



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

October 17, 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. Brabec, Gunn, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Sizemore, Conan Smith, Dan Smith and Turner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Bergman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Curt Hedger, Corporate Counsel; Greg Dill, Facilities; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Catherine McClary, Treasurer; Raman Patel, Equalization; 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

Lily Au, Ann Arbor resident, said that she would like the board to pay close attention to the allocations of funds. She stated that she has worked on coordinated funding for years. She added that there was no formal presentation made to the Ann Arbor City Council before that body made a decision on human services funding. She noted that the president of the annarbor.com also sits on the board of the United Way. She asked why human service funds went to United Way when United Way sponsored the annarbor.com.

Thomas Partridge, committed Washtenaw County democrat, stated that he was a write-in candidate for the 53<sup>rd</sup> District for the State House of Representatives. He added that he was an advocate for affordable housing, transportation and health care. He said that he was in attendance at the meeting that night as a representative of those who do not have a voice before this board. He noted that if he won a seat on the Michigan House of Representatives he would advance the cause of everyone.

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

None

#### New Business:

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners proclaim the month of October, 2012, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Washtenaw County and recognize the work of Safe House Center to protect survivors. Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Bergman) Motion carried.

Comm. Brabec noted that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and they would be honoring the work of Safe House. She read aloud a resolution honoring the work of Safe House. Barbara Niess-May stated that she was humbled and honored to have her organization recognized by Washtenaw County. She noted that she was surrounded by people who have supported her organization's work. She reported that Safe House is truly a county-wide organization. She shared the results of a study that was done with the Washtenaw County Sheriff. She noted that none of the homicides victims of the last decade had been connected to Safe House. She said that tomorrow morning all of the police chiefs in the county were meeting at Safe House to discuss ways to improve responses to domestic violence.

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners recognize the International Year of Cooperatives. Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Bergman) Motion carried.

Comm. Rabhi read a resolution recognizing cooperatives. Gaia Kile sits on the board of directors of the people's food co-op. He said that the international year of the co-op was recognized by the United Nations because they provide positive economic and social models. He stated that the International Cooperative Alliance has said that this year is for focusing on the story of the co-op. He noted that the People's Food Co-op has been in business for forty years. He thanked the board for their support. Comm. Rabhi stated that the time he spent living in a co-op changed his life.

## **A. Economic Development**

### **1. Office of Community and Economic Development:**

#### **a. Fiscal Year 2013 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):**

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the application to the Michigan Department of Human Services for Fiscal Year 2013 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds in the amount of \$571,353 for the period of October 1, 2012, through September 20, 2013.

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

#### **b. Senior Nutrition:**

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator's signature on the grant application for the first year of funding for a total program amount of \$839,652 for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

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

#### **c. Extension of Coordinated Funding Pilot for a Third Year:**

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners approve an extension to the Coordinated Funding Pilot through June of 2014, contingent on funding availability, and authorize the County Administrator's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding with the four other Washtenaw Coordinated Funding Partners.

Comm. Dan Smith said he was looking forward to reading the report from the Coordinated Funding Pilot.

Comm. Peterson asked Verna McDaniel if budget deliberations would be happening next year (2013). Verna McDaniel stated that the funding would continue through June, 2014 though the line item would come before the board for approval next year. Comm. Peterson asked if the board would have an opportunity to examine the levels of funding of organizations within that consortium. He noted that the consortium was the partnership of funding entities. Verna McDaniel said that funding levels for 2013 has already been determined by the board but in 2013 the board could establish levels for the first half of 2014. Comm. Peterson asked if those draft figures were in place. Verna McDaniel said that figures for January from June, 2014, had not been set yet. Comm. Peterson said he was comfortable voting on the item that night. He said that each funding entity has their own individual goals and he wants to see how the county's goals are being met. He added that he wants the board to have input on how money is allocated.

Comm. Prater asked if the grant money had been received. Verna McDaniel said that the money for 2013 had been approved and she said that the other two entities had committed funds for that time period. Comm. Prater asked about the grant money for an independent study. Verna McDaniel said that the study was a done deal and that the study has already been implemented. She noted that the results of the study would be shared with the funding entities. Comm. Prater asked what kind of data the county had compiled during the first year of the program. Mary Jo Callan said that one of the benefits of the coordinated funding model is that there is a smaller set of goals. She noted that the data from the first year was being compiled.

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

## **B. Civic Infrastructure**

### **1. Equalization:**

#### **a. Preliminary 2012 Apportionment Report**

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

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

## **C. Health**

### **1. Public Health:**

#### **a. Breastfeeding Policy**

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners adopt a policy allowing a mother to breastfeed her child in any county owned or leased building or property and at all county functions where the mother and child would otherwise be authorized to be.

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

## **D. Public Safety & Justice**

### **1 Office of the Sheriff – Emergency Services:**

#### **a. Emergency Management Performance Grant**

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Emergency Management FY2013 Work Agreement; authorize the signature of the County Administrator on the Emergency Management Performance Grant Local Budget for FY 2013 and on the State of Michigan FY2013 Emergency Management Performance Grant agreement with the State of Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division for the period of October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013, in the amount of \$78,984.

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

## **E. County Administration**

#### **a. Civil Infractions Ordinance**

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the Board of Commissioners adopt an ordinance to provide for a municipal civil infractions violation bureau; to provide for sanctions for violations of municipal civil infractions; to adopt a savings clause; and to provide an effective date as permitted by Public Act 236 of 1961, as amended, MCL 600.8701 et seq., the Revised Judicature Act of 1961; Public Act 156 of 1851, as amended, MCLA 46.10b; and Public Act 156 of 1851, as amended, MCLA 46.11.

Catherine McClary said that the proposal before the board is to establish a civil infractions ordinance and bureau for the county. She reported that it had been a large group effort. She noted that seven years ago she had presented to the board a three phase program for the licensing of dogs. She noted that two years ago the first phase of the program had been approved by the board. She said that now dog licenses are issued on the expiration date of the rabies shot. She said that the second phase was reducing the penalty for holding unlicensed dogs from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction. She said that many people had investigated the possibility of civil infractions before she proposed it. She said that Curt Hedger had basically written the ordinance. She reported that this body had established a board headed by Jerry Clayton and the recommendation from that board had been that a civil infractions ordinance.

Judge Tabby said that Curt Hedger had done the heavy lifting on this item. He said that this is a good foray and that it should fit well into the system. Comm. Conan Smith asked the judge to talk about the system of collections at his court. Judge Tabby said that a person can pay their civil infraction at the court but if they don't pay then a notice is sent out and if the person doesn't respond to notice then a bench warrant is issued. He said that there are days of amnesty for people to come in and pay off their bench warrants. Comm. Conan Smith asked if the process of compliance was burdensome. Judge Tabby responded that it was part of what they did. He said he finds that if people are reached sooner and there are several ways for them to pay then it is less difficult to get people to pay. He said that abuses of the system may occur but it should be a very efficient

system. He said the goal was simply to correct the problem. Comm. Dan Smith asked the judge to explain the judicial philosophy behind a civil infraction. He said he was concerned that people would factor these fines into the cost of doing business. Judge Tabby said that the commissioner had raised real concerns. He noted that the goal was to encourage compliance up front. He said that the enforcement ideal is correcting the problem. He said that efficiency wise it encourages people to solve the problem without going through the court system. Comm. Dan Smith summarized the Judge's statement by saying that if this action kept people out of the court system it would be good. He added that it would keep the process on the administrative end not the judicial end. He stated that at the end of this process there was still the threat of criminal charges as there are currently but under the current system there really were no good enforcement options. Judge Tabby said that the collections of the court have been very effective.

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

#### **Report of the Administrator:**

Verna McDaniel said she would be off for some days next week. She noted that she and Diane Heidt would attend a conference. She reported that the cost was not being borne by the county.

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

Comm. Conan Smith said that the Board of Commissioners meeting would after a ten minute break.

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

Comm. Prater asked Comm. Conan Smith to update the board on a regional transit authority. Comm. Conan Smith said he does not know that the legislature has taken any action on it recently. Comm. Prater said he feels that there is a lot of information out there but he is been able to get his hands on only a small amount it. Comm. Conan Smith noted that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners had been a part of R-Path. He noted that it had started approximately a year ago. He said there have been four different iterations of the bill proposed. He said that he could distribute the most recent iteration to the board. Comm. Prater said that there should be a structure of some sort. Comm. Sizemore said he would like to see a working session set up to consider these items. Comm. Rabhi said there would be time considerations but he added that he could pull together some information for the Working Session the next day. Comm. Prater said that the board should not be taken by surprise by the legislation. He said that if it happens then revenue will have to be generated somehow. He added that he was unsure about what costs and benefits the county would bear and receive. He asked about the letters to the municipalities. Curt Hedger said that the language is fairly clear that the official language comes from the new authority itself. He noted that the Articles have been filed. He said that it doesn't look as though there will be a board of directors by then. He added that the county has been approached about issuing the thirty day notice. He said that if that letter were to go out in early November then the official opt out period would end in early December. He said that this letter would have to address that some communities have already opted out. He said that the initial opt out period would be honored. Comm. Prater asked if every elected official and local unit of government would be contacted. Curt Hedger said he would look into it. Comm. Rabhi added that he believed that had been a proposal by Comm. Dan Smith which had been voted down. Comm. Turner said it was his concern that this was work that was supposed to be done by the authority not by the county. Comm. Rabhi provided a quick update from the WATS meeting. He said that Superior Township and possibly both Webster Township have opted out. He added that some communities have decided to remain in the new authority.

Comm. Dan Smith said that he believed that the county would bear financial impact by printing letters and putting postage on those letters. He said that if the county is going to take that on then the four-party agreement would need to be examined. Comm. Conan Smith said he believed that the notification had been part of the board's resolution.

Comm. Sizemore recommended that this be addressed as quickly as possible. Curt Hedger said that AATA has offered to draft the letter. He said he would make tweaks to the letter they have already sent out. Comm. Prater said that there was an agreement.

#### **Pending**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Rolland Sizemore, Chair

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

APPROVED: November 7, 2012