COUNTY 1826

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

April 2, 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, Conan Smith, Dan

Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Stefani Carter, Attorney; Greg Dill, Facilities;

Kelly Belknap, Finance; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Mary Jo Callan, OCED; 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

A resident stated that she was there to address homeless issues. She said that she had personally had to conduct rescues to ensure that people did not freeze. She said that the weather has been severe and the shelter should remain open.

Ray Gholston said that the closing of the Delonis Center would be a catastrophe. He said that housing is a human right. He said that many veterans use the shelter. He said that he works for a living but cannot afford an apartment. He said that if the emergency shelter is closed then it will put people into the streets. He requested that the Board address this issue.

Sandi Smith thanked the Board for their efforts in opening the Clerk's Office on Saturday, March 22nd so that marriages could take place. She thanked the Board, Verna McDaniel, Jerry Clayton, Larry Kestenbaum, Ed Golembiewski, Clerk's Office Staff, and the facilities staff for their work.

Elizabeth Kurtz said that in January the Board had been approached with a request regarding the warming center. She said that they are concerned that the warming shelter will be closed on April 6th. She stated that at this point they are considering a protest. She said that human lives should have the utmost priority. She read to the board a list of their concerns.

Christopher Ellis said that he does not want to cast aspersions upon the Delonis Center. He said that without it he would not have survived the winter. He stated that without the warming center many people are not being helped. He added that this was a moral decision that needed examination.

Thomas Partridge called on the White House and the President to give priority to a people first agenda. He added that there was a need for affordable housing and transportation in Washtenaw County. He asked that corruption be weeded out of Washtenaw County government.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Brabec thanked those who had come out to speak to the Board.

Comm. Rabhi thanked everyone who came out. He said that he was thrilled that the county was able to open on March 22^{nd} and provide marriage licenses. He thanked Sandi Smith and Linda for their activism. He thanked the homeless advocates who had spoken that night. He said that there was a spectrum of human services that needed to be provided with diminished revenues and less funding from the state.

Comm. Conan Smith thanked everyone who had come to the meeting. He said that Larry Kestenbaum had asked the Board to eliminate a fee and open the doors. He said that the Clerk's staff who had volunteered their time on a Saturday were a shining example of the civil servants who work for the county. He said that he wants to be sure that a shelter dialogue happens. He said that it would be helpful to discuss this night what could be done in the short time. He added that there were things that could be done in both the short and long term.

Comm. Peterson congratulated Sandi Smith. He said that the homeless issue was not just a discussion item for tonight, he would like to have future discussions include a delegation from the homeless community. He said that he was hoping that they would have a very in depth discussion that included that delegation.

New Business:

Nate Baldermann presented to Yousef Rabhi a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year 2012. Comm. Rabhi thanked Kelly and Pete for their work as well as the Finance Staff.

Comm. Dan Smith asked about the language concerning the Road Commission on page 15 of the CAFR. Mark Kettner said that the county is required to report on reporting entities which includes the Road Commission, as well as BPW, Brownfield and the Hazardous Materials Response Authority. Comm. Dan Smith said that the Board of Commissioners does not see nor approve the budget of the Road Commission. He said funding for the Road Commission comes directly from Lansing. Mark Kettner stated that the Road Commission cannot issue debt or levy a tax without the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

A. Economic Development

1. Office of Community and Economic Development:

a. Adoption of the Historic Thompson Block Brownfield Plan, 400-408 N. River Street and 107 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI:

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Historic Thompson Block Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, at 400-408 N. River Street and 107 E. Cross Street, in the City of Ypsilanti, MI. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Rabhi said that it had been great to work with the folks from Beal on this project.

Comm. Brabec asked about the difference between the old plan and this one. Nathan Voght said that the original plan was adopted in 2008 but there was a significant fire in 2009. He said that the cost had gone down.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

B. Public Safety & Justice

1. Sheriff:

a. Recommended Police Services 2016-2017 Price/Cost Metrics:

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the Board of Commissioners accept the recommendation from the Police Services Steering Committee (PSSC) and adopt the Police Services 2016-17 cost/price metrics. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Brabec asked for an explanation of the costs. Jerry Clayton said that the cost is ultimately an estimate. He said that the actual cost versus the estimated cost has varied slightly. He added last year the difference was 2.6%. He said that costs may vary depending upon the outcomes of the contract negotiations with POAM and COAM. Comm. Brabec asked if the costs were going up. SiRui Huang said that the costs tend to exceed price. Comm. Peterson asked when the policing methodology and the pricing methodology would be reexamined. Jerry Clayton said that the financial architecture in place was sound. He said that they have an accurate way to determine the cost of police service units. He added that the last comprehensive study of staffing levels was conducted in 2000. He said that the study established minimum effective staffing levels. He said that there is only a certain level of service that can be provided with the current staffing levels. Comm. Peterson said that you get in trouble when you wait 10-15 years to address the methodology.

Comm. Rabhi thanked Sheriff Clayton for his work. He asked if the model accounted for union negotiations. SiRui Huang confirmed that it did not. Comm. Rabhi said that Jerry Clayton has been a great sheriff. He said that he would support this tonight, but he was worried about the sustainability of the model going forward. He stated that they need to find a fair way to fund public safety county wide.

Comm. Conan Smith thanked Jerry Clayton and SiRui Huang for appearing before the Board. He added that the board will need to grapple with the way that public safety is funded. He stated that the portion of the cost bourn by the Sheriff's Office is greater than the cost bourn by the contracting municipalities. Jerry Clayton said that some of the smaller communities were spending 75% of their general fund on police services. He added that this model was not sustainable. He said that they needed to figure out other funding methods. Comm. Conan Smith said that the Sheriff's Office has been very active on mental health issues and recreation issues. He said that the office has made giant strides in being integrated with the goals of the county.

Comm. Dan Smith thanked the Sheriff and his fellow commissioners for their comments on public safety. He said that the Sheriff had done excellent work to ensure that public safety needs were met throughout the county.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

C. Support Services

1. Finance:

a. Refunding of Series 2006A Capital Improvement Bonds and Approval of Continuing Disclosure for the Bond Refunding:

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize the sale of a refunding bond issue not to exceed \$16,500,000 for refunding of outstanding Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2006A and provide continuing disclosure on the bond refunding. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Martinez-Kratz asked about the interest rates on the bond. John Axe said that they are 4% up to 4.3%. He said that the new interest rates would be roughly 2.3% which would provide significant savings.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:

None

Report of the Chair of Ways & Means

Comm. Brabec thanked Verna McDaniel for her hard work.

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. Conan Smith said that he wanted to discuss how to get funding available for this issue. He asked if there were strategic solutions that could use support. Comm. Rabhi replied that the Board needs to be respectful to the Delonis Center as a separate organization. He said that he has been working with the advocates of the homeless in regards to the hours of the warming center. Comm. Brabec stated that she sits on the taskforce for sustainable revenue for housing. She said that the taskforce works on education, a potential millage and an endowment. She stated that there has been a sizable endowment put together. Comm. Rabhi said that they had to continue to be creative in their work with their partners.

Comm. Conan Smith proposed allocating \$40,000 to emergency shelter in the month of April. He said that Mary Jo Callan, Ellen Schulmeister, Verna McDaniel, Yousef Rabhi and Felicia Brabec could work on allocating that money.

Comm. LaBarre asked what the temperature limit was in the winter that caused the shelter to open. Mary Jo Callan said that at 10 degrees or colder the doors were opened to everyone. She said that the City of Ann Arbor was the other big local investor in the shelter. He asked if there were restrictions that would be raised by providing money for operations. Mary Jo Callan said that she was not sure that there was a restriction on external funding. Mary Jo Callan stated that the shelter staff has been working overtime for months. She added that the feasibility would be about working with the shelter.

Comm. Rabhi said that any solution will have to be reached in collaboration with the Delonis Center. He asked if a month long extension will really resolve the concerns of the advocates in attendance that night.

Comm. Peterson said that this is an issue which keeps coming up. He said that it is a challenge when you have working people who cannot afford housing. He asked about the type of housing which will be funded. He asked what kind of funding the county needs to be asking its partners to join in. He added that the four weeks should be a part of a long-term planning process. He said that he wanted to see the participants in the shelter program participate in this process. He said that the shelter has helped many people with transitional housing while they gain employment. He stated that the administrator has to be involved because there needs to be a dialogue with the city administrator. He said that they were discussing last chance housing and he wants to address the needs of those who have nowhere else to go. He said that he would support the \$40,000 but he wants to see how far they can make those dollars go with the help of their partners.

Comm. Ping asked if the \$40,000 would be seed money or money for operations. Comm. Conan Smith said that he was hoping to use it to extend the daytime hours of the warming shelter. Comm. Ping said that the issue is so much bigger than the next several weeks in the rest of the month. She said that this was the wrong body to determine whether the shelter stays open longer.

Comm. Rabhi said that he hoped to bring to the next meeting a resolution in support of raising the minimum wage in Michigan. He said that the homeless issue was larger than Washtenaw County. He added that the county needs to work with its regional partners.

Comm. Brabec said that though the weather is improving it will still be cold in the upcoming weeks. She said that \$40,000 might address some of the short term issues affecting the homeless population.

Comm. Conan Smith said that authorizing the use of money will free people up to address the issue. Comm. LaBarre asked if Comm. Conan Smith's concern was the weather. Comm. Conan Smith said that he was responding to the request put forward by the community for extended warming shelter hours. Comm. LaBarre asked if the Administrator could be empowered to work with county partners to address the shelter issue within the next four weeks.

Comm. Peterson said that he would only be supportive of spending the \$40,000 if a plan was going to be developed.

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Administrator be directed to work with county partners to develop a plan to address short term sheltering issues and bring a plan back to the Board of Commissioners to address longer term housing issues. Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved to amend the resolution by removing "housing issues" and replacing it with "sheltering issues".

Comm. Conan Smith withdrew his motion with the support of Comm. Peterson.

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Peterson moved the following resolution:

"Resolved that the Board of Commissioners directs the Administrator to work with the County's Community Partners to address the short term needs of the homeless in Washtenaw County;

Be it Further Resolved that the Administrator develop a plan for the Board of Commissioners to engage in a comprehensive update to the Blueprint to End Homelessness;

Be it Further Resolved that this strategic plan be presented no later than May 7, 2014, the strategic plan shall include a context of the last decade's investments in housing and homelessness in Washtenaw County, a current picture of where the county is at today and a strategy for updating the plan over the course of 2014;

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Commissioners will conclude this process by October 1, 2014."

Roll call vote: YEAS: 6 NAYS: 2 (Comms. Ping, Dan Smith) ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Sizemore) Motion carried.

Comm. Dan Smith said that this approach is inappropriate. He added that the shelter deadline has been in place for a long time. He said that policy should not be set by people requesting it in the audience. He added that he has no problem if this addressed within the course of the year. He stated that the discussion should take place at a working session.

Comm. Rabhi said that the board works on behalf of the people and when the people approach the board with a serious concern they are owed a response.

Comm. Rabhi said that staff was being asked to address a problem for which an adequate solution had never been found. He said that this issue involved all of the municipalities in the county and the nonprofit partners. Comm. Rabhi asked Ray Gholston what the request was for. Ray Gholston thanked the Board for their time. He said that the request is for some type of shelter. He added that he would like for the shelter to continue to allow people to put cots down on the floor. He stated that Elizabeth Kurtz had been ejected from the shelter for a photography project and he would like that she be allowed to go back to the shelter. He said that he would be more than happy to work with the board on a long

term solution. Comm. Rabhi asked if the concern was about the weather. Ray Gholston said that it was partially about the weather, but it was also about hygiene and the safety of the female and elderly homeless population. He added that any extension would be greatly appreciated.

Pending

None

APPROVED: April 16, 2014

<u>Adjournment</u>
Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the meeting be adjourned until April 16th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.	
	Felicia Brabec, Chair
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk	