WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

May 16, 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. Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Peterson, Ping Mills, Ouimet, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz,

Sizemore and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Bergman

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Robert Guenzel, Deputy County Administrators David Behen and

Verna McDaniel, Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk; Peter Ballios, Finance; Patricia McGee, Head Start; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Denise Dalrymple, Children's Services; Dale Vanderford, Information Technology; Adam Lumia, Megan Wolfe, Scott Patton, Support Services; Jennifer Watson, Budget; Scott Miller, Drain; Patricia Denig, Planning and Environment; Mark Lindke, Tyrone Hampton, Marsha Chartrand, Patricia Parker-Self, Veterans Services; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and

members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Jennifer Chapin-Smith, 2758 Canterbury Road, Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, stated that she thanked Washtenaw County Children's Services for funding the Washtenaw County Youth Mentoring Coalition, and distributed materials to the Board of Commissioners (on file in County Clerk's Office).

John Weiss, 1206 Pearl St. Ypsilanti, Executive Director of Neutral Zone, thanked the Board for support through the Children's Well Being fund. He added that it has helped in mentoring and college prep courses. A contingency from Western Washtenaw County thanked the Board for funding for Children's Services.

Becky Bruce stated that she thanked the Board, and added that home visits for some students have been very helpful.

Kate Fox thanked the Board for funding the teen parent program, which provides classes and medical assistance.

Kathy Kelly, Director for the Child Advocacy Center thanked the Board for funding a forensic interviewer.

Beth Manuel, Child Care Network thanked the Board for Child Well Being funds, allowing families to get to work. She added that through the middle of May, 46 children have been served.

Mary Jo Callan, 359 Devar, Ann Arbor Township, Director, Ozone House, thanked the Board for Child Well Being funding, and stated that shelter was provided for 118 youth.

Paul Heinrich, Chapter Chair, AFSCME Unit 23, Road Commission, stated that there are multiple problems that exist in working conditions in the Road Commission. He stated that the management team has no interest in interest based bargaining with its employees. Heinrich stated that consultants are brought in when work can be done in house. He added that the people that work at the Road Commission are upset about the conditions they work in, and suggested that a committee is formed to discuss these problems.

Julie Steiner, Sunset Road, Ann Arbor, Executive Director, Interfaith Hospitality House, thanked the Board for support that they provide for programs that provide housing. She added that currently less than 10% of families come into the shelter with a working adult. She stated that she is proud of the Commissioners for their support.

Bill Stein, 1413 S. Zeeb, Ann Arbor stated that he is a retiree from the Road Commission. He stated that benefits are being taken away, and stated that he felt that adding new people is not the most positive thing to do at this time. He commended Comm. Ouimet for his work with the Road Commission.

Margee Long, Martha Ave., Ann Arbor, Planned Parenthood stated that she thanked the Board for the grant that is being provided through Children's Well Being. She added that the prenatal program sees about 300 women for prenatal care. She added that the County does not have adequate care as of yet, but is thankful for support.

Paul Cousins, Village of Dexter Trustee, 7648 Forest, Village of Dexter discussed expansion of the Road Commission. He stated that he is in favor of expanding the Road Commission. He added that some in Western Washtenaw County feel that more money has been spent than is necessary. He stated that he would like to see additional representation.

Steve Purri, Managing Director, Washtenaw County Road Commission, 6480 Zeeb Road, stated that he is committed to providing the most effective services to the County. He stated that the Road Commission is facing budget challenges. He stated that cuts have been made. Purri stated that there are eminent financial challenges. He stated that Road Commissioners have been able to hold meetings without an issue. He added that there are many myths about the Road Commissioners. Purri stated that the Road Commission was not designed to be a representative form of government. He asked that the Board please consider the downsides of expanding the Road Commission. Purri stated that his views are based on 20+ years of experience.

Tom Partridge stated that this is a pivotal time for the State of Michigan. He added that the County is having budget difficulties under the influence of a regressive Republican Party in Michigan. He stated that he calls for the Board to call for local sources of revenue that would be fair and equitable. He stated that he would like to see a reduction of property taxes in Washtenaw County for middle class residents. He stated that there is a need for expanding affordable housing in the County. He stated that the Board should have monthly meetings on these issues. Partridge added that these issues need to be addressed with a Democratic and progressive philosophy.

Angela Hamilton Broderick, Assistant Project Director, Ypsilanti Youth Empowered to Act stated that she thanked the Board of Commissioners for funding the Washtenaw County Youth Mapping Project. She stated that stipends were provided to 42 young people to increase their marketability. She added that many young people had not stepped out of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, and that this project gave many youth the opportunity to explore the County. Broderick stated that results of the project will eventually be placed online giving access to residents and people that may potentially become residents of the County.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Ouimet stated that in government as many alternatives as possible need to be examined. He added that it is challenging to watch the need factor and stated that United Way is re-engineering their campaign to face new challenges. Comm. Ouimet reported that a group is examining need factors in the County. He stated that this will provide the County with a direction on how to assist the community. Comm. Ouimet stated that he hopes more partnering will take place in the County to meet the needs of the Community. He added that he is glad that Comm. Gunn also attends the Road Commission meetings. Comm. Ouimet commented that it is important during this discussion, to take the view of partnering with the Road Commission. He stated that energies can be better spent on figuring out ways to help the current situation.

Comm. Gunn stated that Comm. Ouimet has made an excellent representation to the Road Commission.

Comm. Irwin stated that at the beginning of the year he had the goal of expanding the Road Commission. He stated that reasons for this include diversity including geographic diversity and diversity of opinion, experience and background. He stated that one of his areas of concentration is non-motorized transit, and that he would like to see an expert on this topic on the Road Commission. Comm. Irwin stated that the expense to populate the Road Commission is small compared to the total expenses of the Road Commission. He stated that the County could benefit from additional voices at the table.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that the idea of having an experienced person is important, and that organizational development at the County is positive. She stated that she would like to see the Road Commission take on some of these initiatives. She stated that there is a need to get back to interest based bargaining, and possibly put a team together to investigate the issues that have come up.

Comm. Grewal stated that she is looking forward to hearing from the public. She stated that it is nicer to have a wide prospective on issues, and added that having three commissioners serving may not be adequate to incorporate all of the views in the County.

Comm. Peterson stated that there will be urgency in meeting some of the needs in the community. He stated that the ability for the Board of Commissioners to put additional money into these programs deserves another look. He stated that there should be a watchful eye on the budget to be prepared to make up for state shortfalls. Comm. Peterson stated that some of these programs are at risk of not surviving the current economic climate.

Comm. Gunn thanked Comm. Peterson and stated that these agencies are the first line of defense.

Comm. Smith stated that giving funds is the least that can be done, and added that it is an honor to provide this funding.

New Business:

Health Community of Interest:

Public Health:

Federal Food Stamp Nutrition Education Grant

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the submission of the electronic grant application to the Michigan State University Extension for the for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 in the amount of \$47,468; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; Amending the budget; and authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

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

Children's Well-Being Community of Interest:

Children's Services:

Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Contract

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if it was a per pupil count in B1. Darlymple stated that it is dependent on what the count is. She added that if the youth was in the system in the window of 10 days before or after the count day it counts. She added that there are other funding sources such as the State of Michigan Section 24 (9:56:00). She added that they are paying for a 250 day school year. She stated that 50% reimbursement from the state ***review 9:56:45*** Darlymple stated that impacts from the state have to do with section 24, she added that if Ann Arbor schools takes a cut, the WISD will also take a cut.

Comm. Grewal stated that there will also be a resource paper put together for communities.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved that the resolution authorizing the Administrator to sign the contract with Washtenaw Intermediate School District, for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009 in the amount of 610,818 with the estimated net cost to the County for the 2007-08 school year following eligible reimbursements is \$43,375; with the cost to be included in the 2008-09 budget be adopted

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

2008-2009 Human Services & Children's Well-Being RFP

Comm. Peterson stated that he is disturbed with how this process works. Comm. Peterson stated that he would like to do the review at an actual sit down meeting. He stated that it is important to have citizens that have a concerning interest to serve on this committee. Comm. Peterson also stated that he is concerned about the state and federal budgets. Dalrymple stated that a meeting does take place after an online application. She stated that applicants could look online to view the grants. She added that the human services fund has been \$250,000 for 10-15 years. She stated that this is the original pot of money addressed to human services needs. She stated that reviewers have changed over time. She stated that the funders forum are in tune about what agencies in the field are doing. Darlymple added that Washtenaw United Way recused themselves after an application. She added that applicants will not even be asked to serve in this cycle. Dalrymple stated that there will be highly competent individuals serving.

Comm. Peterson stated that he felt the process was wrong, and questioned the subsidization of the project by the Board. Dalrymple stated that the RFP is connected to the Children's Well Being Community of Interest Floor Plan. She stated that money has to be aimed at children. She stated that the \$550,000 is open to anyone that wants to apply. Comm. Peterson stated that he helped promote this item to be in the budget. He stated that the process is unfair, and the challenge of competing raises the question of how non-profits can compete. He stated that he did not want non-profits excluded. He stated that sometimes non profits have issues with funding entities regarding their goals. He added that at times, independent entities are needed to conduct a review. Comm. Peterson stated that he is concerned about who will be protected in this program. He stated that small non-profits need the support of larger organizations to survive.

Comm. Gunn stated that the size of the entity does in the second whereas under allocation whereto non profit human services agencies.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to alter the second WHEREAS in this resolution to read: WHEREAS, since 1998, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has earmarked funding in their budget for allocation to private non-profit human services agencies to support the Board priority for Children's Well-Being;

Accepted by Comm. Gunn and Comm. Irwin as a friendly amendment.

Comm. Grewal asked how results are obtained for measures that are not normally very objective. Dalrymple stated that something measurable can always be found. She reported that Children's Services works very hard with agencies to obtain measurable objectives. She added that agencies are worked with extensively to develop milestones.

Comm. Irwin asked if there is a functional reason why this needs to move through both meetings tonight. Dalrymple reported that there is not. Comm. Irwin discussed the tension between smaller groups with ideas and larger groups with ways to use the money. He stated that he would like to see this approved at Ways and Means tonight and save it for the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

Comm. Gunn stated that this is public money and it needs to be spent prudently. Dalrymple stated that the last budget cycle was started very late, and that the opposite was being done to allow this conversation.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the Request for Proposal guidelines and timeframe for the 2008-2009 Human Services & Children's Well-Being funding opportunities be adopted.

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

Land Use & Environment Community of Interest:

Department of Planning and Environment:

Wind Power Budget Adjustment

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she will not be voting for this because of what has happened with the state budget. She stated that right now these dollars should be used for another purpose. She reported that there is a large number of foreclosures and the money is needed elsewhere.

Comm. Peterson stated that he wonders how many more studies need to be done, and who will be the partner at the end of the day. He stated that sometimes he is willing to subsidize, but that someone will be stuck with the bill at the end. VanDerworp stated that the amount can hopefully be reduced with the University of Michigan investment. He stated that the net result will be to provide information to investors. He added that actual co-ops between farmers could be developed.

Comm. Peterson asked for a list of investors. VanDerworp stated that Consumer's Energy and DTE may get into this business. He also pointed out research pointing to Bowling Green. He stated that this is cost effective over the long run. He stated that agencies come to the Board dealing with real human lives.

Comm. Peterson stated that he supports the issue, but added that economic times are very tough. He also asked why the University of Michigan is not a full partner. He stated that he will support the study, but very hesitantly. He stated that there should be a commitment from a partner in this plan.

Comm. Schwartz discussed the setup of a local windmill owned by a family. He stated that the windmill does not generate enough electricity, and that rationing is necessary.

Comm. Sizemore asked funding for this study. VanDerworp stated that the Board passed a resolution asking for research. He added that no one can use the current maps, and that good information is not available. VanDerworp stated that more study needs to be done. He added that U of M has anemometer equipment available, and a class that is taught on the subject.

Comm. Ouimet stated that this appropriation provides an opportunity to recoup costs., and added that this may be a good option for Commissioners. VanDerworp stated that initially the investment was to be an incentive for third party providers. Comm. Ouimet stated that this could be approached with a plan to recoup costs. Comm. Ouimet asked if this approach is somewhat akin to how Wireless Washtenaw was set up with initial information being set up before a private entity came in. VanDerworp stated that it is somewhat analogous because it stimulates private investment in this area.

Comm. Grewal stated that she supports the program, and that this is a back and forth about where money should be placed. She stated that this is about where she wants to see Washtenaw County move in the future and added that she will support this project.

Comm. Schwartz stated that he shares a lot of the concerns that exist around the table. He stated that this study may change the feasibility study, but that there is a high degree of risk. He added that he will support it, but that he does have reservations.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he will support this and wants to make sure that community youth gets behind this.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked why this has to happen now. She stated that DTE would be interested in working with this. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would not take \$86,000 of her own money and invest it in something that has no potential for return.

Comm. Peterson stated that he would delay this for another meeting.

Comm. Smith stated that the resolution does not preclude DTE from partnering with the County on the project.

Comm. Peterson stated that he would like to get this business done at the front end of the project. He stated that he would request half of the money and then ask for a partner.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the Administrator to add \$86,000 to the Planning budget to hire a consultant to perform an investment grade wind study by erecting an 80 meter Meteorological tower with instrumentation at several heights to test the wind speed and other criteria at a site near the Chrysler Proving Grounds in Sylvan Township, at a total cost of \$86,000 be adopted.

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Ping Mills moved to table until 6:30 p.m., June 20, 2007. Roll call vote: YEAS: 6. NAYS: 4 (Comms. Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, and Smith) ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Bergman). Motion to table carried.

Regulation of Privately Owned Community Sewage Systems

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution to adopt the Regulation of Privately Owned Community Sewage Systems to assure the proper design, construction, operation, maintenance and funding of privately owned community sewage systems, allowed under authority of the State of Michigan's Public Health Code, Act 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, State of Michigan, MCL 333.1101 et seq. as amended be adopted.

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

Report of the Administrator:

SafeHouse Update:

Barbara Niess introduced Board members and SafeHouse associates present at the meeting. Niess and Tom Knight gave a presentation on SafeHouse (on file in County Clerk's Office). Peg Tilber stated that she chairs the Community Resolution Committee, which is jointly appointed by Washtenaw County and SafeHouse. She reported that the purpose of the committee is to look at the issues facing SafeHouse, and mainly the request by the Michigan Department of Human Services to return grant funding incorrectly accounted for by SafeHouse in a previous year.

Comm. Sizemore asked about demographics of clients based on income. Niess stated that more lower income residents are served, but that this trend is changing. She stated that abuse happens at the same rate all over the County.

Comm. Ping Mills stated that she appreciated the open house, and thanked SafeHouse for their services.

Comm. Peterson stated that he also appreciates the services provided by SafeHouse. He stated that he has never heard a more honest presentation. He added that he feels that the group has been overburdened. Comm. Peterson stated that the organization deserves to be commended. He communicated that he feels people that serve on the Executive Board of this agency deserve to be commended. He reiterated the honesty in the presentation. He then stated that he hopes direct services that are provided will be considered in the budget process.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he agrees with Comm. Peterson, and that what has happened with SafeHouse is not unique in the community. He stated that this is an interesting study in contracts. Comm. Ouimet stated that correcting the past situation says a lot about leadership in the organization. He stated that he feels strongly about the importance of this group. Comm. Ouimet stated that bankruptcy serves no purpose, and congratulated the group on a job well done.

Comm. Irwin thanked Niess for an excellent presentation. He stated that he was shocked by the \$1.6 million budget that SafeHouse uses to operate.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is really proud of the fact that this community is still the only one with a SafeHouse millage passed.

Comm. Grewal thanked Niess for her presentation. She stated that she feels very passionately about victims of sexual assault. She stated that SafeHouse does a tremendous job, and that women and children do need this kind of help. Comm. Grewal also thanked Bob Gunezel for his support.

Comm. Sizemore stated that people like Niess are a model, and thanked all of the staff.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she gives a special thanks to those who volunteer. She stated that words cannot be put on the importance of the services provided by SafeHouse.

Knight thanked the Board for their support. He also pointed out that the entire Board of Directors is present at the meeting.

Presentation on North-South Commuter Rail Presentation

Mike Cicchella and John Hieftje presented an update on the North-South Commuter Rail. Cicchella stated that current circumstances bring more importance to this project. He reported that currently the project is planned to move from Ann Arbor to Howell. He added that this is a five year plan, and that after 3 years, funding would be available. Cicchella reported that many organizations support the project. He described funding sources and potential savings for motorists. He stated that the group is in the process of forming a rail authority that would give jurisdiction over Livingston and Washtenaw County. Hieftje stated that everything fell into place recently. He added that the long term vision was for the train to go all the way up to Traverse City. He added that the rail goes through the Toyota Tech Center. He stated that one question is employers bringing employees into work. He stated that the influx of federal money after three years would change the outlook. He stated that this innovation can put Washtenaw County at the forefront. He stated that the University of Michigan has already offered 1200 tickets for employees that are potential riders. Hieftje stated that planning needs to start now. Hieftje presented results from mass transit in Salt Lake City regarding an increased amount of development. He stated that this makes great economic sense.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he is impressed with the ability to get bipartisan support, and support of all levels of government.

Comm. Sizemore asked if this piggybacks on the Aerotropolis situation. VanDerworp stated that the rails will only add synergy to the project. He stated that he wants to be in the loop.

Comm. Irwin stated that this is an excellent presentation. He stated that he feels that these projects have tremendous potential. He added that this fits in with the lifestyle that the County is trying to accomplish. Comm. Irwin stated that there is a lot of economic activity that goes between Livingston and Washtenaw County and added that an emergency taxi service could provide an extra level of security.

Comm. Gunn thanked Cicchella for being a catalyst in this project. She added that cutting down on building parking places in Ann Arbor is terrific.

Comm. Ping Mills stated that serving on WATS has increased her interest in this area. She asked if the City of Ann Arbor has made a funding commitment to the project. Hieftje responded that the City is currently working on their budget, and that he would have to return with an answer after the budgeting process is complete.

Comm. Grewal stated that this is a great initiative and stated that this project makes a lot of sense. Comm. Grewal asked about the ridership needed to make the project successful. Cicchella stated that he is currently estimating 1,700 to 2,000 riders in projections. He added that this is seen as developing interest in one another's communities. He added that train cars will be handicapped accessible.

Comm. Schwartz thanked the presenters. He stated that he is impressed with the leadership of the organization, and added that this is a minor investment that leads to a major concern.

Comm. Irwin thanked Cicchella and Hieftje.

Comm. Smith thanked the presenters and stated that the Michigan Suburbs Alliance (MSA) put together a brochure focusing on transit oriented development.

2008-2009 Planning Process: Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest

Judge Simpson presented the PS&J Community of Interest Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Ouimet stated that the speech given by Judge Simpson to honor fallen law enforcement officials was very well thought out.

Comm. Irwin thanked Judge Simpson for the presentation and for his leadership on the CJCC. He stated that people working together to improve the system tells a lot about the membership of the CJCC.

Comm. Smith asked how colleagues are engaging in the space planning process with relation to other court systems in the County. Judge Simpson responded that this is outside of his scope. Guenzel stated that it has been the intent that dealing with Platt Road Juvenile Court and the Downtown Court facility are priorities. He added that the recommendation has always been to move the juvenile court. He added that there will be a process when there is a finalized budget. Comm. Smith asked about the interaction with the City of Ann Arbor. Guenzel stated that he has not heard anything recently, but is expecting information soon. He stated that this would have an effect on future plans. He added that he does not feel that the City has taken a position.

Comm. Smith asked about forming a justice campus. Guenzel stated that it makes sense, but that he is unsure if it is timely and feasible. Judge Simpson stated that each of the District Courts represents a different community, and that district courts want to be in that community. He added that in the combined preliminary exam process, there is a concept of a justice campus. He stated that this is done without neglecting communities.

Comm. Peterson asked if there have been commitments made on transfer of authority on facilities. Guenzel stated that there has been no transfer of authority, and that the only authority that the Board has transferred is expansion of the jail infrastructure and the design of 14-A1 District Court, which is under the purview of the Project Oversight Committee. Comm. Peterson asked if there are staff assigned to study 2008 expansion. Guenzel stated that no staff are assigned at this time, and that any future expansion would be brought to the Board of Commissioners.

2008-2009 Planning Process: Veterans Services

Mark Lindke and Michael Smith gave the Veterens Services Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office). Lindke introduced Larry Stalker, Jay Trouse, Bob Kuzincsky, and Greg Weaver.

Smith introduced staff members: Tyrone Hampton, Marsha Chartrand, Patricia Parker-Self.

Comm. Ouimet asked about getting accreditation for work done in the military that could be done here. Lindke stated that this is an issue that is being pursued here, and added that members will get credit for the work done. Smith stated that the biggest problem is in the medical field because it requires certification in this state. Comm. Ouimet asked if there is anything that the Board can do to help. Lindke stated that he appreciates the support. Comm. Ouimet stated that this is one way that the County can be smart about their re-entry. Lindke stated that Veterans Affairs is very sensitive to that fact.

Comm. Ping Mills thanked Veterans Services for everything they have done.

Comm. Schwartz thanked Lindke and asked what the Board can do to prepare for future impact. Lindke thanked the Board, and added that Veteran Services has held a steady staff level. He stated that a lot of what they do can be done electronically. Lindke stated that they needed support in taking courses to maintain certifications.

Comm. Grewal thanked Lindke for the presentation. She asked if the benefits being received are based on grading, and if so, who does the grading. Lindke stated it could depend on if they are being retired or if they are being but on VA Disability compensation. He added that it is based on their earning capacity. Smith stated that a determination is made on disability. Smith stated that a determination must be made if the person is still fit to serve on active duty. He stated that inconsistencies are found in how they are rated. Smith added that misdiagnoses have led to problems regarding veterans getting benefits after being discharged. He stated that a re-diagnosis can take place, and benefits can then be sought. Lindke stressed that there is a review process. Comm. Grewal stated that the ability to get re-evaluated is an important one.

Comm. Gunn stated that she knows Lindke fights the bureaucracy. She stated that she knows that the Veterans Affairs office fights for veterans benefits and thanked the Veterans Affairs Office for their work.

Comm. Smith asked if there is a volunteer or peer support network organized by Lindke. Lindke named the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans is comprised of volunteers. Lindke stated that individual communities are probably doing outreach efforts as well. Comm. Smith asked if there is still a staffing need that is not being met. Lindke stated that there is a capable staff that can do the job, but he does not know where the stance will be next year. Comm. Smith stated that the staff commitment is extraordinary. Comm. Smith stated that stress level goes up for staff when asked to do more with less. Lindke stated that some measures have been taken to reduce stress in the office. Comm. Smith thanked the presenters.

Report of the Chair of the Board

No Break. Comm. Irwin gave an update on mediation. He stated that Ed Hood let him know that the judge initiated the idea of mediation, and that Hood determined it was in the County's interest to keep the mediation tailored only to existing claims. Comm. Irwin stated that he did not see any inconsistency.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that the transcript as well as minutes and tapes show that the County offered all claims to be mediated to the plaintiff Townships. She added that Hood did not represent this in a conference call with the judge and plaintiff attorneys to discuss mediation.

Comm. Irwin stated that he does not disagree with any of this. He stated that Hood presented a position that was in the County's best interest. He added that what Hood presented was not the same as the offer that was made to the three plaintiff Townships. He stated that he does not see how this is important

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Citizen Participation

Christina Lirones,151 E. Textile Road, Ann Arbor, Treasurer of Pittsfield Township, stated that she would like stated many members of the public that had come to speak on the issue of expanding the Road Commission had already left, and added that she would appreciate it if the public hearing were put at the front in the agendas in the future. Lirones stated that they are opposed of the expansion of the Road Commission from 3 to 5 members. She stated that amount of money for one commissioner could be spent on a crosswalk. She stated that the Road Commission is very responsive currently. She added that Commissioners could more easily work with staff. Lirones stated that at other times, the western side of the County has been represented. She stated that she does not believe that the issue has not been investigated fully enough. She stated that she would like to see what taxpayers will get for their money.

Feliziana Meyer stated that she opposes the Road Commission expansion, and added that there would be better service in seeing what citizens really want. She added that she felt that money could be better spent in other areas.

Paul Lubienski, 3610 Daleview Drive, Scio Township stated that he is here to oppose wastewater system regulations proposed by the County. He stated that he requests more time, and requested that this be tabled. He stated that the regulation would open the County up to liability. He stated that another Lake Isabella situation would be created.

Rev. Charles Williams II stated that he is present because of a shooting by the Ypsilanti Police Department. He stated that this was an unfortunate incident, and requested that the County take a second look at the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office for the decision not to take action in this case.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Smith stated that the Board could communicate with the Prosecutor, but that they did not hold a direct influence because the Prosecuting Attorney is also an elected official.

Comm. Peterson stated that someone said that mistakes happen. He stated that they are automatically a partner with the prosecutor. He added that he feels that the correct personnel should be informed about this issue. He added that he has been a supporter of LAW NET over the years, but he feels it is important for the Board to respond to this issue.

Pending

None

Adjournment Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Lovejoy Roe moved t Motion carried.	that the meeting be adjourned until June 20 th , 2007 at 6:30 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.	
	Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk	
APPROVED:	