



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

A session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

Yousef Rabhi, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Brabec, LaBarre, Martinez-Kratz, Peterson, Ping, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Curt Hedger, Corporate Counsel; Greg Dill, Facilities; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Ben Toole, ITS; Lisa Moutinho, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Comm. Brabec seconded by Comm. Ping moved that the minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting of the Board of Commissioners be approved. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation

Michael Halleran, Skyline Highschool, said that he was glad to be there.

Jim Casha said that lots of innovative projects could be created at the fairgrounds and some of them to address homelessness. He stated that he is trying to get legislative support to honor General Grant on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. He noted that General Grant's home was in Detroit.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Communications

Comm. Brabec seconded by Comm. Ping moved that the communications be received and dealt with as recommended. Motion carried.

R-0007 RECEIVED: December 27, 2013. A letter addressed to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners from Governmental Benefits Group, re: Rep. Peter MacGregor. Received and filed.

R-0008 RECEIVED: December 27, 2013. A letter addressed to Yousef Rabhi, Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Joe Hehir, CFO of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, re: Year-end update dated December 23, 2013. Received and filed.

R-0009 RECEIVED: January 15, 2014. A letter addressed to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners from Alice Miller, Washtenaw County Resident, re: HB 4315, not dated. Received and filed.

Not included in the packet:

R-0010 RECEIVED: January 9, 2014. An issue of Evidence Matters magazine sent to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Received and filed. Not included in packet due to size/shape.

Liaison Reports

Comm. Ping stated that the Road Commission subcommittee had met that evening. She said there has been discussion of a resolution asking the governor to use excess funds toward road improvements. She added that they could have something written up for the next meeting.

Comm. Rabhi noted that the executive director of SEMCOG, Paul Tate, has announced his retirement. He encouraged his fellow commissioners to attend the SEMCOG meeting in March and wish Paul Tate well on his retirement.

Report of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners

None

Special Order of Business

14-0007 Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. Ping moved that the Board approve a resolution honoring Peter Forster for thirty-three years of dedicated service to Washtenaw County's Public Health and Safety community. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

Public Hearing to receive comment on the establishment of a PACE program and a PACE district:
No citizens spoke at this public hearing.

Reports of the Standing Committees

None

Reports of Special Committees

Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the following reports be received: 800 MHz POC, dated November 4, 2013; Food Policy Council, dated November 6, 2013; Road Commission, December 3, 2013, December 17, 2013. Motion carried. (Complete reports are on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

Other Reports

Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the following report be received: Report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from December 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013. Motion carried. (Complete reports are on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

Report of the Treasurer

None

Appointments

14-0008 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board appoint commissioners to various boards/committees. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

14-0009 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board appoint two members to the Food Policy Council. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

14-0010 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board appoint one member to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

14-0011 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board appoint one member to the Regional Transit Authority. Roll call vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Commissioner Conan Smith recused himself from this vote. Motion carried.

14-0012 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board create a committee comprising Commissioners Brabec, LaBarre and Peterson charged with; 1. Investigating costs and sustainability of coverage of autism spectrum disorders, and, 2. recommending a policy for providing and funding coverage if the state reimbursement fund is exhausted, and reporting back on February 5, 2014 at the meeting of the Ways and Means Committee. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

Report of the County Administrator

None

Resolutions:

14-0013 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the contract submission to the Michigan Department of Agriculture Clean Sweep Project. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

14-0014 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board adopt the 2014-2016 Human Services and Child Well Being program operating funding applications reviewer recommendations. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

14-0015 Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the Board authorize payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of January 3, 2014. Roll call vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Peterson asked about the second item under the Report of the Administrator on the Ways and Means agenda. Comm. Rabhi said that when the budget resolution had been passed in November, 2013 there had been a lot of discussion about how to continue the budget priorities discussion in years when a budget was not being prepared.

Verna McDaniel said that she was still gathering information for that recommendation. She noted that she will be working with the Chair of Ways and Means to bring back a recommendation. Comm. Rabhi noted that Comm. Brabec would be continuing to lead the board on this issue. Comm. Brabec said that they have set up a new model so that the budget is being examined even in non-budget years. Comm. Peterson asked if this would come back to the commissioners as a document. He asked what would be different than the standard processes. Comm. Brabec said that she wanted to be sure that the budgetary allocations match with the priorities. She said that part of this would be doing a needs and gaps assessment. She said that this analysis was a deliverable that would come back to the board. Comm. Peterson asked if he would see a document that reflects the commitments of the Board of Commissioners. He asked if this would require an expenditure or additional money. He said that if this was simply a series of reports on where the dollars were being spent then he was satisfied.

Comm. Conan Smith said that when the budget had been adopted his expectation had been that there would be staffing to ensure that the priorities are being met. He said that his expectation was that the board would get a position description. He said that Verna had been considering that idea in a more broad way. He stated that the feedback from some commissioners is that hiring another senior level person in Administration may not be the correct solution. He added that he was fully expecting to see a job description or a scope of work. He stated that it was his hope that that person would attend every Ways and Means and Working Session to provide updates.

Comm. Peterson said that he appreciated the answer. He asked when the Board of Commissioners would be apprised of the situation. He said that he would like to see a procedure for how a decision like this was reached. He added that it was important to discuss this as a Board. He said that before a resolution came forward he hoped that the Board would have a discussion on the responsibilities of a person hired to such a role. He said that he would like to see how this person fit into the organizational chart of county government. He asked about the skill set of such an individual. He stated that board leadership needs to communicate these things to all commissioners.

14-0016 Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Brabec moved that the Board direct the County Administrator to put together a team to address the concerns about homelessness that were raised that night and develop a response. This motion was passed by voice vote of the board over opposition from Comm. Dan Smith. Motion carried. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Ping said that it was important to understand where the county's jurisdiction and the homeless shelter's began and ended. She asked if there was an update on the parking agreement between the county and the DDA. Verna McDaniel noted that there have been several meetings on the parking agreement. She added that the county is actively engaged on an agreement.

Comm. Rabhi said that the board could issue a resolution on the request for consideration of the homeless issues raised that night.

Mary Jo Callan said that she had shared with Corporate Counsel the actions taken by the Homeless Shelters in response to the cold weather. She added that she would be happy to prepare a small presentation for the Working Session Thursday, January 23, 2014.

Comm. Conan Smith said that the County does have a role as founders of the Shelter Association. He said that they have always been very responsive to the input of the Board of Commissioners. He said that the county does have and should exercise considerable influence when appropriate.

Comm. Rabhi assured his colleagues that he would not be running for Mayor of Ann Arbor. He said that the Board was a fabulous team and he was excited for the work they do together in 2014.

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Yousef Rabhi, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: 2/05/14