



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
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TO: Rolland Sizemore, Jr
Chair, Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Curtis N. Hedger
Office of Corporation Counsel

DATE: July 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Schedule A Public Hearing for the Board of Commissioners' Meeting on August 5, 2009 to Receive Public Comment on a Proposed Economic Development Millage Increase of 0.0170 of a Mill which is authorized by Public Act 88 of 1913

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners schedule a public hearing for the Board of Commissioners' meeting on August 5, 2009 regarding a proposed economic development millage of 0.0170 authorized by P.A. 88 of 1913 which, if approved by the Board of Commissioners, will be levied in December of 2009 with the proceeds of such millage to be used in 2010 to advertise the advantages of doing business in the county, attract companies to the region to grow jobs and reduce unemployment rates.

BACKGROUND:

In 1913, the Michigan legislature enacted Public Act 88 (MCLA 46.161) which allows counties to levy a millage not to exceed 5 cents on each \$100.00 of taxable value (0.0500), to promote economic activity in the county, region or state through several activities including advertising agricultural and industrial advantages, exhibiting products and industries, encouraging immigration and increased trade and advertising for tourists. The Act also specifies that a county board of commissioners may appropriate the millage funds raised to a not-for-profit organization which is engaged in advertising the advantages of conducting trade within the county, region or state. The power of a county to approve an economic development millage under Public Act 88 is not subject to the requirements of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution because the legislative authority to approve such a millage pre-dates Headlee by 65 years.

DISCUSSION:

Washtenaw County, along with the rest of Michigan, is experiencing an economic downturn that has resulted in high unemployment rates and reduced revenues for public needs. There is an opportunity to provide funding for attracting economic development to the County by approving a small Public Act 88 millage. If the proposed 0.0170 millage is approved by the Board of Commissioners, the millage would generate approximately \$256,000 annually and would cost a homeowner \$1.70 for every \$100,000 of his/her home's taxable value. In addition, after the millage is approved, the Board of Commissioners would have the option of assigning the generated funds to a non-profit organization which is engaged in the purpose of advertising the advantages of and encouraging trade within the County. For example, the County currently allocates funds to SPARK, a non-profit organization committed to marketing business opportunities within Washtenaw County. Public Act 88 millage funds could be appropriated to SPARK or another non-profit entity conducting similar marketing efforts on behalf of Washtenaw County.

In consideration of this millage, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners intends to hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for citizen feedback on the proposed millage and use of such funds. The attached Resolution sets this public hearing for the August 5, 2009 Board of Commissioners meeting at 6:45 p.m. It is anticipated that the Resolution approving the Public Act 88 millage will be presented to the County's Ways & Means Committee on August 5, 2009.

IMPACT ON HUMAN SERVICES:

None.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

Approval of the Resolution will result in approximately \$256,000 in funding to market the advantages of doing business in Washtenaw County, either by County staff or a non-profit entity which is engaged in the business of advertising the advantages of doing business in Washtenaw County.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICY:

This Resolution conforms to all County policies.

A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 5, 2009 AT 6:45 P.M. TO SOLICIT CITIZEN INPUT ON A PROPOSED TAX MILLAGE OF 0.0170 OF A MILL PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 88 OF 1913 (MCLA 46.161) TO PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND TOURIST ADVANTAGES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 8, 2009

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 88 of 1913 (MCLA 46.161) Michigan counties may levy a millage to promote economic activity in the county, region or state through several activities including advertising agricultural and industrial advantages, exhibiting products and industries, encouraging immigration and increased trade and advertising for tourists; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County and Michigan are experiencing an economic downturn that has resulted in high unemployment rates and reduced revenues for public needs; and

WHEREAS, a levy of .0170 mills pursuant to Act 88 of 1913 would provide approximately \$256,000 annually in economic development revenue and cost a homeowner \$1.70 for every \$100,000 of his/her taxable value; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is considering the levy of this millage to ensure continued support of economic development activities while enabling a comparable amount of general fund dollars to be redeployed to other public projects and services; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners feels it is important to conduct a public hearing to provide for community feedback on the proposed millage and use of such funds before the Board of Commissioners makes a final decision on whether to approve the millage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners resolves that it shall hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. at the Board of Commissioners' meeting room located at 220 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan for the purpose of taking comments on the proposed economic development millage authorized by Public Act 88 of 1913, as well as, the use of such funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to publish notice of such public hearing, in a form similar to Exhibit A, in the Ann Arbor News at least seven (7) days prior to the public hearing.

EXHIBIT A

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MILLAGE
OF 0.0170 OF A MILL TO BE LEVIED IN DECEMBER, 2009**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at 6:45 p.m., Michigan time in the Board Room of the County Administration Building located at 220 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan for the purpose of taking public comment on a proposed economic development millage of 0.0170 of a mill (costing \$1.70 for each \$100,000 of taxable value) which the Board of Commissioners is authorized to levy pursuant to Public Act 88 of 1913 (MCLA 46.161) and which, if approved by the Board of Commissioners, will be levied in December, 2009 and will generate approximately \$256,000 for use in calendar year 2010.

The County of Washtenaw will provide the necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the County of Washtenaw. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Washtenaw by writing or calling the following: Human Resources; 220 North Main Street; P.O. Box 8645; Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645. Phone (734) 994.2410, TDD (734) 994.1733.