



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

February 1, 2012

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman, Brabec, Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Interim Deputy County Administrator, Kelly Belknap; Interim Corporation Counsel Stefani Carter; Greg Dill, Facilities; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Ken Schrader, ITS; Cheryl Perry, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Verna McDaniel introduced Stefani Carter who is filling in for Curt Hedger as Corporation Counsel. She stated that Stefani Carter had been the assistant attorney for the City of Ann Arbor for 15 years. She noted that Carter had worked for the County as "Of Counsel" under Curt Hedger in the past.

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

None

New Business:

A. Land Use & Environment

1. Water Resources Commissioner:

a. Whitmore Lake Improvement Project:

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners direct the Board of Public Works to undertake a Lake Improvement Project for the Township of Northfield in Washtenaw County and the Township of Green Oak in Livingston County.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 3 (Comms. Bergman, Brabec and Peterson) Motion carried.

B. Support Services:

1. Human Resources:

a. Worker's Compensation Disability Compensation Administration and Excess Insurance Coverage:

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners accept the offer for third party administration of claims services for Workers' Disability Compensation Program for the 2012 – 2015 period and excess insurance coverage for Workers' Disability Compensation Program for the February 1, 2012 – May 1, 2013 period, with the authorization for the Administrator to negotiate continued coverage through May 1, 2015.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 3 (Comms. Bergman, Brabec and Peterson) Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:

None

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Conan Smith stated that the Board would reconvene at 6:45 p.m.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Prater read a statement he had prepared, the statement is as follows:

At the October 28 meeting of AATA's Financial Group, co-chair Berriz said "they had three problems – low ridership, high cost per rider and limited opportunity of external funding." On January 22, 2012, Mike Ford did a guest column on annarbor.com, regarding the County wide public transportation proposed agreement. The article stated "Currently, The Ride provides more than 6,000,000 passenger trips each year." "That equals about 32 people riding a bus for every hour of service provided." When you divide the 26 bus routes into 32 passenger trips, it gives less than 1.25 average passengers per route for each hour of service provided. Also, the budget for AATA's budget year 2011, was about \$30 million. When 6,000,000 rides are divided into \$30 million, the average cost of a passenger trip is \$5.00. It was reported in the Ann Arbor Chronicle on January 25, 2012 that 40% of the rides on the AATA regular bus system are taken by University of Michigan students, faculty and staff under the M-ride program. From August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010, U.M. paid AATA a total of \$1,987,642 for about 2.3 million rides. The current agreement is for U of M to pay AATA \$1.00 per ride. The regular fare for citizens is \$1.50. Another bus pass program funded by the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) provided revenue of \$445,672 for the year 2011 and this year will provide \$448,054. The Get Downtown go! pass program represents 10% of the rides on the AATA. Therefore, these two programs (UM and go!pass), account for about 50% of the current ridership for less than 3 million in revenue for a 30 million budget, this seems to be an extremely small amount of revenue for the service provided. The taxpaying citizens are paying approximately 9 million and the contracting communities about 2 million annually for the other 50% of the service provided by AATA.

He stated that it was time for the County to engage with the AATA and get a full understanding of the program.

Comm. Sizemore stated that it was time to examine the legal fees that the County accrues.

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until February 15th, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Rolland Sizemore, Chair

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

APPROVED: February 15, 2012