

LEGISLATIVE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.
Board Room – County Administration Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Koorndyk; Commissioners Dick Bulkowski, Marvin Hiddema, Nadine Klein, Harold Mast, Paul Mayhue, Tom Postmus, Art Tanis, and Ted Vonk

ALSO PRESENT: County Administrator Daryl Delabbio; Assistant Administrators Mary Swanson and Wayman Britt; Executive Assistant to the Board Jim Day; County Lobbyist Becky Bechler; Civil Counsel Sherry Batzer; Legal Analyst Sangeeta Ghosh; Management Analysts Darwin Baas, Jennifer DeHaan, and Matthew VanZetten; Office Administrator Kelly Berendsen; Human Resources Director Donald Clack; Fiscal Services Director Bob White; Facilities Management Director Bob Mihos; Kent/MSU Extension Director Betty Blasé; Sheriff Larry Stelma; Undersheriff Jon Hess; Chief Deputy Tom Hillen; Sheriff Administrator Lloyd Pitsch; Cpts. Ed Westhouse, Larry French, Steve Van't Hof, and Dan Krajewski, Lts. Jack Stewart and Michelle Lajoie-Young; Sgt. Luis Palencia; Deputy Roger Parent; Local Emergency Planning Coordinator Sue Barthels; Sparta Village Manager Brian Chadkowski; and Sr. Administrative Specialist Pam Van Keuren

Chair Koorndyk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

I. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS REVIEW – SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

The Committee, Sheriff Stelma and Chief Deputy Tom Hillen reviewed the performance measurements for the Sheriff Department. A copy of the performance measurements is on file in the Board of Commissioner's Office.

Commissioner Mayhue arrived during the PM review.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Mast moved to approve the November 22, 2005, minutes as written.

Supported by Mr. Tanis.

Motion carried.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSOCIATES

Ms. Bechler reported today is the Legislature's last day of session before the end of the year with a few major issues left to complete. The first issue is the tax proposal which the Governor recently vetoed. The latest proposal contains three major provisions including a 15% refundable SBT credit for personal property taxes paid by manufacturers; a 100% SBT credit for personal property based on transferred jobs; and extending credits which had been given to certain automotive manufacturers. The second major issue is welfare reform. This package of bills would replace the current welfare system set

to expire December 31. This legislation contains two controversial provisions which include a 48 month cash assistance welfare limit, and a three-strike rule which could result in lost benefits if an individual does not follow his/her self-sufficiency plan. Other major legislation include SB922 which amends the Renaissance Zone Act and a potential opt out for the City of Grand Rapids; a package of bills dealing with the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act which the County is seeking an opt out provision; SB 729 relative to the Hotel/Motel; a new bill being introduced relative to the Drain Commission legislation; HB4315 which is legislation that would give the boards of commissioners control over changing the size of road commissions; SB736 and 208 dealing with inmate medical care which is favorable to the County; and HB 7354 which is legislation that includes an additional Circuit Court judge for Kent County. If an agreement is reached on this legislation within the next year, funding issues will be addressed through the appropriations process. Other issues relative to Kent County include the completion of the eminent domain legislation and also new legislation which is necessary for the remonumentation fund that would extend the sunset allowing \$15 million taken out of this fund to be recaptured. A handout of Ms. Bechler's summary of bills referenced above is on file in the Board of Commissioner's Office.

Mr. Mast inquired about legislation dealing with Medicaid reimbursement to assisted living facilities.

Ms. Bechler stated hearings have taken place on this but this is an issue that needs further work because there is some resistance amongst the long-term care community about reimbursement.

Mr. Mayhue asked about the welfare reform legislation and how "self-sufficient" and "able-body individual" will be defined in this legislation.

Ms. Bechler replied that these issues are currently being discussed between the Legislature and administration. There is concern about how able-bodied individuals are being taken care of and what happens if an individual does everything they can but are unable to complete their self-sufficient plan. These are just some of the issues yet to be addressed.

Mr. Mayhue inquired about the Attorney General's proposal to the Michigan Public Service Commission on dealing with the cost of heating by spreading the cost out in increments.

Ms. Bechler stated she will check into this proposal

Chair Koorndyk thanked Ms. Bechler for the update.

V. ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE – VILLAGE OF SPARTA PETITION FOR ANNEXATION

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the Petition for Annexation and An Order Altering the Boundaries of the Village of Sparta to include certain property located in Sparta Township. This request is proposed to go to the Board on December 15, 2005. A summary of the request follows:

- Pursuant to Act 3 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1895, as amended, the Village of Sparta has submitted a petition for annexation to the County, to include property belonging to Donald Armock within the boundaries of the Village. The property is situated in Sparta Township, Kent County and is contiguous to the Village of Sparta. The purpose of this annexation is to enable the Village to extend its public sanitary sewer and water utility services to the property.
- This annexation of property is consensual between the two governmental units. Sparta Township has no objection to the proposed annexation and has consented to it. The Village of Sparta Council believes that the addition of this property is in the overall best interest of the Village. The Village of Sparta has by its resolution of September 12, 2005 resolved to alter its boundaries, and has petitioned the County Board of Commissioners to make the desired boundary change.
- In accordance with state statute, the County Board of Commissioners is required to receive the Village's petition, hold a public hearing to consider the annexation, determine if the petition should be granted or denied, and if it is granted, enter an order to that effect. The law further requires the County Board to file an order with the Michigan Secretary of State Office for changing of boundaries between two units, if the County Board approves an annexation petition.
- The petition and supporting documentation have been reviewed by Civil Counsel, and publication of notices by the Village Clerk of Sparta for a public hearing has occurred in accordance with statute.

No cost or funding is required.

Ms. Klein moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the Petition for Annexation and An Order Altering the Boundaries of the Village of Sparta to include certain property located in Sparta Township.

Supported by Mr. Mayhue.

Mr. Vonk asked if there is really a need to annex because of sewer or water.

Mr. Chadkowski, Sparta Village Manager, explained some time ago the village council put together a CIP for the water and sewer system which resulted in a written policy that specifically indicates that water and sewer services for customers of the system outside of the drainage basin must be a resident and incorporated into the village and pay the taxes affiliated with the initial CIP.

Mr. Hiddema commented on planning or lack thereof with regard to the number of Sparta-related annexations having taken place over the years and this is another single parcel being dealt with.

Motion carried.

VI. MSU/COOPERATIVE EXTENSION/ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE – LAND USE
EDUCATOR POSITION

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve a 3-year contract extension with MSU Extension for FY 2006 – 2008 to fund a 0.6 FTE Land Use Educator position. This request is proposed to go to the Board on December 13, 2005. A summary of the request follows:

- From 2003 – 2005, Kent County contracted with Kent MSU Extension to provide land use education including coordination of Smart Growth activities and administrative support for Purchase of Development Rights. The funding amounts for the three year period were prorated and in 2005, the County funded .75 percent of the Land Use Educator position salary.
- As required by the Board of Commissioners, a cost-benefit analysis was conducted to determine the further need for the position. The review of the land use educator activities for FY 2003-05 and the performance indicators for this three year period demonstrates an accomplishment of many of the goals set forth in the 2002 Land Use Educator proposal including establishment of a solid framework for continued land use education in Kent County.
- The Land Use Educator position has received a three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to fund .4 FTE for the purpose of co-coordinating a MSU Land Policy Program project to replicate the Kent County United Growth model throughout the State of Michigan.
- MSU Extension has requested continuation of County funding for a .6 FTE Land Use Educator position for three years (FY 2006 – 2008) to continue land use education, coordinate United Growth activities, and provide administrative support for the PDR program.
- MSU will continue to provide benefits for the position.

The cost is \$22,092. Funds are available in the 2006 Kent MSU Extension budget.

Mr. Postmus moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve a 3-year contract extension with MSU Extension for FY 2006 – 2008 to fund a 0.6 FTE Land Use Educator position.

Supported by Mr. Mayhue.

Mr. Postmus stated he is pleased to see this because of the importance the position has on land preservation and urban sprawl within the County.

Mr. Mast asked how funding will continue after 2006.

Mr. Delabbio explained the grant funding is for 3 years but it is appropriated one year at a time and is included in the budget.

Motion carried.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chair Koorndyk adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION _____

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