



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

May 17, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:35 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Acevedo, Armentrout, Bergman, Chockley, Craiger, DeLong, DuRussel, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Montague, Robinson, Schultz, Shaw, Yekulis.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy Administrator; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Peggy M. Haines, Clerk/Register; Peter Ballios, Gordon Burger, Finance; Verna McDaniel, Human Resources; Ron Schebil, Carol Bernard, Mark Ptaszek, Sheriff, Trena Rusher, ETCS; Tom Freeman, Facilities; Janis Bobrin, Drain; Catherine McClary, Treasurer; Linda Edwards-Brown, Friend of the Court; Ellen Schulmesiter, Shelter Association; Barbara King, Deputy Clerk; various citizens, and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizens' Participation

Al Larson, Ann Arbor resident, addressed the Board regarding the lack of any cooperation from the City of Ann Arbor for the Homeless Shelter.

Sam Breck, Ann Arbor resident, addressed the Board regarding the Fair held three weeks ago at the County Library for the Blind and Physically Impaired. He said it surpassed all their expectations, in that instead of the 250 people expected, over 750 people attended.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

None.

Administration - Shelter Presentation

Lorri Sipes, Jully Park, and Tzachi Katz of SmithGroup, Inc., provided the Board with a presentation of the Schematic Design Report created by members of the Project Team which included elected officials and staff of Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor, members of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and neighbors of the proposed site, along with staff of SmithGroup. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Purpose of the Project
- Methodology
- Executive Summary
- Operational and Space Programming
- Best Practices
- Site Analysis
- Schematic Design and Green Architecture
- Construction Cost Estimate

Following the presentation, a period of time was allowed for questions and answers.

Mr. Guensel distributed an Update on BOC Contingency Issues on the Proposed Downtown Shelter, "A 50 Bed Shelter, Why and How?", "Overflow Protocol", and a copy of a letter from Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (pledging \$500,000 over a two-year period towards the Washtenaw Housing Alliance fundraising initiative).

Mr. Guensel and Ellen Schulmeister answered questions.

Administration – Police Services & Corrections Budget Realignment

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of positions from the Police Services budget to the Corrections budget to reflect the true expenditures; appropriating \$547,372 to cover a contracts shortfall for 2001; and amending the budget.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 15. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Administration – Sheriff's Police Services Recommendation

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution recommending the creation of a new methodology for contracting police services.

Following a lengthy discussion, the following motion was made:

Comm. Yekulis seconded by Comm. Chockley moved to table the Sheriff's Police Services recommendation until the June 7th Ways & Means Committee Meeting.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 6. NAYS: 9 (Acevedo, Armentrout, Bergman, Craiger, Gunn, Irwin, Montague, Robinson, Shaw). ABSENT: None. Motion failed.

Following further discussion,

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn called for the question.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 4. NAYS: 11 (Acevedo, Armentrout, Chockley, Delong, DuRussel, Irwin, Kern, Robinson, Schultz, Shaw, Yekulis). ABSENT: None. Motion failed.

Further discussion ensued. Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Acevedo moved to allow the Sheriff to speak at this time. Motion carried by voice vote.

Sheriff Ron Schebil distributed copies of "Police Services Study, Sheriff's Position Paper" and briefly explained it. He said the costing methodology should respect and acknowledge both the contributions of the County (the taxpayer's dollar) and those of contracting jurisdictions. He indicated this would include, but not be limited to:

- A five (5) year transition period to allow adequate time for contracting jurisdictions to adjust to the new fiscal methodology.
- A one-time "seed-money grant" providing a reduced initial cost for jurisdictions that take the initiative to contract for additional police services, similar to the "COPS" funding (Community-Oriented Policing) provided by the Federal government to "seed" policing efforts throughout the Nation. This model combines a policing philosophy that works with a reasonable incentive.
- Credit for the use of facilities and other resources.

In closing, Sheriff Schebil said that he could support the current proposal, but there needs to be a longer period of time for transition.

Commissioner discussion continued.

Comm. Yekulis seconded by Comm. Montague moved that the question be called.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 13. NAYS: 2 (DuRussel, Irwin). ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Roll call vote on original motion to approve the resolution recommending the creation of a new methodology for contracting police services: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 5 (Chockley, DeLong, DuRussel, Robinson, Yekulis. Motion carried.

Administration – Operational Review for Family Court

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the contract with Plante & Moran LLP to conduct an Operational Review for the Family Court, Washtenaw County Trial Court in an amount not to exceed \$89,000.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 15. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Drain Commissioner – Creating & Eliminating Positions

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution, at the Board Meeting tonight, creating and eliminating positions in the Drain Commissioner's Office and amending the budget.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 15. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Employment Training and Community Services – Annual Weatherization Program

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution, at the Board Meeting tonight, ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the FY 2000 Weatherization Plan to the Department of Energy/Michigan Family Independence Agency for the Employment Training and Community Services Group for the period of April 1, 2000, through March 31, 2000, in the amount of \$172,675; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; approving the budget and authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Trenda Rusher answered questions.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 15. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Employment Training and Community Services – Summer Enrichment Program – Family Independence Agency/TANF

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution, at the Board Meeting tonight, ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the Family Independence Summer Project to the Michigan Family Independence Agency in the amount of \$647,105 for the period of May 1, 2000, through September 30, 2000, for the Employment Training and Community Services Group; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; approving the budget; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 15. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Health – Annual Rape Crisis Program

Comm. Acevedo seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on an application to the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Crime Victim Services Commission, for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the Rape Crisis Program for the Health Services Department in the amount of \$101,454 annually for the three year period of October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2003.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 15. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Report of the County Administrator

None.

Report of the Chair of the Board

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Armentrout called Administration's attention to a package of bills now going through the State Senate that would institute a change in the Michigan Constitution and in the method of taxing so that it's a use value tax. She said if these bills pass, farm lands would be taxed by it's use. She suggested that we keep an eye on this to determine what long-term effects they could have on our budget predictions.

Citizen Participation

Wendy Burkhart, Commissioner candidate for District 1, addressed the Board regarding the Homeless Shelter. She asked that Commissioners keep in mind that the people using the Shelter come from all walks of life.

Michael Penn, Salem Township Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding a final determination to be made on June 7. He said the agenda didn't say a decision would be made tonight and that to vote before the public hearing is very inappropriate.

Bill Dean, Trustee for York Township, said he agreed with everything Michael Penn said. He said the safety of our County is our future tomorrow.

Harry Valentine said the State Police are not going to pick up the extra runs. He said this is a people thing, not a number thing. He said we can't just turn our back on these people.

Gary Adams, Supervisor, Lima Township said he is extremely concerned about the politicizing of this, which has no place in this kind of decision. He said the Board should have listened to them before voting.

Dan Bartok, Supervisor of Augusta Township, said a lot of this has come about because the voters said no to the Board's millage proposal and now the Board is trying to do what the voters said no to. He also said we should compare per capita

Robert Aspin, Ann Arbor resident, said she feels very strongly that the budgets from all the municipalities should go together and have one budget for police.

Vincent Spade, Lima Township resident, talked about the "I-94 effect" on police services.

Skylar Crusal said she spent 21 years working in the jail and is now retired, but this issue has forced her to become a politician. She said the right thing to do is to keep the patrols coming in areas that can't afford it. for at least three years.

John Bartk, member of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, addressed the Board regarding the shelter proposal. He said citizens have had two major concerns: (1) Having everything in one building and (2) Fiscal responsibility. He said the Committee is very much in support of this proposal.

Carl Warner, President of the Sheriff's Command Officers Association, said we need a basic level of police service for the whole County. He asked if we can get a commitment from the State Police in writing. He said the proposal the Board voted on tonight is extortion and is not in the best interests of the County.

Karen Roe, Ypsilanti Township Supervisor spoke in support of the police services proposal. She said she appreciates the hard decisions Commissioners have had to make.

Matt Ladso, Salem Township resident, said that a lot of the services we pay taxes for, we don't use, i.e. the homeless shelter. He said taxation is never fair. He said he thinks the Board should be talking about ways to expand the Road Patrol.

Richard Steele, Chelsea Village President, said the current proposal is going to withdraw any police protection for those townships that don't have the ability or the tax base to support a contract.

Brenda Stumbo, Ypsilanti Township Clerk, thanked Commissioners for bringing this to the point it is. She said this is a cost effective proposal that benefits everyone.

Marsha Ottoman, Dexter Township resident, said who would know how to provide services better than the Sheriff. She said if you take away our police protection, the farms are going to go away.

William Manty, Augusta Township resident, said the State Police do not have the commitment that the Sheriff's Department has. He said if you can't afford basic police protection, we should not think the State Police will respond.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None.

Adjournment

Comm. Acevedo supported by Comm. Montague moved that the meeting be adjourned until June 7, 2000. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Comm. Al Robinson, Chair

Peggy M. Haines, Clerk/Register
By: Barbara L. King , Deputy Clerk