

Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2019  
(UNAPPROVED)

Meeting called to order by Chair Fisher at 5:38 PM, Conference Room, Kaliseum Recreational Complex, 1900 Fairgrounds Rd., Kalkaska, MI. Present Commissioners David Comai, Patty Cox, Craig Crambell, Kohn Fisher, Leigh Ngirarsaol, James Sweet, John West and County Clerk Deborah Hill. Pledge of Allegiance by all. Invocation by Commissioner Cox.

**Public Input:**

Charles Garrison: Garrison noted appreciation for the Board's work with the Kaliseum project and addressed the value of the Kaliseum resources to the community.

**Purpose of Meeting:**

Chair Fisher called for Board review, discussion and/or acceptance of Kaliseum Millage options. Fisher noted lengthy communication with Financial Advisor, Bond Attorney, Ameresco and Accountant Hervey to address all concerns following the 2-4-2019 Special Meeting. Fisher noted research of recreational complexes identifies the value of children's activities, property values, cultural diversity, betterment of health and tourism with recreational opportunities, with assumption that this was considered in 1996 by the citizens when the Kaliseum was brought to the people.

Fisher noted public concerns, lack of oversight, vision/future plans, user fees, ongoing pool issues and structural needs led to need for current decisions; noted numerous meetings and review by the Board over the past 2 plus years; the structural issues requiring the Board to re-evaluate the entire project. Fisher noted energy lighting and personnel costs were reviewed with consideration leading to the report from PFM dated 2-6-2019 Schedule of Projected Millage Revenue and Estimated Debt Service; provided for review.

Discussion regarding energy lighting costs noting it was rolled into the project with the intent to increase savings over all county facilities; the survey was a sampling of voter input; current millage of .98 (includes .25 operational); suggested 1.86 millage was recalculated to 1.5 mill based on assumptions by PFM, following review with engineer, Financial Advisor and Accountant; noted not to overlap the existing millage.

Commissioner Comai noted concern with misinformation to the public including the perception that the Kaliseum would be creating a profit. Discussion, consensus of Board there was no understating by the Board of profit, intentions are for facility to cover its own expenses. Board noted millage support for Library, Commission on Aging, Animal Control and Recycle, intent to be a service to community, as is the Kaliseum; noted all facilities require some type of fee use....lunches, certain recycle items, etc. to offset expenses; noted county was advised when the Kaliseum was built of the need for revenues from the entire fairgrounds area, or other sources that would be necessary to help support the Kaliseum. Board noted review of

the history of the Kaliseum millages, or lack of, oversight and marketing, original structure/building issues; all affirm the necessity for the proper oversight along with following the policies and procedures set by the county. Discussion regarding concerns: if necessary repairs are tabled, continued mechanical failures; if the millage fails, option to be put on a later ballot; survey results failed with close percentages, most favorable being repair all....not elimination of the structure.

Discussion, consensus of Board to move forward. **Motion** by Cox to approve the proposed millage rate and scope of work for the Kaliseum as provided by PFM dated 2-6-2019, to generate capital improvement millage language. Supported by Crambell. Discussion, Board noted importance of clarification of what the millage will provide, cost to property owners, marketing of the millage and to reduce millage if funds are not needed. Roll call vote: Cox, yes; Crambell, yes; Comai, yes; Ngirarsaol, yes; Sweet, yes; West, yes; Fisher, yes. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

**Motion** by Cox to set a Special Meeting 2-11-2019 at 5:30 PM for the purpose of final review, discussion and approval of Kaliseum Millage Resolution and millage language. Supported by Sweet. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Discussion to research and plan for marketing of the Kaliseum project.

**Public Input:**

Charles Garrison: Garrison addressed Board noting appreciation for the Board's process, addressing marketing needs and value of resources provide by the Kaliseum.

Jerry Cannon: Cannon commended the Board for moving forward with the Kaliseum project, need for communicating with all community organizations to assist, potential assistance with MI Economic Development Corp for rural development grants and to advise the public that the millage can be reduced.

Arthur Caden: Caden addressed the Board with concerns of continued taxes and existing debt; requested consideration of user fees by tax bills similar to the hospital.

Mary Janek: Janek addressed Board noting the value of the Kaliseum services to the community including increased property values.

**Motion** to adjourn by Crambell at 7:12 PM. Supported by Comai. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Respectfully submitted:

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

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Kohn Fisher, Chair of  
Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners

These minutes are not official until they are approve at the next Regular Board of Commissioners meeting.