



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

December 5, 2012

Comm. Rolland Sizemore 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, Brabec, Gunn, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Sizemore, Conan Smith, Dan Smith and Turner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Brian Mackie, Prosecutor; Catherine McClary, Treasurer; Raman Patel, Equalization Director; Curt Hedger, Corporate Counsel; Greg Dill, Facilities; Andy Brush, ITS; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Mary Jo Callan, OCED; Bob Tetens, Parks & Recreation; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Ken Schrader, ITS; Elaine Holleran, County Administration; Lisa Moutinho, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### Roll Call

#### Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge stated that it was an honor to speak before the board that night. He said that he was in attendance as a resident dedicated to giving a voice to those not represented by this commission. He added that he had encountered a homeless woman on his way to the meeting. He noted that this woman with twenty years of experience was selling newspapers to raise money. He called on the employees of the county who were receiving reimbursement for furlough days to donate that money to an organization dedicated to eliminating homelessness.

John Kinzinger stated that he was there about a month ago when he had spoken in favor of the tax increase for the veteran services commission. He said that there twenty veterans in the room who would qualify for those positions. He asked the board how many of them who had gotten a call from an indigent veterans family saying their veteran needed dinner. He reported that there is no emergency help for veterans that comes from this committee. He said that many of the nominations received have twenty plus volunteer years in the community. He said that the community that could be, could be much more proactive. He thanked the board for their time.

Elmer White said that up until June of this year appointments to this committee only had to fill one qualification. He added that now there were three qualifications an appointment must meet. He said that it was the job of elected officials to scrutinize the applications before them and make sure that the appointees fit the requirements of the law. He noted that John Kinzinger who had just spoken was once nominated "Citizen of the Year". He said that the Department of Veterans Affairs was not proactive enough. He asked why the department was not engaged with other human services organizations.

Julie Steiner, Washtenaw Housing Alliance, thanked the outgoing commissioners Barbara Bergman and Leah Gunn in particular for their support of her organization. She said that without Leah Gunn it would not have been possible to do the things they do. She said that she had brought with her a report on homelessness in Washtenaw County.

A Scio Township resident, thanked the retiring commissioners for their work on saving the East Delhi bridge. She said that saving the bridge was one of the best decisions made by the county. She said that the county may not be aware of what a tourist draw the bridge is. She added that it was in all kinds of national publications. She said that in terms of branding for Washtenaw County it had been a great investment.

#### Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Prater said he would be speaking more later but there must be something going on because he sees a number of veterans in attendance tonight who he has never seen before this board. He thanked the veterans and the citizens for coming to this meeting. He added that there would be more conversation on this topic.

#### New Business:

## **A. Civic Infrastructure**

### **1. Equalization:**

#### **a. Apportionment Report:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the Final 2012 Apportionment report.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 Motion carried.

## **B. County Administrator**

#### **a. Compensation Adjustment**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize a one-time compensation adjustment, in the amount of 1.5%, payable to eligible Washtenaw County employees on the 12/21/12 paycheck that were subject to banked leave days in 2012. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Conan Smith expressed his thanks to the County Administrator for recognizing a time to share to cost savings with the county staff. He added that he appreciated her leadership.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the county staff for their wonderful work. He said that some of the departing commissioners had expressed that same sentiment. He added that they were partners with the employees and at the last budget cycle the employees had made sacrifices in order to balance the budget.

Comm. Peterson agreed with the comments that had been expressed. He asked if there was any wage adjustments that were coming up in the new year. Verna McDaniel noted that there were some contractual wage adjustments for two unions. Comm. Peterson said that there would be no wage adjustments in 2013 except those which had already been negotiated. He said that the county employees are paying additional for health care and retirement and they have lost cost of living adjustments. He said that it was not a gift but it was money that the employees had earned.

Comm. Gunn said she had been with the county for 16 years and she had always been impressed with the work ethic and innovativeness of the county employees from the bottom to the top. She said that Janis Bobrin had been correct when she characterized Washtenaw County as a model county.

Comm. Prater said that it was those employees who had taken bank leave days who were receiving the compensation adjustment. Comm. Prater asked how many employees that had been. Verna McDaniel responded that it was approximately 940.

Comm. Bergman said that the average redistribution of funds was a token and a token only of the appreciation for everything that the staff does. She said that after 20 years she continues to be astounded by the staff's enthusiasm for doing the best job possible. She thanked the staff.

Comm. Ping thanked the county employees for being so willing to give when the county needed it.

Comm. Turner said that this administration has a lot of ethics and respect for the staff by adjusting the compensation when the money was there. He said that the next budget cycle would be a difficult time but he hoped that the staff recognizes the ethics of administration.

Comm. Sizemore thanked Administration and Kelly Belknap and Diane Heidt as well as Verna McDaniel and the employees. He said that union leadership was doing a good job.

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

**Report of the Administrator:**

Verna McDaniel said that she had received an email from Dick Fleece about another county in another state who had adopted some of Washtenaw County's practices.

**Report of the Chair of the Board**

Comm. Conan Smith stated that there would be a ten minute break between meetings.

**Items for Current/Future Discussion**

Comm. Prater said he had heard that the Washtenaw Ride has only one member, the City of Ypsilanti. He asked if that was true. Comm. Rabhi said that he was not aware of the situation. Curt Hedger said that both Ypsilanti Township and Saline had opted out. He noted that the City of Ann Arbor has also opted out.

**Pending**

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the meeting be adjourned until January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.  
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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Rolland Sizemore, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: January 16, 2013