



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday November 16, 2011

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, November 16, 2011.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Alicia Ping, Vice Chair of the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Brabec, Gunn, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, and Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Interim Deputy County Administrator, Kelly Belknap; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Mary Jo Callan, Community Development; Tony VanDerworp, Economic Development and Energy; Michael Smith, Veterans Affairs; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Lisa Greco, Children's Services; Patricia Denig, ETCS; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Andy Brush, Information Technology; Dave Shirley, Facilities; Ben Toole, ITS; Cheryl Perry, 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. Prater seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the minutes of the November 2, 2011 meeting of the Board of Commissioners be approved. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge, Democrat, stated that he was at the meeting to speak on how important the budget of this local body of government was. He asked the Board to pass a resolution that night calling on Congress to come back with a report that calls for sacrifice from the richest 1% of the nation. He urged the Board to put together a truly democratic agenda, which addressed the needs of all members of society.

Beth Adams, Director of Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels and the Housing Bureau for Seniors, stated that her organizations serve low income seniors from all over the county. She related the stories of low-income seniors who had been helped by the organization. She urged the Board not to cut Human Services funding. She stated that seniors would face more foreclosures and evictions as well as fewer services if the budget cuts went through. She asked the Board to help keep low-income seniors appropriately housed.

Kurt Koseck stated the Water and Sewage System vote in Sylvan Township had been recently voted down. He asked what the County's intention was in regards to this issue. He asked where he could get this information. He stated that the citizens of the Sylvan Township wanted a limited government but now found themselves in the Water and Sewage businesses. He noted that the County was a facilitator in the Water and Sewage project. He stated that he would like to see some more information on the County bonds. He asked why the County simply did not take over the water system. He asked if the dispute resolution center could be used by Sylvan Township residents in this case.

Barbara Niess-May, Executive Director Safe House Center of, thanked the Board for paying closer attention to Human Services. She noted that this County stands apart from other communities in their support for Human Services. She added that the people involved with coordinated funding really do work together closely. She stated that cuts even as small as \$10,000 cut into the bone of a non-profit.

Fay Askew-King stated that she was before the Board to represent low-income people who could not be there that night. She reported that she works at SOS. She went on to say that SOS is now the single entry point for all housing emergencies in the County. She stated that it is important to remember that none of us can choose our families but that the families we are born into make a huge difference on how our lives turn out. She stated that for many people the Human Services organizations acted as their family.

Tracy Van den Bergh stated that the money provided for Human Services helps low-income families in Washtenaw County. She noted that she works with many of the Human Services Agencies. She reported that many of the people who are seeking aid from Human Services Agencies are newly poor and have never sought out aid before. She provided an example of a woman who had been helped by Human Services. She added that she has 115 clients who need similar assistance. She added that Human Services helps many families.

Eileen Spring, President Food Gatherers, asked the Board to maintain their funding to Human Services under the coordinated funding law. She described the network of food distribution that happens under Food Services. She stated that coordinated funding is very helpful funding and that she and her partners cannot afford to lose any funding. She distributed a letter from food pantries to the Board.

Scott Pietro stated that he is disappointed in the position that the Board has taken on negotiations. He went on to say that he was disappointed in the way that the Board had handled the HSHV discussions. He thanked several of the Commissioners for their involvement with HSHV. He asked that the Board postpone the budget decision until the end of December to talk with HSHV.

Maureen McDonald, Michigan Ability Partners, stated that her clients believe that they would not be alive without the aid of Human Services Agencies. She urged the Board to remember her anecdote as they discussed the budget.

Katie Doyle, Executive Director Ozone House, thanked the Board for their patience. She thanked the Board for their historical support of the Human Services Agencies. She reported that she works at Ozone House and that the emergency shelter at Ozone House served a record amount of people recently. She cited that as evidence that there was an increased need for Human Service Agencies. She stated the Board's investment in Human Services pays dividends over the years in the form of people who become productive members of society. She reported that she understands how difficult the budget process can be.

Jan Ulrich, Social Worker, stated that three years ago she adopted the cat of a homeless mother. She reported that three years ago she had only one homeless client and she now has 18 families she works with who are homeless. She stated that this week she spent 12 hours trying to find a place for a woman's children to go so that the children do not go to foster care. She went on to say that she cannot understand how difficult the budget decision process is. She added that she has a client who has stopped eating so that her daughter might have enough food. She asked the Board to fully fund Human Services.

Anne Allatalo stated that her family cares about the welfare of animals and people. She thanked the commissioners who have made extra efforts to work with HSHV. She asked the Board to reconsider their proposed cuts to HSHV.

Julie Steiner, Executive Director Washtenaw Housing Alliance, thanked the Board for their hard work on the budget. She urged the board to support coordinated funding. She noted that the Housing Alliance has 27 member agencies. She stated that DTE could turn people's facilities off in the winter. She thanked the Board for their support and their careful deliberations.

John Koselka encouraged the Board to enter into a new contract with HSHV because in his opinion it is the safest and easiest thing to do. He encouraged the Board to go through the process of an RFP so that there could be a complete list of necessary services.

Eric Pollack stated that he would not hesitate to vote yes on a millage that provided funds for Foodgatherers. He encouraged the board to continue discussions with HSHV. He read the Board a quote about the nobility of animals.

Jane Weaver stated that if the contract with HSHV is not renewed then the people of the county will be irate. She added that in her opinion it would be a public relations nightmare if the relationship with HSHV was not continued. She stated that rabid raccoons and pit bulls are a serious safety issue.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Gunn thanked the people from Human Services who turned out to speak. She stated that the Board had made those agencies jump through many hoops but that they were confident that those agencies would be responsible and accountable for that money.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the citizens who spoke for their words. He noted that he was very affected by the stories shared by those who spoke on behalf of Human Services. He stated that he would investigate ways to fully fund coordinated funding. He addressed those who spoke on behalf of HSHV and said that there is not a single commissioner who does not care about the HSHV issue. He went on to say that it was crucial that all of the numbers concerning HSHV were examined. He stated a personal belief that it is important to work with HSHV. He reported that he is committed to finding a solution to the HSHV and the Human Services funding issues. He added that it was important to maintain the long term relationship between the County and HSHV.

Comm. Prater addressed the citizen from Sylvan Township saying that if the County does have the information he needs then it is a simple process to fill out a FOIA request.

Comm. Dan Smith addressed the citizen from Sylvan Township saying that the Board had signed a contract that was contingent upon the millage passing. He reported that the issues the citizen raised were going to be addressed by the Board in the upcoming months. He stated that the County does a lot to maintain their bond rating. He went on to say that the Board was disappointed with the outcome of the vote.

Comm. Bergman thanked the members of the Human Services organizations who spoke and attended the meeting. She thanked those citizens for their work. She went on to say that when she attended the recent HSHV meeting she went under the assumption it would be a chance to discuss ideas not laws. She stated that the meeting was a lecture not a discussion. She reported that the County's Corporation Counsel and Administration were not invited to the meeting but that the HSHV brought both their own Corporation Counsel and Administration. She stated that the requests made by the Board for information were not adequately met by the HSHV. She noted that historically the Board has had a very good relationship with HSHV. She stated that she would need to see a breakdown of the costs necessary to fulfill the mandates. She added that she does not want to go elsewhere than the HSHV. She went on to thank the HSHV volunteers for attending the meeting. She encouraged those volunteers to go to the HSHV board and ask them to meet with the County in a negotiation setting. She asked HSHV volunteers to work with the County in a more positive way.

Comm. Brabec thanked the audience for their attendance. She spoke to the Human Services representatives and said that she empathized with their cause because she had a background in that field. She encouraged those people to take care of themselves. She noted that the Board was working hard to find a way to make things work with HSHV. She reported that she is interested in doing her due diligence in gathering all of the information necessary to hold productive talks. She stated that the work HSHV does is tremendous. She added that it is not only animals but also people impacted by HSHV.

Comm. Turner thanked HSHV for providing him an opportunity to learn more about what HSHV does. He reported that both sides of this issue had been very steadfast about their needs. He stated that the County needs to define what their mandated services are. He went on to say that the best way to do this would be to work with HSHV. He noted that he would be glad to sit down with HSHV and truly negotiate and come up with a compromise so that a fair agreement could be met. He stated that he serves on the Board because he loves to help people. He thanked HSHV volunteers for coming. He thanked the Human Services workers for attending the meeting. He stated that their stories broke his heart. He reported that he would do what he could to see that coordinated funding received full funding. He noted that safety net services have been a top priority for both him and Comm. Rabhi. He addressed the citizen of Sylvan Township by apologizing that the citizen was unaware that the meeting was not a public meeting but a meeting open to the public. He noted that the questions raised by that man had been addressed by a town hall meeting. He encouraged the man to get a hold of him so that they could have a discussion about the issue. He reported that the easiest way to handle the issue would have been for the millage to pass. He stated that he would continue to work as hard as he could for the people of Sylvan Township.

Communications

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

R-0111 RECEIVED: October 28, 2011. Women of China Magazine re: Chinese Ballet. Received and filed. Not included in this packet due to size.

R-0112 RECEIVED: October 28, 2011. A letter to the Washtenaw County Clerk, from E. Spaulding Clark, Supervisor, Township of Scio, re: Industrial Facilities Exemption request, dated October 26, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0113 RECEIVED: November 1, 2011. A letter to the Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Mary Mehren, Director, Federal Compliance Division, Department of Human Services re: Child Care Fund Expenditures dated October 13, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0114 RECEIVED: November 1, 2011. A letter to Conan Smith, Chair, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Lana Vacha, Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, re: Washtenaw County Grants, dated October 20th, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0115 RECEIVED: November 4, 2011. A letter to the Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, re: 2010-2011 Child Care Fund Budget, dated September 16, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0116 RECEIVED: November 4, 2011. A letter to the Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Michigan AFSCME Council 25, re: People's Reception, dated September 23, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0117 RECEIVED: November 7, 2011. A letter to the Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Stephen J. Gauthier, Director, Government Finance Officers Association, re: Certificate of Achievement for CAFR Report, dated November 2, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0118 RECEIVED: November 7, 2011. A letter to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Richard A. Sundquist, Clark Hill PLC, re: FOIA Request, dated November 2, 2011. Received and filed.

R-0119 RECEIVED: November 7, 2011. A letter to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Richard A. Sundquist, Clark Hill PLC, re: FOIA Request # 2, dated November 2, 2011. Received and filed.

Liaison Reports

Comm. Bergman stated that she felt that services to seniors are inadequate and hoped that they could be improved in the future. She went on to say that she hoped that Comm. Brabec would be as interested in this issue as she was.

Comm. Rabhi noted that the supplemental item was a proposal to help the Ford Motor Company retain jobs that might otherwise be lost. He added that he was very proud of the Board's ability to act on this and he stated that he hoped this was something the board could make happen.

Report of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners

None

Special Order of Business

None

Reports of the Standing Committees

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the following reports be received and approved: Ways & Means, dated November 2, 2011. Motion carried. (Complete reports are on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

Reports of Special Committees

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the following reports be received: Board of Commissioners Public Hearing, dated October 17, 2011; Statutory Drainage Board, dated October 20, 2011. Motion carried. (Complete reports are on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

Other Reports

- A. Report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from October 1, 2011 to October 31, 2011. Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore). Motion carried.

Report of the Treasurer

None

Appointments

None

Report of the County Administrator

None

Resolutions:

Ways and Means – November 2, 2011

11-0187 Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the resolution amending the 2011 General Fund Budget be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

11-0188 Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the resolution approving and adopting the Biennial County Budget for 2012 and 2013 be adopted.

Comm. Dan Smith seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the last phrase “or the County Administrator” of Article B-9 of the Budget resolution be struck.

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. Turner proposed a substitution to Comm. Dan Smith’s amendment “The Administrator shall report to the Board of Commissioners on a monthly basis any temporary rehire of a retiree.” Roll call vote on Comm. Conan Smith’s substitution to Comm. Dan Smith’s Amendment: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 1 (Comm. Wes Prater) ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. Peterson proposed a change to line item 35 of the budget “The Federal HeadStart program grant shall not be relinquished without the affirmative vote of the Board of Commissioners.” The amendment was called to question: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: (Comm. Sizemore) Roll Call Vote on the Amendment: YEAS: 4 NAYS: 6 (Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Dan Smith) ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion overturned.

Roll Call Vote on the Budget Resolution: YEAS: 10 NAYS: * ABSENT 1 (Comm. Sizemore) : (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

*Comm. Brabec voted no to cuts on; Animal Control, HeadStart, Coordinated Funding.
Comm. Peterson voted no to cuts on; Animal Control, HeadStart, Coordinated Funding.
Comm. Ping voted no to cuts on Animal Control.
Comm. Conan Smith voted no to line item 100 (as a joke).

New Business

11-0185 Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the resolution setting a public hearing at 6:45pm on January 18, 2012 at a regular Board of Commissioners meeting to receive comment on the adoption of the Brownfield Plan for the Arbor Hills Crossing Redevelopment Project at 3000-3120 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore). Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

11-0181 Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the resolution authorizing payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of October 21, 2011 be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore). Motion carried.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Peterson asked that the Board discuss raises.

Comm. Prater noted that the award given to the Finance Department seemed oddly timed given the budget situation.

Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge called on the Chair of the Board to explain to the voters what the votes that were just taken meant. He stated that the public should be made aware of the ramification of those votes.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Conan Smith clarified that the budget passed unaltered with the exception of one text adjustment. He stated that there were no number adjustments.

Comm. Turner noted that what had happened that evening was not a late night vote. He noted that the meeting had been long because of citizen participation, which he would not do away with it.

Adjournment

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved to adjourn until Wednesday, December 7th, 2011, at 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Alicia Ping, Vice Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: 12/07/11