



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

March 1, 2006

Chair Irwin 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. Bergman, Brackenbury, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Solowczuk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Daniel Minzey, Sheriff; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, Uma Harithsa, James McFarlane, Ken Schrader, ITS; Pete Ballios, Gordon Burger, Jennifer Watson, Finance; Herb Mahoney, Harry Valentine, Sheriff's Department; Verna McDaniel, Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Tony VanDerworp, Richard Fleece, Planning and Environment; Dave Shirley, Facilities Management; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Michael Moran addressed the board on the cost of road patrol. He stated that option seven is much more of a fair sharing of costs. He stated he would like the cost to be brought down to 135,000 per deputy.

Pat Vaillencourt thanked the board for their work on the police services steering committee. She expressed several concerns about the current proposal in front of the board.

William McFarlane stated that the police services numbers are not quite where the numbers should be. He stated that he agrees with Michael Moran and Pat Vaillencourt that this option is good but not quite there. He stated that the suggestion for 135,000 is an appropriate number. He added that he thinks the steering committee should continue and he thanked the board for their cooperation.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Sizemore stated that Comm. Prater has done an excellent job of keeping the steering committee together. He stated that Mr. McFarlane has a good idea with keeping the committee together. He asked for an attendance record of the meeting.

Comm. Prater presented a resolution to Richard Fleece in recognition on his achievements and awards in Environmental Health in the State of Michigan.

Richard Fleece stated the he could not have succeeded without a great staff and great leadership.

New Business:

Planning, Development and Environment Community of Interest:

Planning and Environment – School Chemistry Recovery Project:

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 grant application to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a School Chemistry Laboratory Waste Collection program in the amount of \$31,956 for the period of July 1, 2006 through July 1, 2008.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 1. [Comm. Smith] Motion carried.

Comm. Kern asked why this project was not as widely used and what other schools are doing with the chemicals. Tony VanDerworp stated that previously only two schools had worked with them in the past, but this grant will provide funds to cover all the schools districts.

Support Services Community of Interest:

Department of Infrastructure & Planning – Wireless Washtenaw Governance Structure & Master Agreement:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Wireless Washtenaw Master Participation Agreement and enter into other agreements with private and public entities for the purpose of providing additional assets for the Wireless Washtenaw project; approving the governance structure to administer such contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 1. [Comm. Smith] Motion carried.

David Behen presented to the board on Wireless Washtenaw. He introduced the Wireless Washtenaw Steering Committee. Report on File with County Clerk.

Comm. Sizemore asked why the administrator appoints the strategic committee and not the Board of Commissioners. David Behen responded that this recommendation is based on other communities' models. Comm. Sizemore asked whether there has been communication with other communities who are implementing this type of project. Mr. Behen stated that they have been in contact with many other communities. Comm. Sizemore asked if Mr. Behen would be running the committee. Mr. Behen stated that the administrator would determine who would run the committee. Comm. Sizemore stated he would support this if Mr. Behen was running it.

Comm. Kern asked about the permanent governance structure. Comm. Kern asked if the county is open to approaching private members of the community in order to create complete coverage. David Behen responded that this is addressed in the master agreement. Comm. Kern asked if jurisdictions can restrict some assets from the agreement. Mr. Behen stated that the jurisdictions will determine what assets and what portion of those assets are available to the project.

Comm. Bergman asked for clarification on the timeline. David Behen responded. Comm. Bergman asked what if there are multiple providers. Mr. Behen stated that while this could be the case, the county would like to see a single provider, with other interested providers acting as subcontractors. He stated that they would like to see companies joining with other companies to provide this service.

Comm. Gunn asked if the decision has been made on where the pilot deployment areas will be. David Behen stated that it will be determined in April.

Comm. Ouimet asked if it will be a team or an individual who will oversee the day to day operations. David Behen stated it will be a team of people providing a portion of their time on this. Comm. Ouimet asked if there will be specific responsibilities given to specific team members. David Behen responded that while this may occur, he will, in the end, be responsible for the projects execution.

Comm. Kern asked whether the pilot phase is expected to represent a test of the decided provider or something else. David Behen stated that the pilot is to be a test of a provider who is expected to do the project. Comm. Kern asked if the time period of the pilot would be used to refine the design problems. Mr. Behen responded that this would absolutely be an opportunity to work out some of the bugs. Comm. Kern stated that James McFarlane did a great job on a presentation to Northfield Township Tuesday night. She asked what would happen if the wireless company forced a competitor out of an area. James McFarlane stated that because of the size of the industry this should not affect whether a carrier provides to an area.

Comm. Prater asked if there will be an agreement with the local communities and what sort of dialogue is necessary with the local units of government. David Behen stated that each unit of government will be required to sign the master agreement and the county will continue to work with these units into the establishment of the wireless network.

Comm. Irwin asked if there will be real users involved in the pilot program. David Behen stated that the users will be included in the evaluation. He stated that the county will be involved in testing many of the real user services like 24 hour a day support. Comm. Irwin suggested the involvement of relatively uniformed people to accurately gauge how the system will work once it is rolled out.

Administration:

Office of the Administrator – 2005 Year End Budget Adjustment:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution amending the 2005 budget.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 1. [Comm. Smith] Motion carried.

Police Services costs for 2008-2009:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the Law Enforcement Service costs to be paid by local contracting entities as well as the Washtenaw County funded "County-wide services" for the 2008-2009 years of the current four-year contract for police services and authorizing those figures to be attached to the existing contract for police services.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 1. [Comm. Smith] Motion carried.

Comm. Bergman stated that while she will vote for this, many of her constituents will not benefit from this service. She stated that she believes this represent a rather unfair tax burden to those municipalities that have their own police services.

Comm. Peterson stated that he interested in the county's role in continuing to working with the local units through the committee. He asked about the relationship between core services and the overtime issue addressed in the agreement. Curt Hedger responded that the contracting entities will be responsible for the majority of the overtime after 2007. He stated that there is a half million dollar account the county will provide for overtime when cost arise due to the county requiring it. Comm. Peterson asked if this is includes LAW net. Comm. Prater stated that LAW net is provided for outside of contracted services. Comm. Peterson asked who would pay in the event of an extended emergency. Curt Hedger replied the county would cover this. Comm. Peterson stated that this \$500,000 would not last long in this type of situation. Comm. Peterson asked if that \$500,000 budget dried up would the funding have to be brought back to the Board of Commissioners. Curt Hedger replied that this is correct because county has agreed to fund the categories for which the \$500,000 is set aside. Comm. Peterson asked what role the steering committee will play in future. Comm. Prater stated that he would like to see the committee to continue to address the issue of costs. He stated that while there is no meeting scheduled, he supports the continuation of the committee. Curt Hedger responded that the members of the committee expressed interest in continuing the committee through the life of the contract. Comm. Peterson stated that he appreciates the participation of the people who spoke tonight for their participation in the process.

Comm. Sizemore asked if the steering committee has looked at a countywide police force. Comm. Prater responded that the task of the committee has been primarily the contract negotiations. He stated that he believes that the members of the committee view the Sheriff's department to be the agency of choice for police services. Comm. Sizemore stated that he will support the resolution but would like the committee to continue and he would like to see if the sheriff and committee can lower the cost of road patrol. He also suggested a looking into a regional fire department.

Comm. Gunn suggested making the police services steering committee a board of commissioner appointed committee. She stated that Comm. Sizemore's fire department recommendation is good idea.

Comm. Irwin stated that the committee was productive and successful. He stated that the number one concern of the committee is the cost of police services. He stated that it will be productive in the future to keep those lines of communication open.

Report of the Administrator:

None.

Report of the Chair of the Board

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

Citizen Participation

None.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None.

Adjournment

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the meeting be adjourned until March 15, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jeff Irwin, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Stephen D. Kirschner, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: