

RULES & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE



301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221
p: 517-264-4508 | f: 517-264-4512
lenawee.mi.us

MEMBERS

Kevon Martis
Committee of the Whole

MEETING LOCATION

301 N. Main Street - Adrian, MI 49221

Minutes: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Martis, Bales, Bolton (arrived at 10:22 am), Collins, Jenkins-Arno, Krasny, Stimpson, Tillotson, and Van Doren

Also Present: Kim Murphy, John Gillooly, Shannon Elliott, Rebecca Borton, Jennifer Ambrose, Leslie Kovalski, James and Sandie Brissette, Wendy Chetkovich, Francine Zysk, Sheriff Bevier, Gordon Gauss, Matthew Turgeon, Bob and Karol Knoblauch, Erin Van Dyke, Tracy Stace, Jenny Escott, Ed Scheffler, Ben Ricker, Thomas Kendziora, Roxann Holloway, Carolyn Bater, Bev Ahlers, Rachel McAran, Mary Lowe (The Daily Telegram) Judi Gilmore, and Ian Wendt (WLEN), and Victoria Powell

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Van Doren, seconded by Tillotson, to approve the minutes of the May 9th meeting. Motion carried.

II. Board Appointments: Commissioner Van Doren submitted the following reappointments for confirmation:

Lenawee Department on Aging

Gloria Bortnichak, District #2 Rep

9/25

Motion by Van Doren, seconded by Tillotson, to recommend confirming the appointments as presented. Motion carried.

Vacancies: The following vacancies are pending

Department on Aging (Lenawee)

VACANT - Comm. District #5 representative

9/23

Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

VACANT – Comm. District #3 representative

12/26

Board of Health

VACANT – At Large

12/26

Homeland Security & Local Emergency Planning (LEPC)

VACANT – Mass Care Services

12/26

The general board appointment application is available on the [Board of Commissioners page](#) of the County website lenawee.mi.us.

Please be sure to submit any recommendations for consideration at least ten days prior to the Rules and Appointments Committee meeting which meets on the Tuesday before the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

III. Rules & Regulations Addendum: An addendum to the Rules and Regulations addressing the protocol between legal and the Board of Commissioner was submitted in April for consideration. In May, two motions were made, supported, and adjourned until the June meeting. The Legal Consultation Policy Addendum is attached. The first is the proposed addendum as presented. The second is the proposed addendum with amendments.

A. Public Comment on Legal Consultation Policy: Commissioner Martis opened the floor for public comment and read a couple of written comments.

Bob Knoblauch, Riga, commented.

B. Communications on Legal Consultation Policy: Comm. Martis read comments that he received under Public Comment, there was nothing further was presented under Communications.

C. Corporate Counsel Gillooly: Atty. Gillooly was asked to share his comments. Mr. Gillooly reiterated his thoughts.

1. When any commissioner requests a legal opinion, every other commissioner should be made aware of the question asked and the answer given. The same holds true when the Administrator seeks a legal opinion.
2. There are times when the Administrator corresponds directly, with or without the Board of Commissioners' immediate knowledge.
3. Mr. Gillooly does not have a problem with meeting with a group of commissioners less than a quorum.

Mr. Gillooly explained that he represents Lenawee County government as a whole and should one commissioner seek a legal opinion; every other commissioner should be aware of the question and answer.

There are times when information needs to be handled carefully, but full disclosure is the key.

Comm. Stimpson suggested that this policy be presented to the Policy and Procedures to cover the entire county since it affects other elected officials and departments.

Comm. Martis suggested that a second policy be developed a department policy.

Comm. Stimpson county-wide corporation counsel vs. Board of Commissioners legal counsel.

Comm. Collins noted that he has relayed any legal questions that he has had to either the Administrator or the Chair; not directly to legal counsel. This would be his preference that all commissioners follow.

D. Deliberation on Legal Consultation Policy and Vote:

Commissioners expressed confusion as to if this should be an addendum to the Rules and Regulations, or if this should be a County policy.

Comm. Stimpson, Bolton, Van Doren, and Jenkins-Arno commented.

Kim Murphy explained to the audience that through October of last year, the County's corporate counsel was in-house and handled by the County Prosecutor. Since that time, corporation counsel has been contracted; and not only represents the Board of Commissioners but also represents and serves other county department. This board is now attempting to work through a new procedure, not necessarily

She added that there are several attorneys that work with the County.

Motion by Stimpson, seconded by Bales, to amend the proposed Board of Commissioners Rules & Regulation, Legal Consultation addendum.

Motion by Van Doren, seconded by Jenkins, to adopt the Board of Commissioners Rules & Regulation, Legal Consultation addendum as presented.

Motion by Stimpson, seconded by Tillotson, to refer the motion and the amendment to the Policy and Procedures Committee. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

IV. Other Business: There was no other business.

V. Public Comment:

Todd Gillman, Cambridge Township, commented on the legal consultation policy.

Wendy Chetkovich, Addison, commented on the legal consultation policy.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Tillotson, seconded by Bales, to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. Motion carried.