



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

April 16, 2014

Comm. Felicia Brabec 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, LaBarre, Martinez-Kratz, Peterson, Ping, Rabhi, Sizemore, Conan Smith, Dan Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Curtis Hedger, Corporate Counsel; Jerry Clayton, Sheriff; Evan Pratt, Water Resources Commissioner; Greg Dill, Facilities; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Raman Patel, Equalization; Dick Steffens, Equalization; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Mary Jo Callan, OCED; Bret Lenart, OCED; Andy Brush, ITS; Bob Tetens, Parks & Recreation; Ken Schrader, ITS; Lisa Moutinho, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge called for more attention to be paid to the urban county plan. He added that affordable county wide housing was needed as well as transportation.

James Richardson requested assistance with removing a new emergency siren that had been placed near the edge of his pasture. He said that the siren was distressing his horses. He said that when the horses were alarmed in such a way they were dangerous.

Lefiest Gallimore said that the consolidated funding strategy prevented African-American led organizations from receiving funding. He added that he was concerned with the mental health system in the county. He said that once mentally ill people get tangled in the court system they get labeled as criminals and it becomes hard for them to get jobs.

A group of U of M students presented their initiative to reduce consumption of plastic bags in the county. They stated that they want to put a usage fee on single use plastic bags. The students added that they had reached out to several community and student groups.

Jason Morgan and Mary Kerr said that plans were underway for the union training programs in the summer. Jason Morgan thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support of unions. Mary Kerr said that the goal was to make it an educational and entertaining experience for the conference attendees.

Elizabeth Kurtz thanked the Board for their support. She said that the extension is not a comprehensive solution but it was beneficial to the people without homes. She added that she and some allies have formed an organization called Our 2020 Vision with the goal of ending homelessness. She requested assistance from Comm. Peterson in acquiring a middle school in Ypsilanti.

Ray Gholston thanked the board for extending the Delonis Center warming shelter program. He requested a meeting with the Board to deal with the crisis. He added that he had some requests for the board.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Rabhi thanked the students for speaking before the board. He encouraged the board to examine the information they had distributed. He thanked the homeless advocates. He said that it would be a good conversation to have on May 7th when they examined the Blueprint to end homelessness. He thanked Mary and Jason for their work with the unions.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Mary and Jason for their work.

Comm. Conan Smith said that he would like to follow up with James Richardson after the meeting.

Comm. Peterson said that he would appreciate an official follow up to Mr. Richardson's concerns. He added that he was very concerned with the wellbeing of the horses. He stated that he would be interested in hearing a report on the impact

of the stadiums on the local business community. He said that he thought Ellen Schulmeister was doing a tremendous job and he appreciated the board for stepping up to the problem. Comm. Brabec thanked Ray and Elizabeth for coming before the board. She added that she was appreciative of the chance to talk.

New Business:

A. Economic Development

1. Office of Community and Economic Development:

a. Washtenaw Urban County 2014 HUD Action Plan:

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the Washtenaw Urban County 2014 Action Plan for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 which will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Brabec asked about the \$90,000 decrease in funding and how services would be affected. Mary Jo Callan said that they were excited that the cuts were not as severe as they had been anticipating. She said that it would be a 5% cut that would be manifested in either fewer projects or scaled down projects.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comm. Conan Smith, Dan Smith) Motion carried.

B. Public Safety & Justice

1. Sheriff:

a. Strategic Enforcement Program:

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Board of Commissioners ratify the electronic submission of the application and agreement for the 2014 Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program to the Office of Highway Safety Planning for this grant program for the period of February 28, 2014 through September 30, 2014 in the amount of \$99,961. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comm. Conan Smith, Dan Smith) Motion carried.

C. Civic Infrastructure

1. Equalization:

a. Equalization Report:

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2014 Equalization Report. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Rabhi thanked Raman Patel for his work. He asked if the development category was for new development. Raman Patel replied that the categories were set by the state. Comm. Rabhi asked how the number of appeals granted compared to the year before. Raman Patel said that there were fewer appeals filed this year and more granted.

Comm. Dan Smith thanked Raman Patel and his staff for their work. He asked when the Willow Run school district would no longer be counted. It was answered that it would be about two more years. Comm. Conan Smith thanked the Equalization Department for their work. He asked about the Headlee Inflation multiplier. Raman Patel reminded Comm. Conan Smith about the new construction cap.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comm. Conan Smith, Dan Smith) Motion carried.

D. Support Services

1. Finance:

a. Accommodations Ordinance Annual Fund Balance Distribution:

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the Accommodation Ordinance Fund Balance Distribution to the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. and Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. in the amount of \$425,561. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comm. Conan Smith, Dan Smith) Motion carried.

2. Human Resources:

a. Worker's Compensation Excess Insurance:

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Board of Commissioners accept the offer for excess insurance coverage for Worker's Disability Compensation Program for the 2014-2015 period. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comm. Conan Smith, Dan Smith) Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:

None

Report of the Chair of Ways & Means

Comm. Brabec stated that she was continuing her budget work and outreach to the board.

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Rabhi reported that there would be a ten minute break after the adjournment of the Ways and Means meeting.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Ping said that she would like to have a broader discussion on not hiring nicotine users. Verna McDaniel said that they were examining all of those issues.

Comm. Peterson asked about the work being done on the budget. Comm. Brabec said that the budget would need to be reaffirmed. She added that they would need to hire a contract worker to assess how the budget goals were being met. Comm. Peterson asked if there would be a discussion or Working Session on the budget goals. Comm. Brabec said that those discussions would take place.

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned until May 7th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Felicia Brabec, Chair

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

APPROVED: May 7, 2014