WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

June 2, 2004

Chair Prater 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, Brackenbury, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Solowczuk, Yekulis.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy Administrator; Peggy M. Haines, Clerk/Register; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; David Behen, Joe Suchara, ITS; Verna McDaniel, Diane Heidt, Barb Finch, Human Resources; Amy Klinke, Joe Mead, Administration; Peter Ballios, Jennifer Watson, Finance; Greg Dill, Kerry Sheldon, Facility Management; Tony VanDerworp, Richard Fleece, Planning and Environment; Robert Tetens, Parks and Recreation Commission; Dan Dwyer, Trial Court; James Higginbottom, Melanie Weidmayer, Clerk/Register's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation
None.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation
None.

New Business:

Planning, Development & Environment Community of Interest:

Employment Training and Community Services – Annual Senior Nutrition Program

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the application to the Area Agency on Aging 1-B for the Nutrition Program for the Elderly (Congregate Meals Program and Home-Delivered Meals Program) in the amount of $892,988 for the period of October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005; for the Employment Training and Community Services Department; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the Budget; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign Delegate and Lease Contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Renewing Parks & Recreation Millage

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution submitting to the Washtenaw County Electors a question of whether the quarter mill presently in effect for Parks and Recreation purposes should be renewed for ten years, beginning 2007 and termination 2016 and certifying the Ballot Question for said proposition.

Comm. Yekulis asked Robert Tetens to describe the benefits of renewing the millage.

Robert Tetens spoke about the hiring of lifeguards, the subsidized golf course and other benefits to the millage.

Comm. Kern asked how the millage would assist disabled citizens.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Planning & Environment – Community Development – Washtenaw Community Health Organization Housing Project

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign a contract with Washtenaw Community Health Organization allocating $75,000 in Housing Contingency Funds to support the acquisition and rehabilitation of two (2) existing group homes in Pittsfield and Northfield Townships.

Comm. Kern asked if there were any problems with local zoning ordinances.

Tony VanDerworp responded that it could be allowed.

Comm. Kern then asked what sorts of standards were required.

Comm. Bergman responded that the regular wear and tear required maintenance and updating.

Comm. Brackenbury asked what sort of changes would be made.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Planning & Environment – Brownfield Redevelopment – Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment – Superior Township Corners of Dixboro Project

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution to adopt the proposed amendment to the Brownfield Plan for Washtenaw County approving tax increment financing and single business tax credit incentives for the Superior Township corners at Dixboro Brownfield Redevelopment Project.

Comm. Irwin recommended that the plan move forward in a resolution at the July Board of Commissioners meeting.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Revenue & Record Keeping:

Revenue & Record Keeping – Treasurer – Eliminating an Accountant I/II/III Position

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution eliminating a position in the Treasurer's Office effective June 18, 2004 resulting in an annual savings of $65,327.

Comm. Armentrout asked why and additional position was being cut in the Treasurer's Office.

Comm. Gunn responded that the Treasurer refused to accept an individual and that individual is now not working.

Comm. Armentrout asked if all the duties could be completer by the Treasurer's Office.

Bob Guenzel responded that there was no information from the Treasurer's Office.

Comm. Kern was under the assumption that the Treasurer's Office could not pass on duties due to mandates.

Comm. Gunn stated that 33 positions had to be cut and prior to this none of the cuts had occurred in the Treasurer's Office.

Comm. Sizemore asked when the position cutting trend would end.

Diane Heidt responded that after the cut in the Treasurer's Office, the individual would bump into the Finance Department.

Comm. Peterson asked if there was ever an instance similar to this occurring elsewhere within the state, and if so, how it was handled.

Curt Hedger stated that he would look into that query.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest:

Public Safety and Justice – Trial Court – Building Restorative Communities

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator's signature on the application to the Michigan Family Independence Agency for the Building Restorative Communities Year One Implementation Grant in the Amount of $100,000 for the period of October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005.

Comm. Peterson asked about potential long term funding.

Debbie Shaw responded that long term options are being pursued.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Public Safety and Justice – Trial Court – Juvenile Drug Court Planning Grant

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the application to the Michigan State Court Administrative office for the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Single Jurisdiction Planning Grant Funding in the amount of $94,667 for the period of July 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Support Services Communities of Interest

Support Services – Facilities Management – Energy Efficiency Project – Chevron Contract

Comm. Prater removed the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Energy Services contract with Chevron Energy Solutions in the amount of $6,088,652 for the period of June 2, 2004 through January 31, 2010 from the agenda.

Support Services – Facilities Management – Solar Grant

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the Grant Proposal to the State of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth's Energy Office for the large-scale solar photovoltaic demonstration for the Facilities Management Group of the Support Services Department in the amount of $150,000 for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

Comm. Brackenbury asked if the unit could easily be damaged and if there would be any future costs involved.

Kerry Sheldon responded that it would be up off of the ground where it would not easily be damaged. She also stated that there would be very few maintenance costs.

Comm. Yekulis asked if potential changes to the Courthouse would impact the solar panel.

Kerry Sheldon responded that it was modular for future updates and moves.

Comm. Kern asked why it was not on the highest story for safety purposes.

Kerry Sheldon responded that it was also set up as a public demonstration.

Comm. Brackenbury said that safety should be considered in its construction.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Support Services – Organizational Development – Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Grant

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator's signature on the Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Grant Application submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of $856,468 for the period of January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; and amend the budget.

Comm. Kern asked how the program would be able to reach all of the not for profit organizations.

Mary O'Hare responded that the program is geared specifically towards the smaller not for profit organizations in particular.

Comm. Sizemore asked if the additional positions will be filled by the individuals who have been laid off.

Bob Guenzel responded that they were grant driven positions so that was not a primary consideration.

Comm. Armentrout asked if the positions would be non-union.

Bob Guenzel responded that they would be.

Comm. Bergman asked if race, religion, or creed would be considered when hiring.

Bob Guenzel responded that that would not be considered.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: None. ABSENT: 1 (Irwin). Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator

Medical Examiner Building Update
Bob Guenzel presented the business plan for the Medical Examiner.

- Medical Examiner Expenses
- Medical Examiner Staff
- 2003 Mortality Statistics
- 2003 Demographic Statistics
- 2003 Medical Examiner Autopsies
- History of the Medical Examiner's Office 1963-2003
- Washtenaw County Demographics 1963-2003

Bob Guenzel also noted that there will be a partnership between Washtenaw County and Livingston County to build a new facility.

Comm. Kern asked if the University of Michigan Hospital could do autopsies and use them as trainings.

Bob Guenzel responded that the University had no interest.

Comm. Yekulis asked who paid if an individual from another county died in Washtenaw County.

Bob Guenzel said that the county in which they pass pays the costs.

Comm. Peterson asked why hospitals are not involved and whether the HVA was willing to own the facility.

Bob Guenzel responded that the hospitals are not interested. Curt Hedger said that he would discuss ownership with HVA.

Comm. Brackenbury asked for more information on operating costs.

Comm. Bergman said the fees should be sustainable.

State Budget Update
Kirk Profit presented the quarterly report on the state's budget and noted that the State Legislature and Governor are currently in deliberations about the State Budget.

- New Revenue Options
  - Tobacco Tax
  - Increase in the State Mark-Up on Liquor
  - Decoupling the State Estate Tax from the Federal Inheritance Tax
  - Casino Tax
  - Racinos
  - Entertainment Tax
  - Revenue Sharing
  - Jail Operations
  - Homeless Shelter Assistance
  - Community Health

Comm. Armentrout asked about inflationary adjustments to the revenue sharing replacement.

Kirk Profit and Bob Guenzel responded that the money collected would go into a trust fund.

Comm. Yekulis asked if revenue sharing is scheduled to sunset in 2007 and if there is anything coming at the state level to protect county revenue sharing constitutionally.

Kirk Profit responded that it is not scheduled to sunset and there is nothing currently on the floor that would protect county revenue sharing constitutionally.

Comm. Gunn asked the Kirk Profit be provided with information regarding the county jail overcrowding.

Comm. Kern was concerned about the money from revenue sharing being outside of the county.

Comm. Solowczuk asked what was necessary to raise sale taxes.

Comm. Peterson asked about the impact of revenue sharing on the cities within the county.

Kirk Profit said that many of the cities are hurting financially.

Comm. Bergman said that sales taxes should be broadened, but not raised. She also said that the county should develop a mission or plan similar to the comprehensive plan.

Comm. Sizemore asked about a report on money saved for the county.

Kirk Profit provided that report.

Kirk Profit said that the state budget should be finished within the next month.

Report of the Chair of the Board
None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion
Comm. Peterson asked if the position cut in the Treasurer's Office would be replaced, or if it would be permanently eliminated.

Bob Guenzel responded that the position was permanently eliminated, but creating it again would depend on the needs of the Treasurer's Office.

Citizen Participation
None.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
None.

Adjournment
Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned until July 7, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Wesley Prater, Chair

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Peggy M. Haines, Clerk/Register
By: James D. Higginbottom, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: 7-7-04