

Members Present: President Joe Krapohl, Vice President James Washington, Commissioners: Joe Madore, Michael Lynch, Mike Keeler, Cloyce Dickerson, Bryant Nolden

Members Absent: Commissioners Carl Arthur and Jeff Wright, Secretary William Lucas

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer, Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist; Deborah Wilkes, Secretary

Others Present: LaMonica Harris, Chris Miller, Jeff Harrington

1) Call to Order.

President Krapohl presided and called meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2) Opportunity for members of the public to address the commission.

According to commission rules, the public has three minutes to address the commission. Please state your name and address for the record.

LaMonica Harris addressed the Commission.

3) Consent Agenda. President Krapohl asked commissioners if there are any other items they wish to remove from the consent agenda for discussion. No items were removed from the consent agenda.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Keeler
Supported by Commissioner Washington

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items A through C, as listed in your information packet.

Roll Call

Yeas: Dickerson, Keeler, Krapohl, Madore, Nolden, Washington, Lynch

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Carl Arthur, William Lucas and Jeff Wright are absent.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

4) Director's Report. Two items from the agenda have been removed. The single bid that we received came back much higher than expected and we will go back to the bidding process. It was well outside the original estimate we had, as well as outside of our budget. We will not be acting on this agenda item today.

Ms. McMillan stated that we have recently hired some staff members and Matt Armentrout, Director of Facilities Management, is here to introduce our new staff. Tyler Barto started working for us as an unpaid intern one summer and he has risen through the ranks and has been recently promoted to Park Superintendent. Tyler is now basically in charge of the entire maintenance division. Thomas O'Hara is a recently hired full time maintenance employee. Thomas is new to the county parks system. Maureek White has been a seasonal employee for several years and

Krapohl: We will be talking about a lot of planning in the retreat and we can keep that in our minds while we are planning.

Keeler: He doesn't think anybody in Genesee County has ever groomed trails. In the past there were some golf courses that used to allow skiing on their courses and skiers would make their own tracks.

Keeler: This should probably be brought up under new business. He found out, along with some others, that there was some things that were rather disturbing to him that went on, basically action that came out of this executive committee and didn't come before this board, then went to the County Commissioners for a vote. He is appalled that this happens and we're (the commission) is bypassed at this level. It makes you feel like...we are a bunch of peons down here.

Krapohl: I can give you an explanation if you would like. This commission does not have any authority to grant the Director a pay raise. The Director went to the chairman of the Board of Commissioners (BOC), the Chairman of the BOC asked me for a letter. Commissioner Washington and Lucas asked to see the letter and sign it. It came from the members of the executive committee, a letter that we agreed with her request for a pay raise. The commission does not have the authority to grant the pay raise. It was made clear that it was coming from the members of the executive commission, not an action of the full board.

Keeler: As far as he is concerned the pay raise, he doesn't have a problem with, it is the process. How is this, that it is discussed at the executive meeting and it is not brought back to the full board.

Krapohl: Because I was asked to send a letter as the president of the parks commission, Commissioner Washington and Mr. Lucas wanted to sign it.

Keeler: Then I have a problem with the process. What is the executive committee for, what does it serve?

Krapohl: It serves to discuss things that come before the board, we set the agenda, there are sometimes personnel issues, involving privacy issues, things that are for our knowledge but are not something the full commission acts on. If the commission has a problem with the process that was used, then the commission can rebuke us, they can concur with us, or the commission can not take any action. I understand your concerns, but the chairman asked me for a letter, not a letter from the parks commission.

Keeler: Going back to process, he looks at Roberts Rules of Order backs him up. Mr. Keeler explained how he worked on previous executive, or steering committees. If we are having an executive meeting and we meet immediately following why are things not brought to the full commission. Why are there no minutes during executive meetings. So there is no secrecy.

Krapohl: The executive committee does not meet in a quorum, so there are no minutes required and no open meeting act to follow. We have been very clear that our executive committee does not make any decisions in an executive meeting.

Keeler: If you are not required, then why are we doing this? Why do we have an executive meeting? Again, if what you are doing there, can be done right here in this body, why have one?

Madore: It was factual, it was done

Washington: We don't give raises to anybody. All the chairman of the commission asked was that we simply write a letter, because it was her request directly to the chairman of the board, all she asked of the executive board was 'can I do this'. We could only say, that is between you and the board. Mr. Curtis asked if we would support this, could we support this, what has she done to even posture asking for a raise.

Madore: The process for her to go through the county board is perfectly fine. But when we have a meeting on Thursday, and it is on the county's agenda the next day and certain commissioners are not aware of it, it would have been a courtesy if nothing else, to let the parks commissioners, at least be 'in the know' and are not being blindsided by the public or hearing about it after the board meeting.

Washington: We have no problem with that. We stand corrected, as we move forward, issues like that, we will make sure the entire commission knows.

Madore: It is possible that Mr. Dickerson is hearing this for the first time, it's possible that Mr. Arthur doesn't know about it yet. He thinks that is not the best way to handle it. If there was a request and you knew that it would be on the agenda of the County Commissioners, it said a 'parks commission recommendation', that is how it was on the agenda, he doesn't know how it got there, but that is how it was on there and now you have at least one, two, or three that have not heard about it, that is a bad way to communicate.

Washington: What was on that agenda was a misnomer. It was not a commission recommendation.

Madore: Right, even if it wasn't on there that way, and it was done by Mr. Curtis and their committees how they handle it, it would have been nice to have all the commissioners in the know. You shouldn't find out in a grocery store.

Washington: Putting the onus on Mr. Keeler, he should be picking up the phone.

Madore: We had a meeting the Thursday before it was on the agenda.

McMillan: The county does not have a prescribed process outside of the bargaining units in terms of how compensation issues are addressed. She specifically did not ask the commission as a whole, not because she didn't think the commission would not support her, or that she was trying to sneak something through, when she met with Chairperson Curtis, she did not want to put this commission of, let's say it was a vote of 10-0 or 6-4, or the commission agreed to the request and made the request to the County board. IF the County board did not approve it, she didn't want any conflict between the parks commission and the county board. Ultimately the county board is the sole means of authority to address that issue. If a county commissioner asks any member of the staff, or the commission, as an individual, to make a recommendation, Mr. Krapohl and Mr. Washington were acting as individuals, as would anybody else. If I asked Mr. Washington for a job recommendation, and I got the job, I would certainly not hope that the board would be involved, that is confidential and her request would be as an individual. As was Chairman Curtis' request to Joe Krapohl. If her role in the process is any source of conflict, she apologizes, again, the county has no process. There are other department heads who had availed themselves of a process that was different, because there isn't a policy that addresses this. Her goal was to ensure that there was no conflict between the parks commissioners, who