



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

April 19, 2006

Chair Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Solowczuk.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk; Peter Ballios, Jennifer Watson, Finance; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, James McFarlane, Ken Schrader, ITS; Verna McDaniel, Diane Heidt, Barb Finch, Monica Boote, Human Resources; Raman Patel, Richard Steffens, Marjorie Bixby, Charles Mosher, William Guenther, Laura Zakalowski, Matthew Heering, Jeffrey Hammerberg, Paul Steigerwald, Equalization; Mary O'Hare, Mary Udoji, Library; Alan Israel, Prosecuting Attorney; Donna Sabourin, CSTS; Dick Fleece, Planning and Environment; Amy Klinke, Annette Rook, Community Development; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; 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:

Presentation of GFOA Certification of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:

Peter Ballios introduced Carla Smith, CFO of Wayne County. Carla Smith presented a certificate of Achievement to the Washtenaw County.

Comm. Prater thanked Carla Smith for the award. He stated that this is achieved through the hard work of finance and budget.

Comm. Irwin thanked Carla Smith for the presentation.

Planning, Development and Environment Community of Interest:

Community Development – Washtenaw Urban County/HOME Consortium Updated Consolidated Strategy and Annual Action Plan:

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the county administrator to sign the Washtenaw Urban County's Updated Consolidated Strategy for July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2008 and the Annual Action Plan for July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; authorizing the county administrator to sign the notice of grant award; approve the budgets in the total amount of \$2,015,736; authorizing the county administrator to sign delegate contracts; and authorizing the creation of one grant status position.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 2. [Comms. Peterson, Solowczuk] Motion carried.

Amy Klinke presented to the board on Washtenaw Urban County/Home Consortium Update Consolidated Strategy and Annual Action Plan.

Comm. Kern thanked Amy Klinke for her presentation. She asked to what extent the program trains people to better take care of their updated homes. Amy Klinke responded that every client goes through a program on maintaining their home. Annette Rook stated that it can be difficult to get the clients to attend the program. She stated this is something she would like to talk to the commissioners about.

Comm. Sizemore asked about Ypsilanti twp having votes on Urban County.

Comm. Gunn explained the voting rules.

Comm. Bergman stated that offering incentives to attend training seminars may work for better maintaining fixed up houses. Comm. Bergman asked about Micro homes. Amy Klinke stated that her program has not brought in any of these yet. Comm. Bergman stated that there are people in Ann Arbor who are low income and when tax dollars leave her city it is to their detriment.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he appreciates the work that Amy Klinke and her group do. He stated that he would like to extend the opportunity for Chelsea to participate again. He asked how the dollars work. Amy Klinke explained how the funding works. She stated that as new jurisdictions come in, the funds increase.

Comm. Peterson stated that he believes that home maintenance skills are important when offering home rehabilitation. He stated that Comm. Kern has made an excellent point. He stated that through partnership, the county will find success in engaging the home owners and helping them develop the skills they need to maintain their home.

Comm. Irwin stated that there does not seem to be emphasis on renters and rental rehab. He asked if Amy Klinke would talk about the discussions that have led to the funding arrangement where rentals take second place to home ownership. She stated that the Urban County chose to focus on home owners. Comm. Irwin stated that this has always been a concern of his. He asked about the administration funding gaps between the HOME program and CDBG program. Annette Rook explained the funding arrangement.

Support Services Community of Interest:

LLRC – Library Reorganization:

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution eliminating, creating and reclassifying positions in the Washtenaw County Library.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 2. [Comms. Peterson, Solowczuk] Motion carried.

Comm. Kern asked for clarification on the .75 FTE funding. Mary Udoji stated that for 2006-07 they only require .75 FTE. She stated that in the future they will eventually need the full position. Comm. Kern asked if the individual would only work ¾ of the time. Mary Udoji replied affirmatively and stated that when they need the position to move to 1.0, they will come back before the board. She stated this action is to prepare for the future.

Comm. Bergman stated that it is always a pleasure to be greeted by Mary Udoji and her staff.

Civic Infrastructure Community of Interest:

Clerk/Register of Deeds – Creating an Administrative Coordinator position:

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution creating a 1.0 FTE Administrative Coordinator position in the Clerk/Register of Deeds office.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 2. [Comms. Peterson, Solowczuk] Motion carried.

Equalization Report:

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the 2006 Washtenaw County Equalization Report.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 2. [Comms. Peterson, Solowczuk] Motion carried.

Raman Patel welcomed the new commissioner. Raman Patel introduced his staff; Richard Steffens, Marjorie Bixby, Charles Mosher, William Guenther, Laura Zakalowski, Matthew Heering, Jeffrey Hammerberg, Paul Steigerwald. Raman Patel presented to the Board on the equalization report. [Report on file with Clerk]

Comm. Kern stated that she does not understand why the value decreased. Raman Patel responded.

Comm. Prater asked about the difference in increase between taxable value and equalized value.

Comm. Kern asked for an estimate of uncapped properties and how Washtenaw County compares with other counties. Raman Patel stated that he has the uncapped properties, but does not have the comparison between counties. He stated that 8,115 properties are uncapped, which makes up about 7.8 percent. Comm. Kern stated she was surprised that the only 7.8 percent is uncapped.

Comm. Ouimet asked what the long term effect of the uncapped properties returning to capped status. Raman Patel responded. Comm. Ouimet stated that the county needs to be monitor new construction permits and how they will affect revenue.

Comm. Irwin asked about the exempted property slide. He asked how simple it would be to create a slide that showed abatements and their impact.

Comm. Smith asked to have an acreage column to be added. Raman Patel asked where this should be included. Comm. Smith stated that in the packet, on the tentative ratio. Raman Patel stated that he can get him all of the information that he desires.

Election Reimbursement:

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing reimbursement to local units of government in Washtenaw County for the County-wide election to be held on May 2, 2006; creating an election expense committee to analyze the payment of election costs for future county-wide elections and providing recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: 2. [Comms. Peterson, Solowczuk] Motion carried.

Comm. Smith supported by Comm. Ouimet moved an amendment to the resolution in the packet to the one distributed at the meeting. Comm. Bergman accepted it as a friendly amendment.

Report of the Administrator:

Sheriff Budget Review:

Jennifer Watson presented on the sheriffs budget. [Report on file with clerk.]

Bob Guenzel stated that there has been a huge spike in jail population in the last 2 months. He stated that a committee from the CJCC has been commissioned to examine the causes for this spike, however the committee could not proceed because the sheriff's representative did not attend. He added that they have made arrangements to acquire the information. He said that the committee indicated that there may have been changes in warrant sweeps and roundups by the sheriffs department. He stated that these items do have a large impact on the budget. He told the commissioners that he sent a letter to the sheriff indicating that there are four jails without contracts. He stated that corporation counsel informed the counties that they may not receive compensation. Bob Guenzel asked the board to recommend a limit of boarded out inmates.

Comm. Bergman stated that they have a number of serious concerns in front of them. She stated that it is amazing that the Sheriff did not attend the presentation on his budget. She said that when she asked about which departments were making the increased arrests, she was told that it would not be provided. She stated that she feels the sheriff's department is mismanaged.

Comm. Gunn asked why the seven new corrections officers position recently created by the board of commissioners have not been filled.

Comm. Irwin commented that this boarding out of prisoners is going to cost the residents of this county tremendously. He stated that he sees the sheriff out showboating but then refuses to come and address the board. He said that he wants to get answers about the spike in inmates. He stated the sheriff is hampering the counties ability to expand and improve the programs that can help the lives of the prisoners. He expressed his hope about the session in May that the Sheriff will attend and answer these questions.

Comm. Ouimet stated that it is important for the board to focus on the procedures they would like to put in place to monitor the Sheriff's budget.

Report of the Chair of the Board

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

Citizen Participation

Mike Gibby, York Township Trustee, thanked the board for their assistance with the May election.

Audrey Jackson stated that there is an expectation that a countywide leader like the sheriff will be accountable for their actions. She stated that she feels bad to hear the elected officials bickering like children. She stated that police services are an important issue in the county. She stated that when she thinks of upcoming elections for county commissioner, she know that accountability is a two way street and the commissioners may need to focus on why they are here and who they represent. She made a plea for the commissioners to grow up and come together and get this issue resolved.

Cathy Giszczak thanked the board for considering paying a fair share of the election costs. She urged the board to create another subcommittee with openly appointed members to review any proposals that will be brought to the state legislature regarding election costs.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Smith stated that he appreciates the support for the election committee and they will be open for everyone to attend. He added that this committee should not have any problem review state proposals and sending recommendations to the legislature.

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until May 3, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Jeff Irwin, Chair

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

APPROVED: