



**MINUTES
OF
STANDING COMMITTEES**

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WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

October 17, 2007

Chair Bergman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Peterson, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz, Sizemore and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Ping Mills

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Robert Guenzel, Deputy County Administrators David Behen and Verna McDaniel, Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Peter Ballios, Finance; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Ellen Clement, Public Health; Raman Patel, Equalization; Trenda Rusher, ETCS; Jennifer Watson, Budget; Gordon Burger, Dale Vanderford, Jim Zwolensky, Kim Wraight, Support Services; Mary Udoji, Library; Ben Toole, ITS; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

James Magyar, Executive Director, Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, 3941 Research Park Dr. Ann Arbor, MI, discussed requested funds for his organization. Jen Chapin-Smith discussed some of the Mentoring Coalitions achievements. She added that the Coalition is now made of up 27 different organizations. She also discussed some statistics associated with the Coalition. He thanked the Board for support up to this point.

Tom Partridge discussed the topic of public transportation and Para-transit service. He stated that these services needed to be expanded to the western part of the County. He added that he supports John Edwards in the presidential election.

Robert Brabbs, President, AFSCME Local 2733, 8770 Mogul, Grass Lake, discussed his inspection department. He spoke about construction standards and reported that employees have had very little input regarding fees. He added that his staff provides several building services. Brabbs discussed the potential elimination of this department. He asked for resources to improve business and aid townships that may need the help.

John Hanlan, 8871 River Valley, Hamburg, spoke about responsibilities of the Washtenaw County Building Department. He discussed some of the conferences and programs evoking the participation of the Department.

Sandy Williams, Executive Director of the Family Learning Institute, 1954 S. Industrial Highway, spoke about childhood literacy, a main focus of her non-profit. She outlined goals of the non-profit and gave examples of cases that her organization has handled. Williams also discussed the writing program. She thanked the Board for considering the grant request.

Don Schnettler discussed the status of the Washtenaw County Building Department. He stated that he sees the County in a leadership role in this front.

Karen Kelly Novak, Child Development Director, Allen Creek Pre-School, 2350 Miller Ave., Ann Arbor, MI, thanked the Board for the recommendation for CWB funding for the next two years. She discussed the function of the Allen Creek Pre-School. She stated that she would like to see the program expanded, and would like to include train the trainer programs.

Karen Dugas, Packard Community Clinic discussed the mission and the clientele of the clinic. She also discussed the mission of the Clinic.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Sizemore discussed the Building Inspection and asked two follow up questions: If the Building Department has explored the possibility of conducting rental inspections for townships and if the Building Department has checked with townships to get a feel for the similarities of problems being experience. McDaniel stated that the Department is activity talking with other townships. She added that several options are currently being reviewed.

Comm. Ouimet reported that if anything can be done by Commissioners with Townships or Villages regarding building department services, he would like staff to make Commissioners aware. He added that there may be ways that partnerships can be created.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe discussed the rental inspection program, and the usage of CDBG funds for this program. She also discussed the usage of funds if the Building Department is disbanded. McDaniel stated that there needs to be a plan in place to allow the Department to meet projections in the future. Comm. Lovejoy Roe added that collaboration should be reviewed.

Comm. Peterson asked about the general fund expenditure on the Building Department in 08. He asked about the fund balance. Guenzel reported that the balance has been depleted, and there needs to be a policy in place to bridge the gap. Watson reported that building inspection and soil erosion have been broken down as separate entities, and that the balance has been depleted. She added that a solution is needed to bring these funds back into balance. Comm. Peterson stated that he would appreciate healthy discussion on this topic.

Comm. Smith stated that it may be important to ask VanDerworp to do a skills analysis of people in the department. He stated that some of these skills may reduce the burden on building inspections. Comm. Smith stated that he would encourage the department to look at the economic development issue.

New Business:

Housing & Homelessness Community of Interest:

Employment Training and Community Services:

Annual Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the ETCS fiscal year 2008 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program to the Michigan Department of Community Services, for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$70,920, authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Comm. Grewal asked about tracking and demographics. Trenda Rusher reported that tracking takes place for up to 5 years.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Ping Mills). Motion carried.

Annual Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the application to the Michigan Department of Community Services, for the FY 2008 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$924,781, authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Ping Mills). Motion carried.

Annual Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)/Department of Human Services Weatherization & Client Education Program

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the 2007/2008 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Weatherization Assistance and Client Education Program application to the Department of Human Services (DHS), for the period of October 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008, in the amount of \$299,388, authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Ping Mills). Motion carried.

Annual Nutrition Program for the Elderly (Senior Nutrition)

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the ETCS second year contract addendum for federal and state funding with the Area Agency on Aging 1-B for the nutrition program for the elderly (congregate meals program and home-delivered meals program) for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008; in the amount of \$913,824 which continues funding for the implementation of the multi-year plan approved by the Commissioners on July 5, 2006 by resolution number 06-0138, amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Comm. Grewal suggested possibly partnering with MSU Extension for fresh food.

Comm. Ouimet stated that this program is not just made up of the meals, but also socializing. He praised the program. Comm. Ouimet suggested bringing Chelsea and Dexter together to discuss what things could be done to help. He added that he agrees with working with MSU Extension. Rusher stated that Chelsea has helped with the program.

Comm. Peterson stated that he has watched this program grow, and added that all should take an opportunity to visit this program. He discussed the effectiveness of this program in exchange for a relatively low cost. Comm. Peterson asked about the wraparound with other County entities, and site visitation. Rusher stated that a lot of seminars are done with Public Health and the Foster Grandparent program. Rusher also discussed the provision of Internet access. Comm. Peterson stated that he would like to see departments work more closely together.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe thanked Rusher and staff for this program. She stated that it may be time to look at a County collaboration to set up a caregiver program. Rusher reported that an in-service is held for foster grandparents.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Ping Mills). Motion carried.

Annual State Foster Grandparent Program

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature on the annual funding agreement for the Foster Grandparent program for ETCS, in the amount of \$20,619, for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 which supports the implementation of the Foster Grandparent program multi-year plan, which was approved through resolution number 06-0153 on August 7, 2006, submitted to the State of Michigan, Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) for the period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2009; and authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Ping Mills). Motion carried.

Board of Commissioners:

2008/2009 Human Services and Children's Well-Being Funding

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the Administrator's recommendations for 2008/2009 funding of Washtenaw County Human Services Outside Agency and Children's Well-Being funds and authorizing the Administrator to sign the resulting service contracts for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 be adopted.

Dalrymple gave a presentation on Children's Well-Being (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Ouimet asked how changes made by United Way will affect this process. Dalrymple reported that she feels that different United Way organizations operate differently. She stated that some agencies need to evaluate what they are doing and how they are doing it. Comm. Ouimet stated that it needs to be ensured that people do not fall through the cracks when they need services. He added that he feels that this is a good opportunity to get information in the beginning. Guenzel stated that there are two issues. One is the short term effect, and the other is the way in which these programs are funded in the next budget cycle. Comm. Ouimet reported that the County has to be sensitive to community needs. Dalrymple discussed some of the collaboration in Washtenaw County.

Comm. Grewal thanked Dalrymple. She asked about the youth mapping project. Dalrymple stated that it would be rolled out in a few months. Comm. Grewal asked about online tracking of the system. Dalrymple stated that common categories of funds are being looked at. She added that evaluation of milestone achievement could also be evaluated. Comm. Grewal asked if a program applying this year would have an advantage for next year. Dalrymple reported that she has never given this advantage, and only a few agencies have been funded over time. She added that applicants are warned that this is Board funding.

Comm. Peterson stated that the process of revisiting the BOC process on this issue should be done now. Comm. Peterson asked that in terms of process, is data on goals and outcomes kept in an accessible place. Dalrymple reported that that outcomes and milestones are given to organizations, and past performance is kept. Comm. Peterson stated that these funds were established in order to allow non-profits to provide some key services. Comm. Peterson asked about site visits. Comm. Peterson stated that he would like to see this item come forward with the rest of the budget. He added that this money is goal driven.

Comm. Bergman stated this rating system was developed with input from the rest of the Board. She stated that site visits may burden professionals involved. Comm. Bergman stated that she feels she has been informed. Dalrymple reported that replacement of funds is not allowed.

Comm. Gunn thanked Dalrymple for the job she has done. She added that accountability is demanded during this process, and some agencies have been dropped. She stated that she would not change this method.

Comm. Peterson stated that his comments are not personally directed at members serving on that committee. He stated that the Board and staff should be more responsible when laying out the process due to the \$750,000 in discretionary spending.

Comm. Irwin thanked Dalrymple. He stated that he feels the committee has put in a lot of time and done a good job with the process offered by the Board. He stated that he hopes results can be taken and put to work

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Ping Mills). Motion carried.

Administration:

Recommended Budget & Community Impact Presentations

Children's Well-Being

Behen gave the Support Services Community of Interest Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that it is important to emphasize service to residents as well as County employees. She stated that many municipalities have a problem with records management, and if a comprehensive solution is found, it would be important to share. Behen stated that she has hit the point on the head.

Comm. Gunn stated that because maintenance of systems is good, major actions will not have to be taken.

Comm. Ouimet stated that this gives an opportunity for the County to reach out to some of the smaller townships. He gave the example of help given to the City of Chelsea policy department. He provided examples of intergovernmental cooperation. Comm. Ouimet stated that it is important to measure the customer expectations, and place realistic expectations on employees.

Comm. Grewal thanked staff for their work. She asked how the commitment of diversity would be translated into specific deliverables. Behen reported that there has not been a determinations of specifics as of yet. Behen stated that he hopes for deliverables in 2008.

Support Services

Behen gave the Children's Well-Being Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Ouimet stated that one of the first things done for Success by Six was inventory. He stated that bringing all of the players to the table is key. He added that he thinks that a comprehensive program is going to come out of this project. Comm. Ouimet complimented Guenzel's leadership on this topic.

Comm. Irwin stated that the measures of success indicate why the County is doing a good job in this area. He also thanked all involved with youth development in the County. Comm. Irwin stated that it was important to ask youth what they want.

Comm. Bergman stated that one thing that may be missing is a discussion of strong families. She stated that she would like to see this promoted in the County more heavily.

Comm. Sizemore discussed the West Willow project that can be used as a model for the County. He stated that he appreciates work that is being done.

Report of the Administrator

Update on Police Services Litigation

Curt Hedger gave an update on police services litigation. He reported that the County was found liable in the Leadership Committee section of the Open Meeting Act claim, and that all other claims had been dismissed. He stated that there would be a hearing on attorney fees for the Open Meetings Act violation. Hedger reported that the hearing is scheduled for October 29, 2007 at 9 a.m. in Courtroom #10 of the downtown Ann Arbor Courthouse.

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Irwin thanked Commissioners for the work on the budget throughout the year. He added that there were still opportunities for Commissioners to propose amendments to the budget. He also stated that staff could perform an analysis on proposed changes. Comm. Irwin reported that there would be a five minute break before the start of the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Lovejoy Roe reported that there needs to be more funding provided to police services in this budget cycle.

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 7th, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

October 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sizemore at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Peterson, Lovejoy Roe, and Sizemore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Ping Mills, Schwartz, and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT:: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Gordon Burger, Dale Vanderford, Kim Wraight, Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Denise Dalrymple, Children's Services; Damon Thompson, Jennifer Hall, Community Development; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Mark Lindke, Veteran Services; Trenda Rusher, ETCS; Ben Toole, ITS; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Discussion Items:

West Willow Neighborhood Plan Progress Report

The presentation on the West Willow Community Plan was given by Derrick Jackson and Abby Wilson (On file in County Clerk's Office). Presenters also included Monica Ross-Williams, Jenny Bivens, Angela Riehn, Abby Wilson, Derrick Jackson, Rashaun Brown. Nathan Norman, and Rolland Sizemore.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is pleased with work that has been done with the neighborhood group.

Comm. Bergman asked about isolation in the neighborhood due to its location as well as access to services for its residents. She stated that she would like to see safe foot access. She discussed park services and how it appears things are improving.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he appreciates energy put in to this project by Comm. Sizemore. He stated that he was struck by the number of rental properties in the neighborhood. He added that he would like to look at opportunities to convert people from rental properties to home ownership.

Comm. Grewal thanked the presenters. She added that it is great to see how different entities in the community have come together. She stated that it is important to continue this program. She asked about stability of the project. Derrick Jackson stated that staff being added to Ballin' in the Willow for example, enriched the program. Comm. Grewal asked about the investment wanted in the future. Jackson stated that making the right connections to obtain resources and expertise is a key component that will continue to be needed in the future. Comm. Grewal stated that she urged a continued commitment in the program.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe discussed the issue of isolation issue with the neighborhood. She stated that all need to continue working on these solutions. She added that bike paths have been added with CDBG money. Comm. Lovejoy Roe added that another issue is the ability to safely cross both highways in the neighborhood. She stated that great work is being done in the area of changing renters to home owners. She added that she would like to see this program funded in the future. She also discussed jobs for youth as well as public transportation. Comm. Lovejoy Roe discussed the impact of fewer police services next year.

Comm. Irwin congratulated all that are involved in this project. He stated that he would like to see this used as a model for the rest of the community. He stated that the energy being used to conduct this project is coming from the residents. Comm. Irwin urged the pursuit of a pedestrian walkway across busy intersections. Comm. Irwin discussed spinning more properties into home ownership. He asked about strategies to improve rental properties. Ruth Ann Jamnick stated that through the Urban Executive Committee, a pilot project for rental inspections is being conducted. She added that the community has been very supportive up to this point. She also discussed improvements that will be made to signals to allow pedestrians to cross U.S. 12. She stated that she may return to ask for a letter of support for the pedestrian bridge crossing U.S. 12. She thanked the Board for their help. Comm. Irwin stated that he hopes there is success with the inspection program, and that there is success in building the pedestrian bridge.

Comm. Gunn stated that the Urban County Executive has the goal of homeowner rehabilitation, and down payment assistance and home buyer education. She added that coded enforcement will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Comm. Peterson stated that he appreciates the efforts of all. He stated that he is privileged to see changes that are taking place. He added that no community will thrive without investment from the residents.

Comm. Peterson discussed the interchange issue created by MDOT. He stated that he hopes pressure will be applied to the appropriate agencies to fix this problem. He added that this is how change comes about. Comm. Peterson added that he hopes the community is aggressive about how the community is changed, and referred to converting renters to owners. He stated that he would like to see the bank asked to be a partner in the process. He stated that the worst days for the community are behind them. He added that he thinks the true partner will be the private sector. Comm. Peterson discussed the best practices of different entities working within the community. He also recognized Growing for Hope and the work that they do.

Comm. Sizemore asked about after school programs at elementary schools. John ***check last name*** discussed the programs at three different elementary schools. He stated that this is just a start and that he would like to see the program expanded upon. Dalrymple discussed WATT and that tomorrow is the kickoff for the Youth Enterprise Center. She also discussed other events coming up such as a youth development forum and the Teen Arts Festival. Comm. Sizemore stated that Administration has been very helpful throughout this project. He stated that some issues that will be looked at in the future include transportation.

Housing Needs Assessment Update

Jennifer Hall gave the Housing Needs Assessment Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Bergman asked if the office is looking at keeping seniors in their homes and what funds are available. Hall gave examples of past investment. She added that most of subsidized housing is through federal funds. Comm. Bergman described a communal service program, and stated that Hall should take a look at this.

Comm. Irwin thanked Hall, and stated that he appreciated the document, and added that the maps are incredible.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he was trying to make the point of taking a density of rental properties and working with people interesting in purchasing. He stated that the need gap could then be figured out and needs for purchase could then be assessed.

Global Summary of Recommended Budget and Q+A

Jennifer Watson and Bob Guenzel gave the Global Summary of Recommended Budget presentation (on file in County Clerk's office).

County Administrator's Report

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Pending

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to adjourn until Thursday, November 8th, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Rolland Sizemore, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: