WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

July 6, 2005

Chair Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Brackenbury, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Dan Minzey, Sheriff; Dale Vanderford, Ken Schrader, ITS; Verna McDaniel, Diane Heidt, Mary O'Hare, Human Resources; Greg Dill, Facilities; Mary Udoji, Library; Gordon Burger, Jennifer Watson, Maiyuwai Reeves, Budget; Dick Fleece, Environmental Health; Kathy Reynolds, Washtenaw Community Health Organization, Nancy Thelen, County Extension; Julie Chaffee, Community Corrections; Herb Mahony, Jeff Fulton, Harry Valentine, Sheriff's Office; Alan Israel, Prosecutor's Office; Barb Finch, Human Resources; Fred Veigel, Road Commission; James D. Higginbottom, Derrick Jackson, Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation
None.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation
None.

New Business:

State Budget Update- Profit:
Kirk Profit made a presentation to the Board regarding the State budget. He discussed various issues the State Legislature is addressing such as Health, DEQ, Wireless Networks, and other budget concerns. Comm. Smith asked if more things will be cut. Comm. Smith then asked if more things will be cut should the SBT not be resolved. Mr. Profit said that not much more could be cut. Comm. Smith asked if the gas tax has increased due to higher gas costs. Mr. Profit answered that it had not.

Comm. Bergman asked about Medicaid being cut at the state level. Mr. Profit responded that the Governor proposed a physicians tax.

Bob Guenzel asked about the bond proposal for job creation. Mr. Profit said that the senate moved a proposal, but he did not think it would go to the ballot.

Comm. Prater asked if they would use the tobacco settlement instead of going to the ballot. Mr. Profit said that he believed it would move in that direction because it would provide immediate results.

Comm. Ouimet said it appears their approach is looking at numbers as opposed to looking at what is needed. Mr. Profit said that all three; the Senate, House and Governor have their own plans.

Comm. Irwin asked about the status of the bill regarding WiFi limitations. Mr. Profit replied that he and David Behen met with key members and were assured that it would not make the floor.

Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest:

Trial Court – Community Corrections – Annual Comprehensive Community Corrections Program Plan

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the application to the State of Michigan, Michigan Department

of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections, for the FY 2006 Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan for the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 in the amount of $1,856,061.

Comm. Bergman commented on the staffing that the position is a data collecting position, not an advisory position. She said that it is not the job of the CCAB to reduce overcrowding.

Comm. Kern asked for an overview of PA 511. Julie Chaffee responded that PA 511 allows community to describe what programs why would put on place for individuals who may or may not be sent to prison. Comm. Kern asked if there was a maximum amount that could be drawn on. Julie said that as numbers go down, so does the amount of funding. She asked about certain programs. Julie said they help evaluate actions and behavior.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Health Services Community of Interest:

Washtenaw Community Health Organization – Creating positions for Regional Pre-paid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP)
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution creating two (2) FTE's, WCHO Division Manager II positions and one (1) FTE Health Services Supervisor position to be leased to the Washtenaw Community Health Organization.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Community Support & Treatment Services – CSTS Creating position to be funded by WCHO
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution amending the budget for the Community Support and Treatment Services Department for the fiscal year 2004-2005 and creating positions to be funded by the Washtenaw Community Health Organization.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Planning, Development & Environment Community of Interest:

Employment Training & Community Services – 2005 Michigan Works System Plan
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Michigan Works! System Plan with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) for the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 for the Employment Training and Community Services (ETCS) Group.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Employment Training & Community Services – MPSC/MCAAA Weatherization-Client Education Program
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the 2005 MPSC/Weatherization Client Education application to the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) in the amount of $25,936 for the period of June 1, 2005 through August 31, 2005 for Employment Training and Community Service (ETCS); authorizing the Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; approving the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Employment Training & Community Services – Annual Nutrition Program for the Elderly (Senior Nutrition)

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the Employment Training Community Service (ETCS) Group's grant 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 $902,312 for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006;

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: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Administrator:

Administrator - Purchase of Real Estate-750 Towner Street, Ypsilanti

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution approving the purchase of real estate located at 750 Towner Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan from WWEFST Company, and authorizing the County Administrator to take any action needed to complete the sale.

Comm. Sizemore asked about the lease agreement with the WCHO and if the cost would be covered. Gordon Burger said that the costs are met. Rolland asked about using the second floor of the courthouse. Bob Guenzel said that the position would not be able to use the space.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Administrator – Sale of County-Owned Property – 102 N. Hamilton Street, Ypsilanti

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution approving the sale of County-owned property at 102 N. Hamilton Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan to Ozone House and authorizing the County Administrator to take any action needed to complete this sale.

Comm. Sizemore asked about selling the house. Bob Guenzel said that Ozone house is happy to get the house.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Administrator – Enhanced Emergency Communication System Millage Proposal

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution submitting to the Washtenaw County electors a question of whether the tax limitation should be increased by 0.25 of a mill for ten (10) years, beginning with the December 1, 2006 tax levy, to construct improvements to the County's Enhanced Emergency Communications Radio System within Washtenaw County.

Bob Guenzel spoke regarding the millage. Bob asked the Board if Chief Oates could speak regarding the consortium.

Dan Oates of Ann Arbor City and 800 MHz presented the business plan as an update of where they are. See Handout. Paul Bunton of Saline spoke regarding the failures of the 800 MHz system. He said that many parts are not available, and more will not be supported in the near future. He said that it must be done either by millage or general fund. Craig Hoeft, Fire Chief of Saline spoke on behalf of the Fire Chief's in the county.

Comm. Sizemore asked about more towers for the system to work and asked about the Wireless Washtenaw and if they could be combined. Bob responded that the towers would be different. He asked if this system would be a false Y2K type concern. Chief Oates said that multiple issues have come up recently.

Comm. Kern asked if this is a capital cost is based on a growing base. Gordon said that they use the same formulas for other millages.

Comm. Brackenbury asked how the funding scheme compares to that which was presented last year. Chief Oates said that based on deferral it would be a better alternative to have a millage vs. a fee. Comm. Brackenbury said he supports the need, but asked if a plan is established to present and gain public approval. Chief Oates said that they are seeking advice, and working with local officials, etc. He said that they would do the best they could to become publicly involved in the efforts.

Comm. Peterson asked about the funding and how it would be maintained to prevent the same concern in the future. Chief Oates said that they would build the infrastructure, but the state would actually run the equipment. Paul Bunton said that one of the advantages of working with the state is that the state covers updates. Comm. Peterson asked who will pay the fees. Dan Oates said that the annual cost will be $400,000 and that around the 9th year the cost would need to be evaluated. Comm.

Peterson asked how it would impact dispatching. Chief Oates said that it is a separate issue, and even if dispatch did change a system would still be needed.

Comm. Gunn said she supported the issue and she said that the first recommendation was a phone tax that the people opposed it so they developed the millage.

Comm. Ouimet asked where UM stands for the use of the system. Chief Oates said that they are self-contained and have little desire. He asked where the state stands. Paul Bunton said that the state system is much newer. He said that it is a digital system which is updated constantly. Comm. Ouimet asked if the people would be funding something for a longer period than it is used. Paul Bunton said that the consortium will be updated, by the state, but the radios would be updated by the local units. He said that any unit could opt out at any time.

Comm. Smith asked if the MSP uses it. Chief Oates said that all state units use it. Craig Swenson of HVA said it complies with the APCO25 standards regulations making it possible to purchase different brands. He asked if the systems other counties are using would be an option. Chief Oates said that it is not tried. He asked if homeland security grants could be used. Chief Oates said it would not be enough and it very use specific.

Comm. Irwin said he is concerned with the millage passing. He asked how many votes would be needed to win. Derrick responded to the costs to run an election. He said that it would roughly cost about $1200 per precinct. Comm. Irwin asked the use of Motorola. Chief Oates said that it is a Motorola idea, but would be bid out. Comm. Irwin asked if this is the right time.

Comm. Sizemore asked about dispatch. He asked about going to the local unit of governments. He also asked about the counties that uses part of the system. Paul Bunton said that specific agencies will go on the program. Comm. Sizemore said they needed more answers.

Comm. Kern asked about the costs based on the millage proposal.

Comm. Brackenbury asked how it is currently paid for. Oates said that it is paid based on the agency per radio. Jack Ceo of Saline said that it is paid per radio. He said that some of the smaller radios would have difficulty paying for some of the radios.

Comm. Peterson commented that the board should support the Chiefs and help them find the answers they are after.

Comm. Solowczuk said that he would fully support the millage. Mark Barto of the State of Michigan Center for p said that the maintenance would be provided for to ensure that it would be safer.

Comm. Peterson said that it is unfair for people to leave and that a trust fund established to fund it.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Prater moved to separate the agenda at e3.

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

Administrator – Administrator's Revised Public Safety & Justice Recommendation – Capital Improvement Projects

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution adopting the County Administrator's revised Public Safety & Justice recommendation and authorizing the County Administrator to take all action needed to implement the recommendation.

Bob presented his memorandum recommending the CJCC and the feasibility study for the sheriff's proposal. He thanked the Sheriff for bring forward the alternate proposal. He said an independent firm ran a feasibility study. Staff recommended that they continue with the proposal initially introduced in April. He recognized the Sheriff's concern for more space. He said over the next couple of years the CJCC should address the requirements for more bed space, but the current proposal would meet the needs of the County for the next 3-5 years. He asked the board to approve the recommendation at the Ways and Means board. He also asked that the bond resolution be considered to fund the project. He added that while it is not the full proposal, it is a good proposal.

Comm. Sizemore asked how many new Courtrooms would be added to the Saline facility. Bob said one would be added, that could be expanded in the future. Comm. Sizemore asked who would control the project. Bob said the Board would control the project, but an oversight committee headed by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners would manage it. Comm. Sizemore asked for more info about county vehicles suggesting that it would provide other options to save money.

Comm. Kern asked if the 14A courtrooms would be separate or combined into a single building. Bob said that all would be combined and the last of the Seminary buildings would be destroyed. She asked that the resolution include the Saline Court construction in the description of actions. Both Comm. Bergman and comm. Peterson accepted the amendment as friendly.

Comm. Bergman pointed out that all of the needs are immediate and she requested plans for the Saline court. Greg Dill said that the project would meet the Michigan Court Standards, but he would also provide a more detailed report.

Comm. Ouimet said he agreed with the proposal, but is still concerned with the funding source.

Comm. Sizemore asked Greg Dill to meet with him and other Commissioners to look at costs for the new courts.

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

Administrator – Notice of Intent to Sell Bonds for Capital Improvement Projects
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution Authorizing the Board of Commissioners to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2005 to Fund the County Administrator's Revised Public Safety and Justice Recommendation, and Saline District Court, in the Amount of $32,500,000.00 and Directing the County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Intent to Issue Such Bonds and Providing for a Referendum Period.

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

Report of the Administrator:

Feasibility Study on Sheriff's Proposal on Jail Space

2005 Budget Update
Bob Guenzel presented the budget update (see board packet).

Report of the Chair of the Board
None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion
None.

Citizen Participation
Harry Valentine said that he was concerned with the funding of the jail project. He said that cutting police services is causing a negative reaction in much of the county.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
None.

Adjournment
Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until August 3, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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Jeff Irwin, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Stephen D. Kirschner, Deputy Clerk
APPROVED: