



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

November 15, 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; Raman Patel, Equalization; Verna McDaniel, Diane Heidt, Barb Finch, Human Resources; Gordon Burger, Budget; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, James McFarlane, Mike Brogan, Information Technology; Peter Ballios, Finance; Alan Israel, Prosecuting Attorney; Patricia Denig, Planning and Environment; Prosecuting Attorney; Judy Kramer, Risk Management; Fred Viegel, Road Commission; Ellen Clement, Public Health; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Derrick Jackson, Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Comm. Irwin moved the report of the administrator to the front of the agenda.

Report of the Administrator:

County Administrator Robert Guenzel reported to the board concerning police services. He stated that the attorneys for the county and for the three townships have reached a tentative agreement that will result in no deputy layoffs. He noted that the understanding is that the townships enter the 4 year contracts, while reserving all rights they have to argue in the courts about this issue. He stated that this is a positive development as it results on no layoffs. He noted that there is still work to be done on this agreement and he would hope to have these executed by next week.

Attorney Doug Winters addressed the board concerning this agreement. He read a letter from the attorneys for Augusta, Salem and Ypsilanti Townships regarding these contracts. He asked that this be made part of the public record (Transcript on File at County Clerk's office).

Robert Guenzel noted that the letter adequately set forth the agreement. He stated he would report to the board as soon as they have the agreement.

Citizen Participation

Leslie Resnick expressed her concern about layoffs at the sheriff's department. She questioned the wisdom of cutting back on the number of deputies.

Tom Partridge stated that the board has damaged its reputation with their actions regarding the police services. He faulted the commissioners for the lawsuits and the potential layoffs. He asked for support of his proposal to eliminate all property taxes on middle class and low income home owners and the adoption of a county and statewide peace corp. plan.

Carol Pennington she stated that she is pleased that the agreement has taken place. She added that this needs to be a good faith effort.

Karen Lovejoy Roe thanked the commissioners for working out the details to save 51 employees of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. She stated this issue is one that affects the entire county.

Harry Valentine thanked the commissioners and Ypsilanti, Salem and Augusta townships for working out a tentative agreement. He stated that he is hopeful that this spirit of cooperation will continue.

Brenda Stumbo stated that she is happy that there is a tentative agreement and she looks forward to working with the new board of commissioners. She added that a 43% increase in the cost of police services could not be absorbed by the residents of Ypsilanti Township.

Angela Ream stated that she is pleased to hear that a tentative agreement has been reached. She stated that her neighborhood of West Willow needs the sheriffs department.

Pat Kelley congratulated the commission, administrator, township official and residents for this agreement reached. She stated that Dexter Township did not sign the contract under duress, signing it because there was a good faith effort on the part of the county to reach a compromise. She challenged the Ypsilanti, Salem and Augusta Townships to be true partners in this process.

Pat Valliencourt stated that she is please that there is an agreement with the litigating townships. She stated that there is still not affordable public safety. She pointed out that by putting this issue in courts, they have spent hundreds of thousand of taxpayers' dollars on litigation rather than on public safety.

Gerald Holowcki addressed the board on the implementation of the Clements system, encouraging the adoption of another system. He noted the alternative, by Crimecog technologies, can enact a 40% productivity gain.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Sizemore stated that he is happy that this contract issue has been settled tonight and apologized to the deputies for this stress. He asked if anyone knew if the sheriff was present tonight.

Comm. Irwin thanked the leadership of the Ypsilanti, Salem and Augusta board for there decision to take this opportunity that the county has been offering for the last 11 months. He responded to a comment that Ann Arbor Commissioners do not like the sheriffs department, saying that that is complete poppycock. He stated that the decision to use Clements is done by the sheriff, but they would be happy to look into this system.

Comm. Smith congratulated those involved in this success. He stated he will take Mr. Partridges comments to heart.

Comm. Peterson expressed appreciation to the Ypsilanti, Salem, and Augusta Township official for their progressive stand they have made for their residents. He stated that he is pleased to that they will be turning a new page next month in their relationship. He noted that as citizens of Washtenaw County, the commissioners should be aware of the needs of the residents. He told the deputies that they have done an outstanding job in maintaining their professionalism.

Comm. Prater thanked the communities involved, and his fellow board members. He stated that it is difficult for the deputies, employees and citizens. He addressed the statement that Ann Arbor commissioners do not care about the sheriffs department. He stated that the only thing he has heard during this process is that the sheriffs department should be the agency of choice for police services in Washtenaw County.

Comm. Ouimet thanked Ypsilanti, Salem and Augusta Townships for being able to reach this point. He stated that it has been a difficult road for all in this process. He noted the consistent comments he has received on the professionalism of the Sheriff's department.

Comm. Solowczuk offered his congratulations to the parties.

Comm. Gunn congratulated all of the parties on the agreement. She recognized Bob Guenzel for his perseverance, leadership and willingness to compromise.

Comm. Grewal noted that everyone is pleased that this agreement has been reached. She stated that she hopes this pushes this process in a different direction.

New Business:

Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest:

Sheriff Office – Annual Drive Michigan Safely:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the submission of the electronic grant application to the Michigan State Police, Office of Highway Safety Planning for the Sheriff's Office Drive Michigan Safely Task Force 2006-07 grant program in the amount of \$69,841 for the period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007; authorizing the administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget; and authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 [Comms. Sizemore and Smith]. Motion carried.

Comm. Kern expressed concern about the great deal of notice for when the program will begin and when it will end. She asked why they only keep the enforcement signs up for small increments of time. Tim Morales noted that this is part of the state program to utilize high visibility enforcement. Comm. Kern suggested leaving the signs up all of the time to increase the effectiveness. Mr. Morales stated that he would pass on this recommendation.

Youth Alcohol Enforcement Grant:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the submission of the electronic grant application to the Michigan State Police, Office of Highway Safety Planning, for the Sheriff's Office Youth Alcohol Enforcement 2006-07 grant program in the amount of \$16,669 for the period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007; authorizing the administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget; and authorizing the administrator to sign delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 [Comms. Sizemore and Smith]. Motion carried.

Trial Court – Annual Child Care Fund:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the electronic submission of the 2006/2007 State Child Care Fund budget summary form 2091.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 [Comms. Sizemore and Smith]. Motion carried.

Health Community of Interest:

Public Health – Hiring a Communications Manager:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the hire of Gray Reynolds as Public Health Communications Manager at an annual salary of \$66,202.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 [Comms. Sizemore and Smith]. Motion carried.

Civic Infrastructure Community of Interest

Equalization – 2006 Apportionment Report:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution adopting the Washtenaw County 2006 Apportionment Report.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 [Comms. Sizemore and Smith]. Motion carried.

Office of the Administrator

Executive Session – Litigation and Purchase of Property:

Comm. Irwin noted that they would be adding an item to the executive session, a discussion an opinion from their attorney.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss litigation, purchase of property and an opinion from the commission's attorney.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 [Comms. Sizemore and Smith]. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:44 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 8:57 pm.

Purchase of Property for New 14A District Court in Saline:

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the purchase of 11.2 acres located at 750 N. Maple Road in Saline as the site for the new 14-A District Court.

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

Comm. Solowczuk amended the resolution to reflect the sales price as \$550,000.00. He thanked the board for moving this forward.

Amending Lease Contract with Washtenaw County Building Authority:

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to amend the existing lease with the Washtenaw County Building Authority for Bond Series 2002 to Permit the County to use \$737,741.81 in unused bond proceeds and interest earnings from this bond issue to acquire land and pay for the construction of the proposed 14-A District Court in Saline.

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

Transferring Excess Funds from Chevron Project & Public Improvement Fund:

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds remaining from the Chevron Project as well as using current and future monies in the public improvement fund to acquire land and pay for the construction of the proposed 14-A District Court in Saline.

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

Reaffirming the 2007 Budget:

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution affirming the second year of the 2006/2007 Biennial County Budget.

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

Bob Guenzel commented that he would be happy to comment on the budget. Comm. Kern asked if the communication officer salary level is included in the budget. Bob Guenzel responded affirmatively.

Update on Building Services

Comm. Kern asked about the update on building services. Bob Guenzel commented that there is a memo in the packet on this subject, but he would not be giving the report this evening. He stated that there is a shortfall this year and they have proposed a fix for it in the 2007 budget. Gordon Burger expanded on this. Comm. Kern asked if they would have to lay people off to correct this shortfall. Mr. Burger responded that they would not have to lay people off.

Report of the Chair of the Board

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

Citizen Participation

Leslie Resnick addressed Comm. Smith concerning his comments directed towards Mr. Partridge. She stated that citizens should have the right to speak their mind without fear of public ridicule.

Tom Partridge addressed the board concerning the Ann Arbor News discriminatory conduct. Mr. Partridge urged the county to think on a universal, global scale, representing their all of their constituents. He called on the board to pass a resolution asking the president to end the war in Iraq.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Smith apologized to Mr. Partridge for his earlier intemperate and uncivil remarks.

Adjournment

Comm. Solowczuk seconded by Comm. Bergman moved that the meeting be adjourned until December 6, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Jeff Irwin, Chair

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

APPROVED: