WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

October 24, 2001

Chair Kern 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. Armentrout, Bergman, Craiger, DeLong, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Kestenbaum, Sizemore, Shaw, Solowczuk, Yekulis.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Montague, Peterson, Prater.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy Administrator; Peter Ballios, Gordon Burger, Jennifer Watson, Finance; Amy Klinke, David Behen, Administration; Ed Luchi, ITS; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Judah Garber, Linda Edwards-Brown, Friend of the Court; Dan Dwyer, Jennifer Niemer, Circuit Court; Dan Minzey Herb Mahoney, Sheriff; Joe DeGraff, Community Corrections; Barbara L. King, Deputy Clerk; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizens' Participation
Karen Sidney, Ann Arbor resident, addressed the Board regarding the decrease in the budget for direct care for children. She said she would like the Board to eliminate funding for an additional referee and to take away the extra money for Circuit Court.

Marsha Federbush told the Board they are not setting aside enough resources for children and said Commissioners should apologize to Judge Nancy Francis and get the courts to put to use her unique talents.

Steve Adams, Assistant Public Defender in the Juvenile system, addressed the Board regarding the Education Advocate position being eliminated and asked the Board to do what they could to save that position.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation
None.

New Business:

Public Safety & Justice
Mr. Guenzel provided an overview of the proposed Public Safety and Justice budget.

Trial Court
Dan Dwyer, Trial Court Administrator, told the Board that the Vision for the Trial Court is "To create a single trial court united in purpose, with assignment by divisions, coordinated judicially and administratively, to provide fair and efficient justice of the highest quality." His presentation to the Board included:

- Trial Court Organizational Chart by Divisions
- Central Administration
- Community Corrections
- Central Assignment/ADR
- District Division
- Juvenile Center
- Friend of the Court
- Mental Health and Estates
- Child Care Fund Budget Review
- 2001 Budget Projections
- Changes to Trends
- 2002/03 Budget Impact
- 2002/04 General Fund Budget

Police Services
Mr. Guenzel talked with the Board regarding Police Services, including:

- Involvement of Local Jurisdictions
- Contracting Jurisdictions
- Impact on Positions
- Police Services Deputies
- Modifications to original approach
- Central Dispatch
- Central Dispatch Funding

Time was allowed for questions and answers after each presentation, with Dan Dwyer, Bob Guenzel, Dan Minzey, and Herb Mahoney answering.

Report of the County Administrator
None.

Report of the Chair of the Board
None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion
None.

Citizen Participation
Karen Sidney commented on the letter signed by all the judges of the Trial Court supporting the 2002/03 budget proposal and urged the Board not to give them a budget.

Marsha Federbush talked about no Judges being available at the Juvenile Center and told the Board that was something to think about.

Commissioner Follow-up to Citizen Participation
Comm. Irwin said that on July 18 the Board asked Judges directly what their level of willingness was to participate in a dialogue with members of the Board of Commissioners and members of the community with regard to their changes in the Juvenile Court. He said he believed that Judge Shelton indicated very clearly that he was not interested in such a dialogue.

Comm. Shaw said that she would be meeting with Mr. Guenzel and Judge Connor to try and work out a schedule for setting up dialogue with at least a few Commissioners and the Judges.

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 7, 2001.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Martha Kern, Chair

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

APPROVED: November 7, 2001