



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday October 19, 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, October 5, 2011.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 p.m. by Conan Smith, Chair of the Board.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Bergman

**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; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### Roll Call

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting of the Board of Commissioners be approved. Motion carried.

#### Citizen Participation

Dr. Douglas Smith submitted an appeal for a denial of a FOIA. He stated that he was looking for video from a surveillance camera in parking lot. He went on to say that a court employee had \$20 stolen from her car but was denied access to video. He added that the video triggered internal investigation in the sheriff department. He reported that the County has provided a variety of reasons why this is exempt from a FOIA. He stated that under the law regarding FOIA that an exemption is put under a balancing test. He stated that he would like to challenge the County's assertion that it was in the Public's best interest not to release the video.

Thomas Partridge, Democrat, stated that he was here to address the issue of changing the social, political and economical environment of Washtenaw County. He encouraged the Board of Commissioners to develop some new sources of revenue. He stated that he wants them to foster the local peace corp., and internships. He added that he wants services to be increased rather than decreased and he wants to have new county commissions created to address affordable housing and affordable transportation.

#### Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Prater mentioned that Dr. Smith had been told to go to the County Administrator. Curt Hedger, Corporate Counsel, affirmed that that was what he had been advised to do. He stated that the Head of the public body, in Washtenaw County's case the County Administrator hears those appeals.

#### Communications

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

**R-0097** RECEIVED: September 15 – October 3, 2011. Citizen letters to the Board of Commissioners, re: HeadStart Program Funding, dated September 12 – September 25, 2011. Received and filed.

**R-0098** RECEIVED: October 3, 2011. A letter to Joanna Bidlack, from Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk, Ypsilanti Township, re: Application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate, dated September 21, 2011. Received and filed.

**R-0099** RECEIVED: October 3, 2011. A letter to Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk, Washtenaw County, from Verna McDaniel, County Administrator, Washtenaw County, re: Certification of Claims List Inclusive from September 10, 2011 through September 23, 2011, dated September 26, 2011. Received and filed.

**R-0100** RECEIVED: October 3, 2011. A MAC Legislative Update, re: Personal Property Tax Reform, from Michigan Association of Counties, dated September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Received and filed.

**R-0101** RECEIVED: October 3, 2011. A letter to the Washtenaw County Clerk, re: Distribution of Dexter Township's approved Master Plan, from Mary Adams, Secretary, Dexter Township Planning Commission, dated September 27, 2011. Received and filed, copies of the plan were not printed in the packet due to size, but are available upon request to the Washtenaw County Clerk's office.

**R-0102** RECEIVED: October 5, 2011. A letter to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Nancy Taylor, Member of Ann Arbor Friends, Washtenaw County, re: Human Services in Washtenaw County, dated September 30, 2011. Received and filed.

**R-0103** RECEIVED: October 6, 2011. A postcard to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from City of Saline, re: Sister City Celebration. Received and filed.

**R-0104** RECEIVED: October 12, 2011. A letter to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Bill Bullard Jr., Clerk/Register of Deeds, Oakland County, re: Misc. Resolution #11205, dated October 3, 2011. Received and filed, copies of the plan were not printed in the packet due to size, but are available upon request to the Washtenaw County Clerk's office.

### **Liaison Reports**

Comm. Turner stated that Road Commission has asked him if he would bring before the board their desire to not have funding for SEMCOG cut. He reported that the Road Commission sees a definite benefit to membership with SEMCOG and would like to have a meeting with the administrator. He added that the Road Commission wanted to see if it is possible for Road Commission to take up a portion of SEMCOG's fees. He reported that the Director of the Literacy Coalition of Washtenaw County had received a new job. He added that this meant the Coalition is without a promoter. He stated that Because of the urgent needs of the literacy coalition of Washtenaw County the Coalition is looking to have supporting organizations step up with personnel needs.

### **Report of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners**

None

### **Special Order of Business**

#### **A. Appointment of Washtenaw County Commissioner for District 7**

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board approve the motion appointing Felicia Brabec to fill the vacant District 7 seat on the County Board of Commissioners and calling for a special primary election and special general election to fill the seat.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Bergman). Motion carried.

#### **B. Public Hearing of the Proposed Budget**

Barbara May, Executive Director Safe House Center, reported that voters of our community built the building. She thanked the board for their continued support. She mentioned that in her community, domestic violence is still an epidemic. She stated that even though there is a law against domestic violence that doesn't change the fact that we are seeing high numbers of arrests. She reported that there is a 24/7 response team that is 25% staff and 75% volunteers. She added that this team spent 1500 hours in people's homes or the hospitals. She stated that Law enforcement is looking to reduce the amount of energies they expend on domestic violence because they know that safe house will pick up the slack. She added that there are approximately 24 staff and 150 volunteers. She said that Safe House views the county as a partner. She finished by saying that the organization is pursuing sustainable funding.

Ellen Schulmeister defined the word partner. She stated that Washtenaw County is a partner with the shelter association, buildings have been built and maintained. She stated that this was one of the more difficult times the two organizations have faced together. She suggested that a resolution is created that would show a dedication on the behalf of the County to the efforts of human services agencies. She suggested that the board reaches out to the citizens of Washtenaw County and asks them to support safety net services.

Judy Steiner, director of Washtenaw Housing Alliance, thanked the board for their support. She stated that Michigan was once 14<sup>th</sup> in nation for income and is now down to 31<sup>st</sup>. Kristin Klevering spoke about single entry. She stated that it is working but the statistics are important.

Thomas Partridge stated that he is not satisfied with the proposed budget. He reported that he doesn't like that there is a policy that requires a 2 year budget. He recommended the board adopt a rolling budget. He reported dissatisfaction with the mindset that county tax authority is limited. He added that he also dislikes that the county is unable to raise new sources of revenue. He challenged this mindset. He also mentioned that he understands there is a subterranean computer network accessible only by county commissioners and county employees and he challenges the existence of this network.

### **Reports of the Standing Committees**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the following reports be received and approved: Ways & Means, dated October 5, 2011; Working Session, dated October 6, 2011. Motion carried. (Complete reports are on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

### **Reports of Special Committees**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the following reports be received: Board of Road Commissioners, dated September 20, 2011; Social Services Board Meeting, dated August 23, 2011; River Raisin Watershed Council, dated October 18, 2011. Motion carried. (Complete reports are on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

### **Other Reports**

None

### **Report of the Treasurer**

None

### **Appointments**

None

### **Report of the County Administrator**

None

### **Resolutions:**

#### **Ways and Means – October 5, 2011**

**11-0167** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution pledging the full faith and credit of the County of Washtenaw, within constitutional limitations, for the payment of the bond of the Malletts Creek Drain Drainage District described in the bond resolution attached to this resolution be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

**11-0168** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that 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: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

**11-0169** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the application to the Michigan Department of Human Services, for the FY 2012 Community Services Block Grant in the amount of \$740,010 for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 for ETCS; authorizing the Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget; authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

**11-0170** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign a contract with Governmental Consultant Services, Inc for a two-year period beginning on November 1, 2011

and ending on October 31, 2013 be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

**11-0174** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute a contract with Sylvan Township to address the repayment of re-funded water and wastewater systems bonds contingent upon Sylvan Township voter approval of a 4.75 millage increase be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

#### **Ways and Means – October 19, 2011**

**11-0173** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the agreement with the Michigan Department of Human Services for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) crisis assistance deliverable fuel, in the amount of \$46,900 for the period of September 15, 2011 through August 31, 2012; approving the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

#### **New Business**

**11-0171** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution creating a Historic District Study Committee, and approving the appointment of the committee members as recommended by the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission for the purpose of evaluating Jarvis Stone School for Historic District Status. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Claims**

**11-0172** Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the resolution authorizing payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of October 4, 2011 be adopted. Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Sizemore). Motion carried.

#### **Items for Current/Future Discussion**

Comm. Rabhi thanked the individuals who spoke during the public budget and stated that it is refreshing to have non-profits who want to work with the Board as a partner. He added that he had a quick report and went on to say that Brownfield Authority, City of Ann Arbor Planning Commission approved the Arbor Hills Crossing site, which is a Brownfield site.

Comm. Conan Smith thanked the Count staff who had stayed for the meeting.

#### **Citizen Participation**

None

#### **Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved to adjourn until Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, at 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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Conan Smith, Chair

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

Board Approved: 11/2/11