time upon retirement, to be paid from Contingency fund, and freeze of any further consideration of non-union fulltime employees following implementation of policy. Supported by Kimball. Discussion. Roll call vote: Wood, yes; Kimball, yes; Martini, no; McKinnon, no; Ritter, no; Sexton, yes; and Cox, no. 3 yeas. 4 nays. **Failed**. Chair requested further discussion at next meeting.

Personnel: Sexton reported 27 applicants for Controller, applications reviewed by Committee, difficulty finding applicants interested in wage of \$45,000.00, final applicants met with Frank and will meet with Board, Sexton advised of recommendation from Committee and Frank. Discussion, consensus for applicant(s) to meet with Board (to include Department Heads) with effort to include background check requested by Monday.

County Affairs: McKinnon reported inquiry by attendee at meeting questioning salary for 6 month contract for interim Equalization Director; computer issues reported by Treasurer's office and problem with server, discussed with Empiric to obtain quote for new server; discussion regarding storage shelving; discussion regarding heat in Clerk's vault; discussion regarding efforts to plan Department Head meetings facilitated with MSU and Mark Randolph, to make recommendations at December meeting.

Health/Welfare: Kimball advised no report.

Public Works: Martini advised no report. (Miscommunication of cancelation.)

Judiciary/Public Safety: No report.

Recycling: Wood reported "business as usual".

Sub-Committees:

Kaliseum: November report provided. (Copy filed with Clerk.)

Parks & Recreation: Randolph reported designated trail needed for Iceman Cometh, Parks and Rec to continue to research, discussion to encompass/consider all trails through Kalkaska County with support by Parks and Rec.

EDC: No report.

Soil Conservation: No report.

Commission on Aging: No report.

North Country Community Mental Health: No report.

Finance Committee report con't:

McKinnon advised Housing Commission representative did not attend committee meeting as planned, receipt of email response from Shawn Hayden advising communication with Julie, advising of assistance from MSHDA and contact number, McKinnon advised contact information was given to gentleman who requested information prior during Public Input. McKinnon requested a copy of contact information go to Prosecutor, Board Secretary and Treasurer Offices, requesting public be given correct contact information rather than him. (McKinnon advised copy to be filed with Clerk and copy to Julie to disburse.)

New Business:

Wood advised Finance committee met with Department Heads, will recommend to meet again 11-21 or 22, 2011 to continue to review 2012 budget. Discussion. **Motion** by Wood to set Public Hearing for 2012 General Fund Budget and Special Revenue Fund budget for December 28, 2011 at 4:00 PM. Supported by Martini. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Chair advised Hiller from Construction Codes to be informed of additional complaint other than Saco's complaint and request attendance at next Public Works committee meeting.

Public Input:

Jo Ann DeGraaf, Register of Deeds-addressed Board regarding concerns with inaccurate information circulated regarding the prior Board of Commissioners and Department Heads and requested statement inserted:

November 9, 2011

RE: Public Input Kalkaska County Board of Commissioner's Meeting

I would like to request that the Board include the following in the minutes as presented to the County Clerk today:

Another elected official has repeatedly claimed that a “deal” was made between the Board and department heads regarding the 2011 budget cuts. Neither the prior Board nor this Board has made such deals with me or in any open meetings with other department heads that I am aware of. As a department head, I was promised that if the cuts were not the 10% being projected by the Equalization Director and Controller, the money would not be put back into a pool for departments to absorb. I was promised that if the cuts came in lower, the money would be redistributed methodically and there would be a plan in place before it occurred. The former Board’s goal was to get the fund balances healthy enough that if 2012 was similar or even worse than the 2011 projection that we would not have to make additional cuts to staff and services.

The hearsay rumor mill pertaining to numerous issues is causing serious deterioration in our community and workplace. I encourage all of you here today to buy the cd’s from previous meetings or get the facts from the minutes and from all parties involved.

Please keep coming to these meetings so that when you leave here you can rely on what you have personally heard, not from what you’ve heard from someone else who has never sat in on these meetings. We cannot continue the course we are on, it’s simply a recipe for disaster.

Jo Ann DeGraaf, Registrar of Deeds

Motion to adjourn by Sexton to call of the Chair at 5:50 PM. Supported by Kimball. 7 yeas. 0 nays.
Carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Hill, Kalkaska County Clerk and
Clerk of Board of Commissioners

Michael Cox, Chairman of
Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners

These minutes are not official until they are approved at the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

