

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE PORTAGE CITY
COUNCIL, THE KALAMAZOO CITY COMMISSION AND THE KALAMAZOO
COUNTY COMMISSION – APRIL 14, 2011**

Mayor Peter Strazdas called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmembers Cory Bailes, Elizabeth Campbell and Patricia Randall, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Sackley and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Councilmembers Claudette Reid and Terry Urban were absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice Evans and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

The following City Commissioners from the City of Kalamazoo were present: Commissioners David Anderson, Robert Cinabro, Don Cooney and Barbara Hamilton-Miller, and Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Cooney, to excuse Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney and Commissioner Bell. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 5 to 0. Also present were City Manager Kenneth P. Collard, City Attorney Clyde Robinson and City Clerk Scott A. Borling.

The following County Commissioners from the County of Kalamazoo were also present: Commissioners Jack Urban, Carolyn Alford, Robert Barnard, Deborah Buchholtz, Brian Johnson, Michael Seals, David Buskirk, John Zull, Phil Stinchcomb, Timothy Rogowski, Brandt Iden, Jeff Heppler, Ann Nieuwenhuis, John Gisler and David Maturen. Commissioners Nasim Ansari and John Taylor were absent with excuse.

County Board Chairwoman Deborah Buchholtz deferred to Mayor Strazdas, who provided a summary of past and current efforts to consolidate, collaborate and share services among the municipalities in the County, keeping in mind the current fiscal condition of local governments in Michigan and the goals and mandates of Governor Snyder, who has proposed that local governments compete for a cut of state sales tax dollars based in part on their ability to share services. Mayor Hopewell posed the question, “Where do we go from here?” Discussion followed.

County Board Chairwoman Buchholtz introduced Eric Lupher, Director of Local Affairs for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Opportunities for Collaboration in the Kalamazoo Communities which can be viewed on the Citizens’ Research Council of Michigan website at *crcmich.org*. Discussion followed.

County Board Chairwoman Buchholtz opened the discussion to the elected officials present. Comments and questions were heard from Kalamazoo County Commissioner Brian Johnson, City Commissioner David Anderson, Kalamazoo County Commissioner Jack Urban, Portage Mayor Pro Tem Ed Sackley and Mayor Bobby Hopewell.

County Board Chairwoman Buchholtz opened the discussion to the citizens for comment and the following people spoke: Jim Schultz, Linda Teeter, Jim Cripps, State Representative Margaret O’Brien and Jim Pearson.

County Board Chairwoman Buchholtz reviewed the proposed “Collaboration /Consolidation Next Steps” for consideration by the three units of government:

Collaboration/Consolidation Next Steps

1. Task respective City Managers and County Administrator with bringing back a list of potential areas of collaboration/consolidation within 6 weeks, with indication as to likely difficulty (timeline, barriers) and payoff for each category. A component of this may include a listing of legislative changes proposed to make such collaboration and consolidation easier and more cost effective.
2. Convene meeting of leadership (managers/administrator, mayors/chair, vice mayor/mayor pro tem, vice chair) within 6 weeks to review and begin to prioritize the list of potential collaboration/consolidation efforts (and legislative efforts).
3. As soon as is practicable (1-3 weeks) present findings to respective boards for comments, changes, etc. and gain consensus for joint and individual priorities. Individual boards would review not only the joint proposal, but also separate recommendations from their administrator/manager for other items specific to their jurisdiction (i.e. inter-county, w/ townships, etc. opportunities.)
4. Consider scheduling another joint meeting to publicly set the agenda and priorities for investigating and pursuing collaboration and consolidation opportunities. Potentially create necessary committees or other avenues necessary for gaining input and assistance; this would include other local unit partners such as townships, cities, villages, surrounding counties, etc.
5. Commit to periodic (monthly?) meetings of the leadership of the City and County (and others as appropriate) to review progress on major initiatives. Update respective boards as applicable.

County Board Chairwoman Buchholtz asked for discussion from the elected officials and/or citizens. There were none. The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and Kalamazoo City Commission approved a motion to adopt the Collaboration/Consolidation Next Steps.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by Campbell, to adopt the Collaboration/Consolidation next steps. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

ADJOURN: With the consent of County Board Chairwoman Buchholtz and Kalamazoo Mayor Hopewell, Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk