COUNTY 1826

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

March 19, 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, Rabhi, Sizemore, Conan Smith, Dan

Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Ping

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Catherine McClary, Treasurer; Curt Hedger,

Corporate Counsel; 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

Thomas Partridge said that he was in attendance to discuss the importance of an economically sound and sustainable plan to eliminate homelessness. He added that he wanted a sustainable countywide public transit system.

A resident thanked the Board for listening to her speak about the GED program at Washtenaw County Community College. She said that there are potholes in Pleasant Lake Road in Manchester that are dangerously big. She said that in the smaller towns it is harder to get road maintenance fees. She said that this was something that needed attention.

Ken Schwartz, Superior Township Supervisor, said that the Board should give consideration to Bill McFarlane for the vacant Road Commission seat. He stated that Bill would be an excellent choice.

Jim Casha said that he had spent last Tuesday at the joint senate committee meetings. He said that he had heard about Amtrak's presentation concerning rail. He added that he had just come from the RTA meeting. He asked the board to talk to their legislators and RTA members to keep people informed about the fairgrounds in Detroit

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

None

New Business:

A. Civic Infrastructure

1. Treasurer:

a. Delinquent Tax Borrowing:

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the Board of Commissioners adopt a borrowing resolution for 2014 General Obligation Limited Tax Notes for the 2013 delinquent taxes. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Comm. Dan Smith said that he appreciated the Treasurer for doing this because it is very helpful to the townships and cities.

Catherine McClary introduced to the board Paul Wyzgoski. She said that foreclosures are going down. She said that there will be a drop in delinquent taxes which is the biggest indicator of foreclosures. She stated that there has also been a drop in forfeitures. She reported that Bridgewater Township is paying back their loan. She said that she has been working with Evan Pratt who has a lot of small bond issues. She added that if the delinquent tax revolving fund was increased it would allow her office to do those types of advances internally. Catherine

McClary said that her staff has been certified by the State of Michigan to do the intakes for their customers in Medicaid, Food Stamps and Emergency Aid. She added that assessments are going up.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comm. Ping, Sizemore) Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:

Comm. Rabhi wished Pat Kelly a happy birthday. He read aloud a proclamation of appreciation to Pat Kelly. Pat Kelly said that she was touched by this. She said that two years ago she had stood before the Board and thanked them for their help in the wake of the tornado. She thanked the board for all of their help.

Comm. Conan Smith said that Pat had been a perfect negotiator for the interests of the townships and a lot of people. He said that she had explained the interests of her colleagues and their concerns in a way that had opened his eyes to the possibility of partnership. He said that he had really enjoyed working with her.

Kelly Belknap and Tina Gavalier gave a presentation to the Board on the 2013 Updated Budget. This report is on file at the County Clerk's Office. Discussion on this presentation is provided below.

Comm. Conan Smith asked for an explanation of the inter-governmental revenues. Tina Gavalier explained that the surplus is primarily due to state revenue sharing. She noted that the first two 2014 payments had been received in October and December of 2013. She added that it is now based on state appropriation. She said that they are required to record it as revenue when it is received which is why it is part of the 2013 budget update.

Report of the Chair of Ways & Means

None

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

- 1. A recommendation from the committee (Brabec/LaBarre/Peterson) created on January 22, 2014:
 - a. Shall include the cost and sustainability of coverage of autism spectrum disorders
 - b. Recommendation of a policy providing funding coverage if the state reimbursement fund is exhausted

Comm. LaBarre said that the committee was recommending that autism be treated like anything else that required coverage. He said that the proposal was to fund the cost through the increase of tax revenue. He said that the policy was a good attempt to put in place something that was much needed.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the committee members for their work. He asked Diane Heidt about the context of reimbursement from the state. Diane Heidt said that there would be about \$183,000 rider onto the existing healthcare coverage. She said that it would come from non-general fund as well as general fund departments. She stated that employees who take advantage of the coverage will pay the deductible. She said that they will get reimbursement from the State of Michigan reimbursement fund based on the age of the child. Comm. Rabhi said that it needed to be made clear that there was the possibility that if the state rescinded the program then the county may not be able to offer the benefit. He asked if the non-general fund departments were going to be ok to bear this cost. Diane Heidt said that on an annual basis the non-general fund departments would be responsible for roughly \$102,000.

Comm. Conan Smith thanked the members of the committee for their work. He asked why the county needed to pay a rider of \$183,000 in order to provide a benefit that may only be worth \$200,000. Diane Heidt said that they were holding it. She stated that in 2015 they'll have better information and that rider may change. Comm. Conan Smith asked how the cost compared to other riders. Diane Heidt said that it had been a while since a new rider had been added so it was hard to tell

Comm. LaBarre said that he thought the merits of doing this coverage meant that it should be supported.

Comm. Peterson said that he fully supported this benefit. He said that he hopes that a plan will be developed to fully fund the benefit in the event that the benefit is withdrawn by the state. He said that this was an opportunity to offer assistance to those who have a huge financial obligation to their children.

Comm. Dan Smith said that he was happy to move this forward through Ways and Means but he would like to see this before the board for final approval as part of the budget reaffirmation process. He said that he did not want to see this before the board in two weeks.

Comm. Brabec thanked Diane and Kelly for their work. She said that she had been shocked to learn that the county did not already offer this benefit. She added that Diane is securing information on how to provide coverage for those people between 18-26 years old.

Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the Board authorize the implementation of the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) rider to existing active and retiree benefits providing mental health parity.

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

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the meeting be adjourned until April 2nd, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried

Motion carried.		
The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.		
	Felicia Brabec, Chair	
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk		

APPROVED: April 2, 2014