



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

September 6, 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; Curt Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Peter Ballios, Finance; Verna McDaniel, Diane Heidt, Barb Finch, Human Relations; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, Ken Schrader, Information Technology; Gordon Burger, Budget; Ellen Clement, Public Health; Judy Kramer, Risk Management; Patricia Denig, Jeff Krcmarik, Planning and Environment; Scott Patton, Community Development; Mary O'Hare, Organizational Development; Mary Udoji, Library; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; 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:

Support Services Community of Interest:

Support Services – Finance – Insurance Renewals:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution accepting offers for insurance coverage for the county for the period of October 1, 2006 to October 1, 2007.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Health Community of Interest:

Public Health – Annual 2006-07 Comprehensive Planning, budgeting and Contracting Agreement:

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 Public Health Department Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contract (CPBC) agreement for the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007; authorizing the county administrator's signature on the 2006-07 interagency agreement between Public Health and Planning & Environment; approving the Public Health Department's 2006-2007 budget; authorizing the county administrator to sign delegate contracts; approving position modifications; and authorizing the establishment and amendment of a schedule of Medicaid equivalent charges for Medicaid billable services.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Kern thanked the department heads for the amount of information they have included in this item.

Comm. Irwin thanked Ellen Clement for her work on this item.

Planning and Environment Community of Interest:

Planning and Environment – Public Awareness Environmental Video Production Grant:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the electronic submission of the application to the James A and Faith Knight Foundation for an environmental video production project in the amount of \$20,000 for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Kern asked if there was another way to promote this other than the website. Jeff Krcmarik explained the ways they will advertise the video. Comm. Kern suggested conveying this through a newsletter to the schools. Mr. Krcmarik responded that they do have newsletters going out to these groups.

Comm. Grewal concurred with Comm. Kern about alternate means of distribution. She suggested making the videos more readily accessible on their website, possible working with other departments on this.

Office of Community Development – Management Services for the Community Development Unit:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution to accept a revenue contract with the City of Ann Arbor for management services and office space in the amount of \$93,560 for the period of October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2008 for the Office of Community Development.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Children’s Well-Being Community of Interest:

Head Start – Program Improvement Supplemental Grant:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the administrator’s signature on the application to the Department of Health and Human Services for the Head Start Program for the period of August 1, 2005 through July 31, 2006 in the amount of 31,250; authorizing the administrator to sign the notice of grant award; and approving the Head Start budget.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Office of the Administrator:

Jail Population Manager:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution creating a 1.0 FTE Jail Population Manager position within county administration.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Peterson noted that he does not have a problem with this item. He asked how this position would impact, and help to reach, the goals of the county. Bob Guenzel stated that this was a recommendation from the Criminal Justice Collaborative Council (C, with both the judges and the sheriff sharing in this recommendation. He praised the county's Community Corrections department, as being one of the best in the state. He summarized the current difficulties arising out of a lack of a jail population manager, and explained how a population manager would rectify these. He stated that the position will not be successful without the cooperation of the Sheriff. Scott Patton added that the CJCC shares Comm. Peterson's concerns, but has endorsed the position. Comm. Peterson stated that the issue is creating alternative correction facilities. He added that he would like this position to be the bridge between community corrections, the sheriff and the court. He hopes that this will lead to a focus on community corrections and alternative sentencing.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he hopes that the person who takes the position has the strong will to deal with the different players they will have to work with. He stated that he would like a report every quarter to see how the position is working.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the important piece of this is the action the county takes with the information they receive. He asked if no changes are recommended, will there be reports on why there is no change recommended. Scott Patton responded that this information would be relayed to the courts.

Comm. Smith expressed his support for the position and noted that the job description is heavy on analysis and light on implementation. He asked the Criminal Justice Collaborative Council to review the position description and change this.

Comm. Bergman asked about a state funded position that was to be a liaison between the courts and the jail on bonding. Scott Patton answered that they can bring this information to the board. Comm. Bergman stated that, from a community corrections point of view, the county cannot go in and do case work. She added that she would like there to be an emphasis on case work and corrections alternatives.

Comm. Irwin said that he will be voting for this position, primarily because the board has been asking simple questions to the jail system, and have been unable to get they answers they need to spend the public's money wisely. He stated that there is currently a lack of proper analysis. He asked why the jail is overcrowding while the crime rate in Washtenaw County is allegedly going down.

Attorney Fees for Public Safety & Justice Issues:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution to re-approve and ratify Washtenaw County's contract with Dykema, Gossett, PLLC to provide legal advice and representation to the county.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 11. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Curt Hedger explained that this item is housekeeping relating to pending litigation.

Comm. Kern asked for clarification on whether it means that voting yes on this item does not diminish the argument that the Board of Commissioners did not violate the open meetings act. Curt Hedger responded that passing this resolution is not an admission of guilt.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk added this item to the Board of Commissioners agenda tonight.

Voice vote. YEAS: 11. NAYS:0 ABSENT: 0 Motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Administrator:

Resubmittal of Sheriff's Request for Legal Fees:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution resubmitting Washtenaw County Sheriff Daniel Minzey's request that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners agree to pay for his legal fees to enable him to retain independent counsel. Comm. Solowczuk asked to separate the item from the agenda.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 0. NAYS: 11 (Comms. Bergman, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk.) ABSENT: 0. Motion failed.

Comm. Kern asked for clarification about the resolution being in the affirmative, meaning to deny the legal fees would require a no vote. Comm. Irwin responded affirmatively. Curt hedger commented that he wanted resubmit this question exactly as it was submitted to the leadership committee.

Comm. Smith asked why this issue is being brought to the meeting, since this never made it to the agenda, and so no action was taken on it. Curt Hedger explained that action was taken at the leadership meeting, and identified the claims the litigating townships are making regarding this action. He added that this is giving this body the opportunity to revisit the issue and vote on it again. Comm. Smith asked if this is suggesting that an elected official has the right to place an item on the agenda. Comm. Irwin stated that this is not the intent of this item, but rather to save taxpayer money in bringing the litigation to a more rapid close. Curt Hedger stated that this comes before the board through recommendation of the administrator and himself. Comm. Smith asked for clarification on whether the Leadership meeting can take action on an item. Bob Guenzel responded. Comm. Smith asked about action taken at the leadership meeting when a quorum is present. Curt Hedger responded that if there is quorum, the board can take final action. He stated the reason this came before the board, in January, was a timing issue. He added that the leadership meeting does not usually take board action. Comm. Smith asked for clarification on the laws governing the board of commissioners taking action. Curt Hedger responded.

Comm. Kern noted that the only action was to decide to be inactive. She added that this item could have been brought to the floor during any meeting by any commissioner if they desired.

Comm. Peterson stated that he hopes they never have to do this again. He asked if this is in respect to the sheriff's original request or includes any new legal fees. Curt Hedger replied that this is in regard to the January litigation. Bob Guenzel gave a budget update. [Full Report on fill with the County Clerk]

Comm. Bergman asked if the overcrowding has negatively impacted the projected budget surplus. Bob Guenzel replied that they would need to look at the adjusted 3rd quarter numbers to accurately determine this.

Comm. Kern asked for details on the building services shortfall. Gordon Burger stated that an expected summer increase in revenue did not occur, and now they are looking at alternate revenue streams. He stated that they have to achieve a balance and make up the difference to avoid department review.

Comm. Ouimet noted that with one exception, the departments seem to be staying on budget. Gordon Burger explained that Budget works closely with the departments, with quarterly reviews, to assist with staying on track.

Comm. Solowczuk asked how police services contracts are working. Gordon Burger stated that they are under budget.

Comm. Prater asked where the other expenditures, as listed on page five on his report, are coming from. Gordon Burger summarized the reasons why the expenditures are lower than expected.

Comm. Sizemore asked about the plan to have inspectors look at apartment complexes. Gordon Burger stated that they would need to have townships pass ordinances to allow this. Comm. Sizemore asked if it would be more efficient for the county to do inspections as compared to other jurisdictions inspections. Gordon Burger noted that they have adjusted their fees to be in line with the other jurisdictions fees, they do at times share inspectors with An Arbor, and they are not mandated to do building inspections.

Comm. Solowczuk stated that he would like a more accurate picture of the areas going over budget. Gordon Burger stated that they typically only report on an exception basis and that budget adjustments occur at years end. Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like a more accurate depiction of the Sheriffs budget, very soon.

Comm. Bergman asked if they could see overtime and overtime distribution between the deputies, and jurisdictions the deputies are working in. She added that she would like to know if retirement is affected by overtime.

Comm. Irwin asked if the building services short fall is solely in building inspections or split between soil erosion and inspections. Gordon Burger stated that it is primarily inspections.

Report of the Chair of the Board

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Sizemore thanked David Behen and the IT department for all of their help.

Comm. Solowczuk announced that tomorrow's leadership and working session have been cancelled.

Citizen Participation

None.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None.

Adjournment

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until September 20, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Jeff Irwin, Chair

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

APPROVED: