WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

July 5, 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, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Catherine McClary, Washtenaw County Treasurer; Peter Ballios, Finance; Gordon Burger, Budget; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, Andy Smith, Ken Schrader, ITS; Diane Heidt, Barb Finch, Human Resources; Tony VanDerworp, Patricia Denig, Planning and Environment; Trenda Rusher, ETCS; Amy Klinke; Community Development; Mary O'Hare, Organizational Development; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation
Doug Winters addressed the board concerning the resolution to extend two options to Augusta, Salem and Ypsilanti Townships for police services.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation
Comm. Gunn stated that this case will not be decided for a very long time and that it is time to be fair to the jurisdictions that have their own police services as well as those that have contracted with the county.

Comm. Irwin stated that the rhetoric surrounding this debate is becoming ridiculous and inappropriate. He said that he would like to end this situation, and would like the township to take affirmative steps to ending it.

Comm. Grewal stated that there is much acrimony around this issue. She stated that the board has moved in a deliberative manner on this issue. She added that the money saved will be invested in county security.

Comm. Solowczuk stated that the rhetoric that the county is cutting the Sheriff's department is incorrect, as the county provided a long term plan for funding the Sheriff Department, and had it rejected by the county.

Comm. Smith reminded the public that this is a question of how to equitably provide police services to the county and how to pay for them. He stated that the commissioners have a good solution before them to the police services issue.

Comm. Peterson stated that the board needs to be mindful that when a professional is before them, they represent the entity that has hired them, and are stating the opinions of that entity.

New Business:

Planning & Environment Community of Interest:

Planning and Environment

Presentation on Wind Energy Study:
Tony VanDerworp gave a brief update on the Wind Energy Study. He thanked the board for their support on this study.

Comm. Smith asked if the off shore placement of wind generators would be out of sight of tourists. Tony VanDerworp responded that this can be addressed later on in the study.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he has seen wind generators in West Virginia and they did not detract from the scenery.

Comm. Gunn asked about the cost of maintaining the wind turbine. Andy Smith responded that the cost is very minimal.

Comm. Prater stated that in Bowling Green, OH, they budget around $50,000 per year in maintenance.

Comm. Smith asked if the Bowling Green model covers municipal power on top of the 2000 homes covered. Tony VanDerworp responded that some municipalities are included.

Comm. Bergman asked if they have permission to use towers and build the wind turbines. Tony VanDerworp stated that the process takes about two years to develop these types of relationships.

Comm. Smith stated that wind speeds are fairly cyclical, and typically counter to demand needs. He asked Tony VanDerworp to include these considerations in the study. Andy Smith responded that wind does blow less during the winter, and at night, opposite of demand needs. Comm. Smith encouraged them to study kinetic energy options as well. He stated that he would like to message this as ultimately eliminating the counties reliance on non-renewable energy. Comm. Smith asked which parts of the county are in DTE and which are in Consumer's. Tony VanDerworp responded. Comm. Smith asked if Consumer's is involved in the conversation. Tony VanDerworp responded that they are involved.

Comm. Bergman asked about impact that the wind turbines would have on wildlife. Tony VanDerworp stated that there are migratory bird impacts that must be considered, but there tends to be little to no impact on non migratory birds.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the LEED impacts will be critical. Comm. Ouimet suggested taking a leadership role in best practices for renewable energy.

Comm. Grewal asked if they are looking at cooperating with other counties in the region. Tony VanDerworp responded that they are aware of what the region is doing. Comm. Grewal stated that they should look into partnerships.

Comm. Solowczuk asked if LEED is more expensive to build. Tony VanDerworp responded that it depends on the time frame, as the buildings offer greater cost savings as time progresses. Andy Smith stated that it can be cheaper in initial building.

Comm. Irwin asked about net metering, and whether this has come up in their discussions with DTE. Andy Smith stated that this has been discussed. Comm. Irwin stated that to whatever extent the county can develop a closed loop, it should be pursued.

Comm. Smith strongly encouraged them to reach out the ecology center and to create a citizens advisory group involved early in the study. He asked for the cost break down of getting an anemometer reading. Tony VanDerworp explained the cost breakdown.

Comm. Sizemore asked what kinds of jobs would be created in the county for this. Tony VanDerworp stated that they could find this information.

Brownfield redevelopment Plan Amendment: William Street Station Project:

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution adopting the proposed amendment to the Brownfield Plan for Washtenaw County approving tax increment financing incentives for the “William Street Station” Brownfield Redevelopment Project in the City of Ann Arbor.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

Comm. Gunn pointed out that the 100 affordable housing units would replace those lost at the YMCA.

Comm. Ouimet asked Comm. Gunn whether the Y folks had a choice as to where to relocate. Comm. Gunn responded. Comm. Ouimet stated that the city has done a wonderful job on this situation.

Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment: Banks of Saline Project

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution adopting the proposed amendment to the Brownfield Plan for Washtenaw County approving tax increment financing incentives for the "Banks of Saline" Brownfield Redevelopment Project in the City of Saline.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

Employment Training and Community Service:

2006 Annual Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Capacity Building and Professional Development Plan:
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the chair of the board's signature on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 2006 Capacity Building and Professional Development Plan in the total amount of $24,000 for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 for ETCS; authorizing the county administrator to sign notice of grant awards; approving the budget and authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

2006 Annual 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 in the Michigan Works! System plan with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) for the period of July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 for Employment Training and Community Services group.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

2006 Annual Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)/ Michigan Community Action Association (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 2006 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) weatherization and Client Education application to the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) in the amount of $49,831 for the period of March 22, 2006 through August 31, 2006 for Employment Training & Community Services Group (ETCS); authorizing the administrator authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

2006 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 ETCS grant application to the Area Agency on Aging 1-B for the Nutritional Program for the Elderly (Congregate Meals Program and home-delivered meals program) for the period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2009; and amend the budget for the first year, October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007, in the amount of $908,117; 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: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

2006 Annual Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Youth Activities:
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the chair of the board's signature on the program year (PY) 2006 Statewide Activities for high concentrations of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Eligible Youth Plan in the total amount of $32,163 for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 for Employment Training & Community Services (ETCS); authorizing the county administrator to sign notice of grant award; approving the budget; and authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Regional Skills Alliance (RSA):
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the county administrator on the ETCS Southeast Michigan Hospitality and Tourism Grant application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in the amount of $90,000, for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006; authorizing the administrator to sign the notice of grant award; approving the budget; and authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

Comm. Smith stated that he is excited to know that the county will do additional investment in this program. He asked Trenda Rusher is she foresees this becoming a more important part of her organization. Trenda Rusher responded. Comm. Smith asked how the Metro Association has funded this program. Trenda Rusher stated that they have been heavily involved. Comm. Smith stated that one thing that would be great for Washtenaw is to be known as a place to get great service. Trenda Rusher stated that this idea of ambassador training is being developed at the county.

Comm. Sizemore stated there are many programs that are showing off the pluses of Washtenaw County, such as the Aerotropolis.

Health Community of Interest:

Community Support and Treatment Services – Jail Diversion, Training and Service Enhancement Project:
Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the electronic submission of the application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Jail Diversion, Training and Service Enhancement Project for Washtenaw County, Justice and Mental Health Collaboration program FY 2006 competitive grant in the amount of $100,000 for each year of a two year grant period from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

Comm. Bergman complimented this team for there great work and coordination.

Public Safety & 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 an application to the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections, and Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Board for the FY 2007 Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Comprehensive plan in the amount of $1,719,041 for the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1. (Comm. Kern) Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:
None.

Report of the Chair of the Board
None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion
None.

Citizen Participation
Jim Mogensen addressed the board about the LEED construction standards.

Joe Zurawski stated that he was taken aback by a comment by a commissioner. He stated that there was a lot of long and hard thinking involved in deciding to sign the police services contracts. He stated that they made their decision under duress and the supervisors are not happy with the police services contract.

Brenda Stumbo commented that wind power generators create noise and safety issues that should be considered. She stated that her jurisdiction wants to be part of the Sheriff department and that the townships pay their fair share of the cost.

Wendy Burkhardt explained her reasons for running for County Commission.

Audrey Jackson stated that if it walks, talks and acts like a Nazi, it probably is a Nazi and that county officials have jeopardized public safety for everyone.

Doug Winters addressed the board about police services. He asked if the commissioners feel good about coercing local units.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Gunn pointed out that the police services contracts that were signed gave much more to the townships that the original police services contract. She stated that her vote yes was for those townships that had worked hard to reach an agreement with the county.

Comm. Smith commented that he is keenly aware of the history of the police services issue. He stated that the solution tonight is an equitably resolved solution and that equity must be the foremost goal.

Comm. Bergman stated that as a Jew, she is appalled that anyone would compare any member on the board with Nazi's.

Adjournment

Comm. Sizemore seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved that the meeting be adjourned until August 2, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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Jeff Irwin, Chair

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

APPROVED: