

APPROVED
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY SESSION – WORK SESSION

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at 2:55 p.m. and was called to order by the Chair.

Present at roll call: Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Swartout, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Hehl, Rycenga, Schrotenboer, Disselkoen, Karsten, Holtrop, Holtvluwer. (11)

Public Comments and Communications from Staff

Candy Kraker, Allendale Township Clerk, Connie Langeland, Polkton Township Clerk, and Linda Way, Wright Township Clerk, spoke on behalf of the Ottawa County Clerk's Association opposing the combination of the Clerk and Register of Deeds offices.

Jackie Frye, Robinson Township Clerk, stated a Resolution opposing the combination was passed by the Robinson Township Board.

Howard Baumann, Port Sheldon Township Supervisor, disagrees with the assumptions on the combination made by County Administration and informed Chair Kuyers that not one township in his district supported the combination.

Nancy Collins, Grand Haven City, stated the feasibility study lacks timely and relevant information. Nancy also expressed concerns over the balance of power, the cost to combine and questioned what does successful mean. She urged the Board to have Administration update this report.

Diana Johnson, Georgetown Township, disagrees with the proposed combination and feels it is very important to have both offices and that both offices have value.

Work Session Item:

- A. Clerk – Register Combination Report – The Administrator reported the Clerk – Register of Deeds Combination Report was completed and distributed on March 9, 2010. This issue has been discussed numerous times to see if it is feasible or not. The Administrator stated the report concludes four options and is feasible but is a political issue. The four options include: 1) Do nothing, 2) Pass resolution to combine offices effective January 1, 2013, 3) Pass resolution to combine offices effective January 1, 2013. Additionally, upon retirement of either the

current Clerk or Register of Deeds, recommend the Clerk, Prosecutor, Senior Probate Judge appoint the current non-retired official to the vacant office with a combination of offices effective January 1, 2013, and 4) Delay action on the issue until either the current Clerk or Register of Deeds retire or decline to file at a future May filing date to run for election.

The Administrator stated the Board could decide today to bring the issue to a Public Hearing or decide to do nothing. The Clerk confirmed it would take a 2/3 vote by the Board of Commissioners to uncombined the offices as well as combine them.

After much discussion, the Board directed Administration to conduct a new survey. Any one is free to submit questions for inclusion in the survey to the Administrator by Friday, May 21st. The Commissioners will be asked to review the draft survey prior to it being sent out.

Public Comments

Paul Geerlings, Drain Commissioner, stated the combination was brought up as an economic issue and questioned whether or not there would be any savings if combined.

Howard Baumann, Port Sheldon Township Supervisor, has concerns with the level of service that would be provided if combined. Would we provide "service" or "excellent service"?

B/C 10-108 Mr. Holtrop moved to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair. The motion passed.

DANIEL C. KRUEGER, Clerk
Of the Board of Commissioners

PHILIP KUYERS, Chairman
Of the Board of Commissioners