



**MINUTES
OF
STANDING COMMITTEES**

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Prepared for **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** approval at the meeting on **February 18, 2009**.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFING

MINUTES

January 28, 2009

The meeting began at 5:01 p.m. in the Administration Building, 220 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Irwin, Ouimet, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Joanna Bidlack, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office

Citizens Participation: None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation: None

Agendas: The agendas for the Ways & Means Committee, and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for February 4, 2009 were discussed along with the agenda for the Working Session meeting scheduled for February 5, 2009.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

February 4, 2009

Chair Smith 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, Judge, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Bob Guenzel; Deputy County Administrators, Verna McDaniel and David Behen; Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Janis Bobrin, Water Resources Commissioner; Jennifer Watson, Dale Vanderford, James McFarlane, Andy Brush, Dave Shirley, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Roberta Allen Finance; Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Patricia Denig, Planning and Environment; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Mark Breckenridge, Emergency Management; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Ken Schrader, ITS; Nancy Heine, Caryette Fenner, CSTS; Scott Patton, Joanna Bidlack, Stephanie Jensen, Administration; Jim Dries, Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Cindy Carver stated that she is present to discuss the current bid for general services. She stated that Carver Construction was 6.90 less during the time period of the last contract. Carver stated that the bid awarded is based on a fake job.

Tom Partridge stated that he would like the Board to direct attention to job creation, public transportation, and health care.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

None

New Business:

Land Use & Environment Community of Interest:

Office of the Water Resources Commissioner:

Full Faith and Credit for the Allen's Creek Drain Stadium Blvd Project Drain Project

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution pledging the full faith and credit of the County of Washtenaw, within constitutional limitations, for the payment of the bond of the Allen Creek Drainage District described in the bond resolution attached to this resolution be adopted.

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

Support Services Community of Interest:

Human Resources:

Collective Bargaining Agreement – AFSCME Local 3052 (all units)

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the agreement with AFSCME Local 3052 (all units) and Washtenaw County for the three year period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010 be adopted.

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

Facilities Management

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign specific contracts with Allied Building Service Company of Detroit, Inc. and with Huron Valley Electric to provide general construction services and electrical services to Washtenaw County on an as needed basis and to sign future building trade contracts provided they have been competitively bid be adopted.

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Prater moved to table this item until March 4th. Motion carried.

Comm. Irwin asked Corporation Counsel to redraft this resolution to include a vendor pool.

Office of the Administrator: **Administration Staff Introduction**

Bob Guenzel introduced Administration staff members.

Update on the Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled transfer to the Ann Arbor District Library – Josie Parker

Josie Parker reported that there is a website currently up and running. She added that the Library opened up on Monday. She stated that the residency requirement has been waived and added that anyone in the County has access to the LBPD. Parker added that mail service allows patrons not to have to come to the library. She stated that calls are going out to all people registered for the service. Parker reported that software to allow access to e-mail and business services is being placed on all computers in the district.

Comm. Bergman asked if the software is going into the Township as well. Parker reported that other libraries can purchase the software. She reported that she is working on engagement of other library systems in the County.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is very thankful to the Library Board and taxpayers in the district.

Comm. Irwin stated that it sounds like the transition is going smoothly. He stated that he is giving special thanks for touching base with all clients on the transition.

Comm. Ouimet stated that head librarians at Dexter and Chelsea are very appreciative of what is being done.

Financial State of the County

Bob Guenzel and Jennifer Watson presented the Financial State of the County (presentation on file in County Clerk's office). Guenzel presented "Commissioner Requests for Information" (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Smith stated that he and Andy Brush are working to develop a communications strategy. Comm. Bergman asked about the level of mandated services and asked about the level of provision. Comm. Smith stated that providing best practices is a high level priority.

Comm. Gunn stated that the Board needs to drill down and make some tough decisions. She added that people in the public arena need to understand what is going on.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he agrees with touching base with local communities. He added that cash balances are going to be critical through this process. Comm. Ouimet stated that rank order of mandated versus non mandated services also needs to be evaluated. He stated that this will create a better budgeting system for long term success.

Comm. Judge stated that she would like information from a single request to be shared so that the entire Board could benefit. Comm. Smith stated that an internal site is being developed to give access to these questions. Comm. Judge thanked Watson and Guenzel for putting together information. She stated that putting numbers of FTE reduction needed is not necessary. She added that she does not feel that these numbers build trust. Comm. Judge stated that she wants to make sure the staff is engaged. Comm. Judge stated that she would like to see the budget line item by line item.

Comm. Irwin stated that he thanks all involved in this process. He stated that he is looking forward to seeing some agreement on revenue generation. He stated that Washtenaw County is still one of the more affluent communities. He reported that other communities had to deal with this crisis earlier. Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to see a slowing on the jail project. He stated that he is not in favor of implementing across the board cuts. Comm. Irwin stated that cuts made in the last several years should be looked at. He stated that he would like to include leveraging in the process. Comm. Irwin stated that pulling back investments from local non-profits will hurt their effort to bring in dollars from all over the country. Guenzel stated that there is a feeling that some of the opinion of across the board cuts is an issue of fairness.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he is requesting information from other communities on handling budget situations. He stated that the County needs to be marketed. Comm. Sizemore stated that building spaces also need to be looked at. Comm. Sizemore stated that he is happy with the Board that we have.

Comm. Prater asked about the Expenditure Growth Rate. Comm. Prater asked about taxable value. Watson reported that Commissioners would not be receiving a final report until April.

Comm. Schwartz stated that this Board needs to work together with staff. He added that this is a problem that does not have a good outcome. Comm. Schwartz stated that the budget team has the resources they need to bring good information forward. He stated that more support should be considered up front in the Administration office.

Comm. Ping asked about the impact of switching to a fiscal year. Guenzel reported that he will bring that to the next meeting. Comm. Ping reported that many Working Sessions are being set aside to discuss these issues.

Comm. Bergman stated that across the board cuts are not the way to work. She stated that flat cuts do not answer what the Board really wants to preserve.

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Sizemore reported that there would be a ten minute break before the start of the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Citizen Participation

Tom Partridge stated that he would like to see creative concepts to move the entire County forward. He reported that he would like to see a County transportation system and a County Economic Development department.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Ping moved that the meeting be adjourned until February 18th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Conan Smith, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

February 5, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman and Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT:: County Administrator Robert Guenzel; Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Ken Schrader, ITS; Caryette Fenner, CSTS; Joanna Bidlack, 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:

Road Commission Presentation

David Rutledge and Steve Puuri presented the Road Commission Informational Update (On file in County Clerk's office). Roy Townsend reported on Road Commission projects (On file in flyer in County Clerk's office). Townsend reported on the 2009 Proposed Stimulus Package projects (map on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Ouimet stated that the Dexter Main Street Bridge is going to be beautiful. He asked for an update on the East Delhi Bridge. Townsend reported that abutments had to be removed and steel piling had to be driven in and excavating had to take place. He described other issues that have come up with the bridge. Comm. Ouimet asked for a best estimate on completion. Townsend reported that he hopes it will be reopened in early June. Comm. Ouimet asked how much the river came down in size at the Dexter Main Street Bridge location. Townsend reported that it has gone from 50-60 feet down to 10-12 feet.

Comm. Smith stated that a slide on discussion of inflationary increases would be helpful. He asked about some of the other impacts of the budget crisis. Puuri reported that salt, fuel, steel, and vehicle costs have gone up. He stated that he feels that the Road Commission has gotten a grasp on health care for employees. Puuri reported that inflation has gone up 6.2%. Comm. Smith stated that there is still urban sprawl pressure. Comm. Smith asked about what the Road Commission could do to urban sprawl and asked about funds being put toward preservation. Comm. Smith reported on the failure of the Judd Road Bridge project. He asked about the Road Commissioners driving land use planning. Comm. Smith also asked about construction planning and enhancements for biking and walking. David Rutledge stated that the Road Commission is currently reactive. He reported that he would be willing to listen about how the Commission could become proactive on how urban development is handled. Rutledge stated that the Road Commission can advocate for things like bike paths. He stated that there needs to be a coalescing of planning in the County. Fuller reported that he feels Washtenaw County is doing a good job of trying to get ahead of that sprawl. Fuller reported on joint planning efforts on the west side of the County. Puuri reported that the projects presented provide and insight to spending by the Road Commission. Puuri reported that more right of way is needed on many of the two lane roads in Washtenaw County. Puuri reported that about 10 miles of new subdivision roads

comes into the system per year. Comm. Smith stated that that it may be necessary to make new expansion responsible for the maintenance of new roads. Fuller reported that there are many townships already hard at work on many of these issues. Comm. Smith asked if it would be worthwhile to have a Road Commission spot on the Planning Commission. Rutledge stated that he would have more information by April.

Comm. Judge thanked the Road Commission for their work so far. She asked how the Road Commission takes a project from study to completion. She asked about improvement of the State Street corridor. Puuri stated that not all projects are equal. He stated that the asset management program evolves each year. Puuri added that engagements of larger issues are going on currently. He stated that traffic counting and availing plans to communities are the start. He added that large projects go from a 25 year plan to being brought into a three year plan depending on federal funding. Townsend stated that the State Street corridor is in SEMCOG's long range plan. He added that early planning and engineering is the next step along with environmental assessment. Comm. Judge stated that she would like to get to the next stage of environmental assessment. She asked about safety concerns and why they are not put to the next spot on the list. Doug Fuller stated that work will be done with the FAA. He stated that money may be available through the FAA.

Comm. Prater asked about local roads and the preservation maintenance plan. He asked where the Road Commission is going with gravel roads. Puuri stated that townships are met with each year and a list is generated. He added that 90% of the data collection is complete. Puuri stated that a menu of options for townships to consider is developed and decisions are then left up to the township. Rutledge stated that there is no standard for soft roads and added that developing a uniform standard would be helpful. He stated that he would like to see this become an ongoing discussion. Comm. Prater stated that each township is going to have to understand that there must be changes in the funding formula or a lot of this work will have to be done locally. He stated that many of these areas are low volume traffic. He stated that it is critical to get this information out to townships. Comm. Prater stated that primary roads cannot be overlooked. He stated that he feels that the Road Commission may be grinding down some of the primary roads unless funding is found somewhere.

Comm. Irwin asked what the policy is regarding the inclusion of new bike lanes in a project. Puuri reported that the Road Commission has been engaged with WATS for many years. He stated that he looks at the countywide plan and match it to funding available. Townsend reported that all federal aid projects over the last ten years have received bike lanes. Comm. Irwin asked about the Road Commission role in engaging MDOT for use of stimulus dollars. Puuri stated that the urban area will likely get on the order of \$3 million and the urban about \$500,000. He added that the standard allocation of federal dollars will go toward resurfacing. David Rutledge stated that the group of state road commissions is actively engaged with MDOT. Townsend reported that he is not sure what is on the MDOT list but it could be about \$2 million. Comm. Irwin asked how the Board could help the Road Commission influence MDOT. Townsend stated that the Board could help obtain the list of projects submitted by MDOT. Comm. Irwin asked about the use of enhancement dollars and if the Road Commission has any idea on how to be first in line for the enhancement dollars. Puuri stated that these are often high dollar matching amounts. He added that it is hard to get the word out to the community when the target is not known. Townsend stated that the Platt Road Greenway project could be a potential project. He discussed other projects that could get stimulus dollars. Comm. Irwin stated that SEMCOG is putting on a workshop on green roads on March 3.

Comm. Sizemore asked why the Road Commission meets at 2 p.m. Rutledge reported that the Commission looks at the time of its meetings. Veigel stated that most township meetings are in the evening and that Road Commissioners and staff are often needed at those meetings. Comm. Sizemore asked if all Road Commission cars and trucks have Road Commission signs on them and asked how many go out of county with employees. Puuri reported that all vehicles have signs and that there are three that go outside of the County. Comm. Sizemore stated that there are no sidewalks over the Whittaker Bridge going over I-94 and added that residents have been bothered. Comm. Sizemore asked about the project on Ford Blvd. Comm. Sizemore stated that the residents on that road are not happy. Puuri reported that businesses and residents have not been engaged on the south end about converting the road. Comm. Sizemore stated that he is concerned about businesses in this area.

Comm. Schwartz thanked members of the Road Commission for attending. He stated that the County would like to put in a new lane along Washtenaw near Hogback. Comm. Schwartz stated that extra money would be helpful.

Comm. Gunn thanked the Road Commission for making the effort to make roads safe. Puuri reported that 17,000 tons of salt have been used so far this season.

Comm. Prater asked how much sand has been used. Puuri reported that it is around 7,000 tons.

Comm. Ouimet asked about the balance sheet as roads are depreciating at a faster pace than the built in depreciation. Puuri reported that he believes this would cause a large gap but added that the map is not capturing the magnitude of the need. Comm. Ouimet stated that he feels that the scrutiny of balance sheets is going to increase. Comm. Smith asked about the amount of depreciation relates to the amount of bonding that can be done. Comm. Ouimet reported that the issue would become accelerated depreciation meaning the cost factor will increase.

Comm. Ping stated that she would like e-mail updates on projects per district. She added that she would like the list of MDOT projects. Comm. Ping asked about Michigan Avenue in Saline and whether expansion of the two lane road has been evaluated. Townsend reported that MDOT did do the environmental assessment. He stated that the rumor is that this is in the MDOT stimulus package. Comm. Ping asked for Commissioner opinion on expanding the Road Commission from three to five members. She also asked how each Road Commissioner feels about the expansion. Rutledge reported that sometimes not doing something becomes more valuable than doing it. He reported on layoffs and freezes in administrative pay. Doug Fuller stated that he feels that there are two people in the County that can lend insight. He reported that the downside to doing this is economic. He stated that he would like to see pay of 3 commissioners divided among five. Fred Veigel stated that it is up to the Board to make this decision. He stated that this will come to about \$40,000. Comm. Ping stated that she feels that it does not make sense fiscally at this time but that further discussion is necessary.

County Administrator's Report

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Schwartz moved to adjourn until Thursday, February 19th, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Jessica Ping, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: