



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

February 7, 2007

Chair Bergman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Ping Mills, Ouimet, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz, and Sizemore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Peterson and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Robert Guenzel, Deputy County Administrators David Behen and Verna McDaniel, Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Judy Foy, Consultant; Trena Rusher, ETCS; Peter Ballios, Finance; Diane Heidt, Monica Boote, Human Resources; Dale Vanderford, Ken Schrader, James McFarlane, Information Technology; Anthony VanDerworp, Patricia Denig, Planning and Environment; Ellen Clement, Public Health; Steve Purri, Road Commission; Jennifer Watson, Megan Wolfe, Maiyuwai Reeves, Adam Lumia; Support Services; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Citizen Participation Bob Yurick stated that Salem Township is a long time depository for garbage. He added that the type of reasoning in the current lawsuit between the Townships and the County creates a feeling of hostility. He stated that not everyone in Salem Township thinks the Board is a bunch of scoundrels.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comms. Gunn and Bergman thanked Yurick for this comments.

New Business:

New Business Comm. Irwin presented a resolution in memory of Dillard Roy Craiger.

Presentation – Road Commission

Wes Prater introduced Steve Purri. Purri gave a presentation to the Ways and Means Committee regarding Road Commission activities. (On file in the County Clerk's Office)

Comm. Sizemore asked what the plans are for technology in the future such as infrastructure like sewer/water systems. Purri stated that there have been advances in putting utilities under roads. He added that putting water lines under roads poses a freezing risk. He stated that the Road Commission investigates when potential arises for co-existence in the right of way.

Comm. Sizemore asked for an update on the Airtropolis on Rawsonville Road. Purri stated that he will need to check with Roy Townsend for an update. Comm. Sizemore stated that the staff has been easy to work with lately and he appreciated it.

Comm. Gunn asked if the widening of Jackson is being paid for by the Scio Township DDA. Purri responded that it was being paid for by the Scio Township DDA. Comm. Gunn stated that the Drive Michigan brochure does not mention any kind of mass transit. She added that it is important to look into mass transit. Purri stated that there is a fund in place in which 8% of the money is put into the comprehensive transportation fund.

Comm. Ouimet stated that it is important to highlight the enormous amount of money is tax captured for the Scio Township DDA. Comm. Ouimet stated that he appreciated the road crews continuing to work in the frigid weather. He added that he finds it fascinating that so many groups support the increased taxation on a gallon of gas. Purri thanked Comm. Ouimet for his comments. Purri stated that members of Drive Michigan realize times are difficult, but that the campaign is willing to work hard.

Comm. Grewal thanked Purri for the presentation. She asked about a point in the presentation in which it was shown that when gas taxes rise consumption decreases. Purri stated that in looking at the data, this was the case. He added that there needs to be a long term strategy, but that roads still play an important role.

Comm. Grewal asked if a reduction was seen in Washtenaw County when higher taxes are in places. Purri responded that this is the case that consumption was less in 2006 than in 2005, and that the major component in the equation was the gas tax.

Comm. Irwin thanked all participants in the presentation. He asked for the Board of Road Commissioners position on non-motorized transit. Purri stated that the Road Commission has been trying to add paved shoulder as the surface of the road is over laid, Purri stated that the overlay program had ended however. Purri stated that it was hoped bikes could share the path with the cars.

Comm. Irwin asked why the program had been ended. Purri responded that since 2004 revenues have continued to decline, while expenditures have increased. Comm. Irwin asked if the Board has considered dedicating funds strictly to non motorized transit. Purri responded that through Act 51 money is required to be dedicated, and that the Road Commission has exceeded this amount yearly.

Comm. Irwin asked what the Road Commission's policy is on salt trucks, and how the Commission handles complaints. Purri stated that if the complaint is during regular hours it is logged, and if after hours, recorded messages are taken and logged the next day.

Comm. Irwin asked about the procedure if a Deputy encounters an accident that has taken place on an icy road. Purri responded that the sheriff's dispatch gets a hold of the Road Commission emergency dispatch. Comm. Irwin asked if drivers of the salt trucks are directed to go to the scene, or if the scene is actually inspected by a supervisor. Purri responded that both of these things happen.

Comm. Irwin stated that he hopes the Commission finds ways to operate more inexpensively with minimal impact to the environment.

Comm. Ping Mills asked if the County employs the average number of employees based on the State of Michigan. Purri responded that Washtenaw County employees the 6th largest number of employees because of its size.

Comm. Ping Mills asked if the work of the engineering employees could be done by private industry at a cost savings. Purri responded that these engineers do a variety of tasks. Comm. Ping Mills asked how many engineers there are. Purri responded that there were 8.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe thanked Purri for the presentation. She asked about the policy of the Road Commission is to engineer on road and off road access. Purri stated that if it is in the community interest it is certainly considered. Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked about the \$4,000,000 is in the facilities and equipment line item of the handout. Purri stated that it is a combined total of the five year period. He stated that the amount of money in capital investments has been reduced to \$400,000 yearly from \$1,000,000.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked about the new snow removal policy. Purri stated that the new policy was in effect. He summarized the 10 points of the new snow removal policy. Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if the focus in Drive Michigan was on the gas tax. Purri responded that the focus is on gas taxes, increased registration fees. He added that longer these are short term revenue streams and that longer term streams are being evaluated.

Comm. Bergman summarized the concerns expressed by the commissioners.

Comm. Prater apologized for running over and stated that the Commission would be happy to come back at any time to provide information.

Land Use and Environment Community of Interest:

Planning and Environment:

Hazardous Substances Assessment Grant

Comm. Grewal asked if there was a cost share associated with this program. Patricia Denig responded that there was not a cost share in the first phase of the project, but if the project proceeds to a second phase there is a 50/50 cost share.

Comm. Schwartz asked if anything has been done with the Brownfield in Superior Township at the corner of Ford and Plymouth. Denig stated that the owner is still waiting on taking further action.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Schwartz moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution ratifying the Administrator's signature on the application between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Washtenaw County in the amount of \$200,000 for the period of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2010; 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 (Peterson and Smith). Motion carried.

Employment Training and Community Services:

2006 Workforce Investment Act Plan Modification

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board's signature on the application between The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and Washtenaw County in the amount of \$2,810,539; for the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award, amending the budget, and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Peterson and Smith). Motion carried.

Annual 2007 Michigan Public Service Commission Energy Assistance Program

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution ratifying the Administrator's signature on the application between The Michigan Community Action Agency Association and Washtenaw County in the amount of \$2,810,539; for the period of January 1, 2007 to July 31, 2007; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award, amending the budget, and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

Comm. Grewal asked if there was a dollar amount limit for payment of bills. Trena Rusher stated that there is a reasonableness test. She added that payment is generally done on a one time basis.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked about the process of determining need. Rusher stated that people know to contact the office, and that this is a statewide program.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked about landlords not providing heat, and asked if Rusher's Dept helps. Rusher stated that people know to contact them if problems arise. She added that the largest problem encountered occurs when funds run out.

Health Community of Interest:

Public Health:

Department Plan of Organization

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution approving the submission of the Public Health Department Plan of Organization to the Michigan Department of Community Health; in compliance with the Michigan Public Health Accreditation program requirements; authorizing the Chair of the Board to sign the Plan of Organization Approval Form.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Peterson and Smith). Motion carried.

Emergency Preparedness Community of Interest:

Emergency Management Division:

Creating a 1.0 FTE Grant Status Position

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution creating one (1) 1.0 FTE Grant Status Senior Emergency Planner Position; Group 32, Grade 29; Salary range \$42,672 - \$60,737; to add one additional senior-level project manager to assume regional implementation and coordination responsibilities; position will be funded by 2006 Homeland Security Grant, which is being handled as a revenue contract with Oakland County, the fiduciary for the regional Homeland Security Board.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Peterson and Smith). Motion carried.

Office of the Administrator:

Community Collaborative of Washtenaw County (CCWC):

Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant

Comm. Grewal asked Clement if different youth groups are involved in this program. Clement stated that there are plans to include these groups in the near future.

Comm. Grewal asked if this program is sustainable long term. Clement stated that there are plans to initiate activity in this field whether or not the grant comes through. She added that an attempt will be made to convene a group to sustain the program.

Comm. Grewal asked if training would have to be more knowledge based. Clement stated that there is a need to renew training, but hopes that costs can be minimal with the help of other organizations.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution ratifying the Chair of the Board's signature on the grant application between the Michigan Department of Community Health and Washtenaw County in the amount of \$23,312 for the period of April 1, 2007 to 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 (Peterson and Smith). Motion carried.

County Administrator – Presentation:

Jennifer Watson and Support Services presented the budget planning process overview. She added that Commissioners are welcome to attend training on the process, and that dates are forthcoming. Watson made a presentation on the budget (Presentation available at County Clerk's Office).

Bob Guenzel stated that the budget calendar presents many opportunities to discuss labor relations, and that an Executive session has tentatively been scheduled for April.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she feels that the Board does not have enough input in this process. She asked who gives the direction on which direction to take the budget. Watson responded by stated that some specific policies are set by the Board of Commissioners in the biannual budget resolution.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that the Board does not have enough input at the front end of the budgeting process.

Comm. Gunn stated that "budget boot camp" would help the Commissioners. She added that she feels that it is important for the Board to remain at the policy level of the budget process. Comm. Gunn stated that large request could take hours of staff time and that a balance needs to be reached.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he is glad that the budgeting process in Washtenaw County crosses lines and functions. He asked if a basic template is used for all units in the government. Watson replied that a basic template is used, but that some departments have exceptions and differences that must be considered.

Comm. Ouimet added that we may be able to offer help in reducing costs for municipalities. He stated that the areas he represents do not take advantage of these opportunities enough.

Comm. Schwartz stated that Watson did as well as anyone in making the material exiting. He asked if it is possible to get a breakdown of mandates regarding funding as a function of revenues. Watson stated that as Communities of Interest are brought to the Board of Commissioners, mandated and discretionary spending for the Interest will be presented to the Board.

Comm. Irwin stated that he has a lot of confidence in the process in terms of interfacing with various levels of the organization. He added that the \$100,000 non earmarked reserve had to be revisited. He added that systems integrations work is key for the criminal justice system, and that he hopes resources are found to further support this plan.

Comm. Grewal thanked Watson and stated that the presentations through June would be the opportunity for Commissioners to give feedback.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if the Board of Commissioners could get the same template that is sent to each department. She also requested a copy of the full budget document.

2008 – 2009 Planning Process, Budget Calendar & Budget Guidelines

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution adopting the 2008-09 Planning Process, Budget Calendar & Budget Guidelines at the February 7, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 1 (Lovejoy Roe) ABSENT: 2 (Peterson and Smith). Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:

Heidt stated that 12 employees are currently taking advantage of same sex partner benefits. She added that these people have full access to benefits. She then described the Executive Summary handed out (on file in County Clerk's Office).

Hedger stated that the Appeals Court invoked a rule giving it immediate effect. He stated that the Court has been asked for reconsideration on the immediate effect part of the ruling. Hedger stated that he doesn't feel that anything needs to be done immediately, but that the situation must be monitored.

Guenzel stated that the Attorney General ruled that if employees were covered by collective bargaining agreements, they could not be affected. He added that this is not a qualifying event under COBRA.

Comm. Bergman stated that this was about employment and education. Guenzel stated that the passage of this amendment may have been represented.

Comm. Irwin stated that he feels that proponents of the proposal either did not understand the proposal or were liars.

Guenzel stated that committees were set up to analyze the Pfizer issue. He stated that many of the people that will be displaced are the support and contract employees. He stated that an estimated 6,000 jobs will be affected due to the ripple effect. He described the committees that are tasked with changing policies to help deal with the problem. He stated that there are two basic issues: the people, and the site. He added that the City of Ann Arbor has stepped up in a leadership roles with this issue. Guenzel stated that by mid 2008 Pfizer will probably be out of the County. He added that the 2008 budget will not be affected, the expected impact in the future, however is \$1.5 million.

Rusher stated that this will be a new experience, but she feels that we will be able to work together and get through this.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if Pfizer owned the property. Guenzel responded in the affirmative. Comm. Sizemore thanked Guenzel for the report. He stated he would like to see the same effort put into the other areas of the County. Guenzel stated that the same approach should be used with the auto industry.

Comm. Grewal stated that it would be nice to look at problems such as this on a long term county wide basis. Rusher stated that we do have communication with ACH and has been working with their front office.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that the difference is that a plant hasn't been closed yet. She stated that auto industry job losses have been devastating. She added that she suspects many of the Pfizer employees live on the eastern side of the County, and that overall 5,000-6,000 jobs have been lost on that side of the County.

Guenzel stated that he has heard nothing back on facilitative mediation. Guenzel stated that the issue of the jail population manager was taken up in the last CJCC meeting. He stated that Patton will contact the top three candidates, and will hire that position. He added that many inmates would be released next week if the Sheriff exercised is Section 7 obligations. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated 75% to 80% are awaiting trial.

Guenzel stated that Judges, Community Corrections, and all groups will be involved. He mentioned problems on data gathering and working with participants in the system.

Guenzel stated that he would like to see the assurance that thoughtful cooperation from the other side of the issue.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that many of the victims in these cases are domestic violence victims.

Comm. Grewal stated that people serving on DV charges have been convicted of other crimes as well.

Comm. Schwartz stated that this will be a good time on organizations to come together on this issue.

Comm. Irwin stated that he invited the Sheriff to meet and get these issues on the table to try to solve them.

Comm. Bergman stated that if Sec. 7 is followed and population is reduced, she would like to see data from the Sheriff and would like to ask that individuals that are arrested get lodging without going through the court system.

Comm. Irwin stated that he has had conversations with members of the Sheriff's Dept.

Report of the Chair of the Board

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Sizemore thanked Rusher, McDaniel and Peterson for their help with the family. McDaniel stated that a fund has been set up internally for a payroll deduction.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe thanked the parties involved, and that she was proud to be a part of the organization.

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the meeting be adjourned until February 21st, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: