



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

March 5, 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; Curt Hedger, Corporate Counsel; Greg Dill, Facilities; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Mary Jo Callan, OCED; Bob Tetens, Parks & Recreation; Ken Schrader, ITS; Candace Wethington, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge said that he was there to ask the Board to adopt a working agenda that addressed the housing needs of county residents. He said that he did not want to hear excuses about whose jurisdiction this task fell under.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

None

New Business:

Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Martinez-Kratz moved that the Board of Commissioners vote on the following agenda items:

A1a. State of Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Grant

B1a. 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program

C1a. Recommendation to Support Board of Commissioners Community Investment Priorities

A. Children's Well Being

1. Children's Services:

a. State of Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Grant:

Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Martinez-Kratz moved that the Board of Commissioners ratify the submission of an electronic grant application to the State of Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) for the Youth Arts Alliance to serve at-risk youth in the juvenile justice system, in the amount of \$21,980, for the period of January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014. Discussion on this item is provided below.

Lisa Greco introduced to the Board her staff as well their partners from the adjacent counties. Heather Russell, Youth Arts Alliance, said that in their first year they had provided over 1,400 workshop experiences. She said that they had seen huge transformations from the kids experiencing creative arts. She said that the collaboration of five county governments was very impressive.

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

B. Public Safety

1. Sheriff – Emergency Management:

a. 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program

Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Martinez-Kratz moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator to sign the 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program Inter-local Fiduciary Agreement and delegate contracts with Macomb County in the amount of \$444,215 for the period of September 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015.

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

C. County Administration

1. County Administrator:

a. Recommendation to Support Board of Commissioners Community Investment Priorities

Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Martinez-Kratz moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the creation of contractual, qualified professional position to assist the BOC to develop strategies and provide oversight for the integration of the Board-defined community impacts and outcomes into organizational and departmental programs, policies and budget priorities. Discussion on this item is provided below.

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 reported that she would continue to provide updates on the budget.

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Rabhi said that his heart goes out to the Veigel family. He added that there have already been applicants to the remainder of Comm. Veigel's term on the Road Commission. He said that the application period will begin March 6th and will close on Sunday, March 16th and the appointment will happen on March 19th. He noted that as a supplement to the agenda there was a resolution recognizing the life of Fred Veigel. He said there would be no break between the meetings.

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

Diane Heidt said that the subcommittee had discussed the core health plan which is offered to all county employees with the options for upgrades. She said that they were looking into the options for seeking reimbursement for autism coverage. Comm. LaBarre said that he had recently spoken to a woman whose child suffers from mild autism which represents a cost of \$30,000 a year. He said that such a cost was a significant burden. Comm. Brabec added that they were looking to see what coverage would cost for dependents aged 18-26.

Comm. Conan Smith asked if the benefit was within the purview of the administrator. Verna McDaniel stated that this would be brought back to the board. Diane Heidt said that any change in policy offered came back to the board. Comm. Conan Smith asked if there would be a policy for the board to vote on within the next several weeks.

Comm. Dan Smith asked what some of the large corporations in the area were doing. Diane Heidt said that she had worked with the Autism Alliance of Michigan to secure such information.

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved to adjourn to executive session at 6:57 p.m.

Roll call vote on adjourning to executive session: YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 3 (Comm. Peterson, Rabhi, Sizemore) Motion carried. The Board returned from executive session at 7:48 p.m.

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the meeting be adjourned until March 19th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Felicia Brabec, Chair

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

APPROVED: March 19, 2014