

**KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KENOSHA COUNTY JOB CENTER
HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
September 8, 2020**

The **County Board Committee of the Whole Meeting** was called to order by Chairman O'Day at 5:30 p.m., in the Kenosha County Job Center, Commons, 8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha.

Roll Call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Belsky, Berg, Beth, Celebre, Decker, Franco, Boyd Frederick, Ron Frederick, Gaschke, Gentz, Gulley, Kubicki, Maurer, Nordigian, Nudo, O'Day, Pomaville, Rodriguez, Rose, Wamboldt, Wienke and Yuhas

Excused: Supervisor Grady

Present: 22 Excused: 1

Announcements Of The Chairman

Chairman O'Day explained that Committee of the Whole meetings have typically been used for the receipt of information on a topic that may affect future actions. This meeting is designed to allow Supervisors to express their thoughts on moving forward to assist in the rebuilding and healing of the Community. No action will be taken at tonight's meeting, but the results of the discussion may form the basis for action in the near future. As this is not a regular meeting of the County Board or its committees, there will be no citizen comments. Any citizens wishing to speak are instructed to plan to attend the next regularly scheduled County Board meeting on September 15, 2020.

Major General Paul Knapp, Adjunct General of the National Guard provided a briefing on the process of how the National Guard is mobilized and how it worked in a supporting role in Kenosha during the recent civil unrest. He provided a timeline of events from the evening of August 23 through the present. He closed by saying they are continuing to monitor the situation and are mindful of key upcoming dates and stand prepared to support Kenosha as well as other Counties throughout the State if they are needed again in this role. He stated the current cost estimate for the National Guard during the unrest is \$5.3 Million.

Supervisor Rose recognized the current issue as likely the biggest crisis in the history of Kenosha County. He expressed hope that after the upcoming discussion, that a resolution would be brought before the board next week to give direction and purpose to the coming weeks, months and years ahead. He welcomed input in the drafting and encouraged non-partisan unity among the Board, with the goal of working in the best interest of all who live in Kenosha. He relayed details of his discussion with the VP of KABA, Heather Wessling, who is developing a list of the approximately 100 businesses who have been harmed, with perhaps 40 of them who likely will not be returning. The estimated cost is \$50,000,000. We want to encourage these business owners to rebuild and support them as they do; while asking the Federal and State governments for funding.

Supervisor Rodriguez read public concerns about the possibility of violence against our city after the election, as well as the upcoming charging decisions... and the importance of having a plan in place. They noted the purchase of bodycams is important but will not solve all of the issues. Speaking for himself, he expressed thanks for the recent updates provided by the County Executive's Chief of Staff, as well as members of the public who were calling out people who were inciting violence and assaulting Police Officers. He stated he looks forward to working together with everyone as the rebuilding begins.

Supervisor Pomaville emphasized that changing the laws will not be the only solution. She addressed the misconception that enacting a few laws will bring about change and move us in a better direction.

Change comes from changing thoughts and minds and hearts, including taking a hard look at ourselves. She questioned whether diversity training would be needed to bring about lasting change.

Supervisor Boyd Frederick recommended the Board to go downtown and spend their money to show support and help them. He further recommended listening to the other voices in the community.

Supervisor Gulley brought attention to the lives that were lost during this crisis and noted that recovery and rebuilding cannot be done on a foundation that does not include equality and inclusion.

Supervisor Gentz questioned how the President's promised \$4 million to rebuilding and \$1 to law enforcement will be allocated. He also offered the idea of creating a TID district with the City for the areas that were burned... so that they would not have to pay taxes for a period of time. He also proposed a committee to look at exactly what the damage was and how to go about asking the State and Federal government for help for them to restore their businesses.

Supervisor Belsky challenged everyone to remember the uptown businesses that were burned, and make sure they are not overlooked in the process of addressing the needs of the downtown areas.

Supervisor Berg highlighted the need to address underlying issues of criminal justice, which includes the courts, D.A.'s Office, and the Dept. of Corrections, in addition to law enforcement. He encouraged them to examine what services we are providing to our black communities, such as mental health services, and dealing with slumlords in Kenosha. He called on the Board to include building up the communities as well as rebuilding the businesses that were lost.

Supervisor Gashke noted that the destruction in his District #7 was devastating; but that the effects on the people of his district is equally important. He reminded his fellow Supervisors that while they are working on rebuilding the property damage, they need to remember that their districts, their community, and their nation truly need to be a place where there is liberty and justice for all.

Chairman O'Day informed Supervisor Rose that the proposed resolution would be put on the Executive Committee's agenda which will be meeting before the 9/15 County Board meeting. Upon Supervisor Gentz's recommendation, once said resolution is brought to the County Board floor, it will be referred to the individual committees.

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Gentz. Seconded by Supervisor Belsky.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Prepared by: Sherri Stocker, Chief Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: Regi Bachochin, County Clerk