



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Jeff Irwin, Chair
Board of Commissioners

FROM: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

DATE: September 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Expansion of the Road Commission

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners increase the membership of the Washtenaw County Road Commission from three to five members.

BACKGROUND:

Under Michigan law the members of a county road commission are either elected or appointed by the county Board of Commissioners. In Washtenaw County, Road Commissioners are appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Currently, there are three members of the Road Commission. At the end of 2006, the Michigan Legislature enacted Public Act 598 of 2006 ("MCLA 224.6"). This Public Act, which was effective January 3, 2007, permits a county road commission to be expanded from the current membership of three commissioners to four or five commissioners.

In counties where the road commissioners are appointed, the process to expand the road commission requires that the local Board of Commissioners hold at least one public hearing on the proposed expansion. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners have conducted two public hearings on possible expansion of the Road Commission. These public hearing were held on May 16, 2007 and June 20, 2007.

After a public hearing(s) has been held, the Board of Commissioners may vote to expand the road commission. The term of any new commissioners, however, must be staggered to insure that no more than two total commissioner's offices expire in the same year. To that extent, if the Board of Commissioners approves the expansion of the Road Commissioner from three to five members, the initial

terms of the new commissioners must be three and five years, with each of the new terms beginning on January 1, 2008. After these initial terms, the terms of all five commissioners would be six years.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose behind expanding the road commission is to permit representation of more varied and diverse county interests on this important Commission. By expanding to five members, two additional individuals representing additional interests and areas of the County would be added to the Road Commission.

IMPACT ON PERSONNEL:

The proposed Resolution will have no impact on County personnel.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

The proposed Resolution will have no impact on the County's general fund.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

There are no indirect costs associated with the proposed Resolution.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

Approval of the proposed Resolution would expand the Washtenaw County Road Commission from three to five members.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

The proposed Resolution conforms to County Policy.

A RESOLUTION EXPANDING THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD
COMMISSION FROM THREE TO FIVE MEMBERS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 5, 2007

WHEREAS, under Michigan law, members of the Washtenaw County Road Commission are appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, there are currently three members of the Washtenaw County Road Commission who have been appointed by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 2006, the Michigan Legislature enacted Public Act 598 of 2006, effective January 3, 2007, which amended MCLA 224.6 and permitted a local county road commission to be expanded from three members to four or five members; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 598 of 2006, any county wishing to expand the membership of the local road commission must hold at least one public hearing before taking such action; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners held public hearings on the possible expansion of the Road Commission membership on May 16, 2007 and June 20, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Michigan law provides that no more than two Road Commissioner terms may expire in the same year; and

WHEREAS, should the Board of Commissioners decided to increase the membership of the Road Commission from three to five members, to insure that no more than two road commissioner terms expire in the same year, it will be necessary to stagger the terms of the two new road commissioners so that their initial terms would be three and five years respectively beginning on January 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, once the initial terms of the two new road commissioners are complete, all five members of the Road Commission shall be appointed to six year terms; and

WHEREAS, having listened to the public comment from two public hearings on this matter, the Board has determined that adding two new Road Commissioners, as permitted by Public Act 598 of 2006, would provide for a

more comprehensive representation of County citizen interests on the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to its authority under Public Act 598 of 2006, expands the Washtenaw County Road Commission from three to five members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that of the two new Road Commissioners to be appointed one shall serve an initial term of three years while the other member's initial term shall be five years to insure that no more than two Road Commissioner positions expire in any single year. Each of these appointments shall begin on January 1, 2008. Once these initial terms are complete, all Road Commissioner appointments shall be for six year terms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrator's Office is hereby directed to advertise for the two new Road Commissioner positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because this change in law provides a unique opportunity, the Chair of the Board of Commissioners shall recommend a process to the Board to fill these positions.