



**MINUTES
OF
STANDING COMMITTEES**

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Prepared for **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** approval at the meeting on **April 2, 2008**.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

March 19, 2008

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, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Grewal

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Robert Guenzel, Deputy County Administrator Verna McDaniel, Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Gordon Burger, Dale Vanderford, James McFarlane, Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Finance; Mary Udoji, Margaret Wolfe, Library; Mark Lindke, Veterans Services; Jeff Krcmarik, Planning and Environment; Linda Wicks, Professional Development; Alan Israel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Audrey Tisdale, CSTS; Ken Schrader, 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 Citizens' Participation

None

New Business:

Support Services Community of Interest:

Infrastructure & Planning:

Fiber Optic Network

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the contract with Fiberlink, Inc. contingent on the sale of bonds, in the amount not to exceed \$2,748,834 to build a fiber optic network to serve key County sites be adopted.

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

Notice of Intent to Sell Bonds and Continuing Disclosure for Capital Improvements

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the Notice of Intent to sell bonds for capital improvement projects in the amount not to exceed \$15,620,000 (\$12,600,000 for construction of a new 14A-1 District Court and \$2,750,000 for construction of a new wide area fiber optic network to be owned by the County), authorizing continuing disclosure for the sale of bonds in relation to construction of 14A-1 District Court and fiber optic network as be adopted.

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

Office of the Administrator:

Safe Havens – Supervised Visitation Grant

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the application to the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women for the period of October 1, 2008 through October 1, 2011 in the amount of \$400,000; authorizing the Administrator to sign Notice of Grant Award, Amending the budget, and Authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

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

Report of the Administrator

None

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Irwin reported that the Board of Commissioners meeting would start at 6:45.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Citizen Participation

Tom Partridge stated that he urges the Board to take advantage of public town halls and conferences on the topic of community partnerships and social services.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Smith referred Tom Partridge to Article 7 Sections 1, 17, and 22 of the Michigan Constitution with regards to an earlier conversation about powers of local government.

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned until April 2nd, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

March 20, 2008

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Grewal and Lovejoy Roe

OTHERS PRESENT:: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Tony VanDerworp, Planning and Environment; Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Ken Schrader, 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:

Transportation Discussion

- **Terri Blackmore – Executive Director, WATS**
- **David Nacht – Chair, AATA Board of Directors**
- **Jeff Irwin – Chair, Board of Commissioners**
- **Tony VanDerworp – Director of Planning and Environment**

Terri Blackmore gave a presentation on the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Schwartz asked if the information provided came from public hearings used to gather information. Blackmore stated that the public hearings were for planning purposes.

Comm. Gunn stated that she would like to hear about some of the AATA initiatives and funding for transit improvements. David Nacht stated that public transit is vital to a strong economic future. He added that in a month, transit will be available from Chelsea to Ann Arbor. He stated that he is committed to cutting transit time from the east side of the County to Ann Arbor. Nacht reported that bus drivers, fuel, and maintenance are paid for locally. He stated that he suggests it is the County's job to step up and make the regional economy work. Nacht stated that the AATA will exercise a larger role if the County will allow it. Comm. Gunn stated that she feels a Countywide millage is the answer, but added that many communities are overtaxed. Nacht stated that the business plan presented by Blackmore would be a good plan, but added that state legislation/constitutional amendments are needed. He added that the only way to fund this proposal is through property taxes.

Comm. Irwin thanked the work of WATS and Nacht for their leadership. Comm. Irwin stated that boundaries affect the level of service. Nacht stated that the Commission could examine having a regional authority. Comm. Irwin stated that vision, governance, and funding are the three legs that transportation stands on. He stated that he feels the County should lead community discussions on the topic.

Comm. Ouimet stated that it is nice to see how well the AATA has done. He stated that he gets a lot of feedback for service from Chelsea to Ann Arbor. Comm. Ouimet stated that he is anxious to see the next steps.

Comm. Smith stated that he is happy to see discussion about this topic. He added that he is more than willing to be a liaison to AATA as this process moves forward. Comm. Smith asked if WATS asked about costs to citizens if a millage is sent to the citizens. Blackmore stated that the proposals require plans that citizens will support, but that she does not have the figures tonight. She stated that she would like to get the Drive Michigan funding. Blackmore stated that she is recommending that complaints need to be forwarded to the legislature. Nacht stated that a study was conducted raising a .4 mill tax Countywide, and reported that a significant amount of service could be added. Nacht stated that motivation to use the system is key. Comm. Smith stated that transit can be an economic development investment. He stated that value to the community needs to be discussed and added that he would like to see TIF capture used for operating costs.

Comm. Bergman stated that she uses the economic impact of the AATA. She stated that she would like to see a progressive income tax in the State. Comm. Bergman added that she would like to put received funds toward matching funds. Blackmore stated that a meeting is scheduled with the Airport Authority to discuss transit. Nacht stated that discussion has been frayed by where people live. Comm. Bergman stated that she feels that there may be an issue with communities using the service to pay a share. Nacht stated that the downtown business community is strongly in support of getting employees to work.

Comm. Schwartz asked if there has been a change in ridership in response to gas prices. Nacht stated that ridership is up 30% in the last 3 years. He stated that U of M rides free, and added the increased ridership has led to more federal funding. Comm. Schwartz asked if there is a plan to keep ridership high even if gas prices go down. Nacht stated that he does not expect to see much of a drop off even if gas prices drop. He added that there are riders of choice, and there may be ways to attract people to ride the bus.

Comm. Ping asked why a subcommittee within WATS is not established to discuss these issues. She stated that the County and WATS may be able to have a discussion to establish a plan.

Comm. Peterson thanked the presenters. He added that he is pleased with the idea of establishing a subcommittee to get a plan to move the County forward. He stated that he liked discussion about the economic impact of transportation, and added that he is in full support of this effort. He stated that he does not think this will be possible unless leaders in Ann Arbor remain at the forefront of this issue. Comm. Peterson stated that he will be an advocate.

Comm. Sizemore asked about increased walking and bike paths. He recommended that Blackmore talk to Comm. Smith about these topics. Comm. Sizemore asked if the Truckers Association has been consulted about the proposed increased costs. Blackmore stated that she feels they prefer to pay more and be able to haul more. He added that there will be a Working Session with State Representatives and suggested that Blackmore comes to the meeting and participates. He stated that he feels that more Board influence will help.

Comm. Irwin stated that there are many moving parts in this conversation. He stated that coming to terms together is more important than coming up with an entity that is in charge. Comm. Irwin stated that another layer to this conversation is transportation in southeast Michigan. He stated that Washtenaw County needs to be more involved in the conversations about transit in the region. He stated that he intends to work out details with Administration and the other "big 4" participants in the Detroit Area Regional Transit Authority (DARTA). Comm. Irwin stated that he intends to bring a resolution to this body to join that regional discussion.

Comm. Peterson stated that he hopes this initiative moves forward aggressively, and added that he does not want to see AATA discussions slow down.

Tony VanDerworp reported that Planning and Environment has had discussions with AATA. He stated that the role of Planning and Environment is to put a proposal forward. He stated that this proposal will be presented to Administration as well as AATA and WATS. He added that transportation is on the top of the list of important things to do.

Comm. Sizemore stated that the County needs to move forward on this, and added that he feels this could be a part of SPARK.

Space Plan Update

The Space Plan Update for this meeting is on file in the County Clerk's office.

County Administrator's Report

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

Jim Mogensen, 3780 Green Brier Blvd., Ann Arbor, stated that he is concerned about public transit and affordable housing. He described the history of the AATA, and legislation surrounding it.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Irwin stated that in order for a community to be successful to providing service to everyone, services are going to have to be provided to a vast majority of residents. He added that all interests need to be incorporated in order to be successful.

Adjournment

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to adjourn until Thursday, April 3rd, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Rolland Sizemore, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: