



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

October 1, 2008

Vice Chair Smith 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. Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Bergman and Grewal

**OTHERS PRESENT:** County Administrator Bob Guenzel; Deputy County Administrators, Verna McDaniel and David Behen; Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Dale Vanderford, Jennifer Watson, James McFarlane, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Roberta Allen, Finance; Kari Dorr, Prosecuting Attorney's office; Mark Lindke, Veteran Services; Tony VanDerworp, Planning and Environment; Ellen Clement, Public Health; Denise Dalrymple, Children's Services; Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Diane Heidt, Barb Finch, Human Resources; Caryette Fenner, CSTS; Ken Schrader, ITS; Scott Patton, Joanna Bidlack Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### Roll Call

##### Citizen Participation

Tom Partridge stated that he supports Barack Obama and Joe Biden in the upcoming Presidential election. He added that residents need continued access to the Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled. He stated that it is not the time to cut services.

Randy Krull, 859 S. Wagner Rd., Webster Township, stated that he is concerned with some of the Washtenaw County bidding procedures. He added that he is disappointed that there is no extra consideration given to contractors in Washtenaw County. He presented a packet to the Board of Commissioners (on file in County Clerk's office).

##### Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Ping thanked Mr. Krull for attending. She stated that she would like to revisit putting more of a priority on Washtenaw County contractors. Comm. Ping added that a scaling system would be beneficial.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that many municipalities have a 10% cushion. Hedger reported that a motion is not necessary and that he will do research and bring findings back to the next meeting.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he has seen vendors or contractors within the County meet or exceed standards of those outside of the County.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he is sad to see Denise Dalrymple leaving Washtenaw County.

##### New Business:

##### Health Community of Interest:

##### Washtenaw Community Health Organization:

##### Hiring a WCHO Deputy Administrator Above Midpoint

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the hire of Patrick Barrie as a Washtenaw Community Health Organization (WCHO) Deputy Administrator at a salary of \$120,000 be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

**Economic Development Community of Interest:**

**ETCS:**

**Community Services Block Grant**

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the application to the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), for the FY 2009 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in the amount of \$850,979 for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 for ETCS; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the ETCS Fiscal Year 2009 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program application to the Michigan Department of Human Services in the amount of \$70,920, for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009; authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

**Land Use and Environment Community of Interest:**

**Joslin Lake Improvement Project**

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution directing the Board of Public Works to undertake a Lake Improvement Project for the Township of Lyndon be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

**Veteran Services:**

**Veterans Relief Millage**

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she has concerns with the fact that this will not be an actual increase. She added that she would like to try to offset some of the general fund dollars to see what the program will look like. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that the need is there and added that she would also like to look at possibly increasing the 1/50th of a mill. Hedger described the law on the Veterans Relief Millage. He added that use of the millage is to be taken into account when setting the millage for the following year.

Comm. Peterson stated that his first concern is the potential shift of dollars. He added that he is concerned that he is not complementing the fund. He asked about the projection for Washtenaw County in terms of returning Veterans. Comm. Peterson also asked about the administrative recouping of dollars. Lindke stated that there are approximately 20,000 veterans in this County. He added that he cannot project the need. Lindke reported that the Indigent Veterans line in the budget has been consistently underfunded. Comm. Peterson asked if administrative dollars are built in. Lindke reported that 28% is based for Administrative services. Comm. Peterson stated that he feels it is important to offer those who serve all assistance that can be given.

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Lovejoy Roe moved to amend the resolution to direct 100% of the revenue raised go directly to veterans relief for direct services and no administrative costs.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin offered the friendly amendment to increase the millage to 1/40th of a mill which would increase the revenue but also provide for staff to serve the veterans.

Discussion on the Gunn Friendly Amendment:

Comm. Peterson stated that the same fund is being tapped to administrate and provide veterans relief. He added that the Board will be taking all administrative functions out of the general fund and stated that it is a risk. Comm. Peterson added that he is willing to listen if there is a commitment to fund veterans affairs.

Comm. Irwin stated that he will support Comm. Gunn's amendment because it will go into a fund that can only support indigent veterans.

Comm. Gunn stated that the Board has a record of supporting Veterans Services. She added that adding staff in Veteran Services would be providing a service and is not administration.

Peter Ballios reported that 1/40<sup>th</sup> of a mill would raise \$393,750. Comm. Ouimet stated that there are opportunities to adjust this levy amount in the future.

Comm. Sizemore asked about the costs of administration. Lindke reported that these funds are being used to offset current administrative costs.

Comm. Schwartz stated that administrative costs are reasonably necessary to effectuate the intent. He added that there are indigent veterans in need of this service. He stated that the veterans will have to come to the Veteran Services office or Veteran Services will have to go to the veterans.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she is not interested in taxing residents unless there is a commitment to supporting veterans. She stated that it is a partial shift now and added that she will be supporting 1/40<sup>th</sup> of a mill.

Comm. Ping stated that she will be in support of the amendment. She stated that she thanks Veteran Services for all they do.

Comm. Peterson stated that he will support Comm. Gunn in her amendment. He stated that this is about making a commitment. He added that additional revenue will be raised. Comm. Peterson added that the need will be there for these services in the next few years. He stated that the Board should be increasing the amount that goes to veterans relief for the relief fund purposes only and not for administrative costs. Comm. Peterson stated that this has nothing to do with personnel. He added that he feels that this does not give the veterans fund the full independence that it needs to know that every dollar raised will go 100% toward veterans relief.

Roll call vote on Gunn Friendly Amendment: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

Discussion on the Peterson amendment:

Comm. Irwin stated that the difference of opinion stems from administrative services, staff work, and reaching out to veterans. He stated that he feels that staff work done in furtherance of indigent veterans should be considered as a part of the veterans relief fund that is provided for as such in law and that the Board should move forward. He stated that work done by staff on behalf of indigent veterans is direct service.

Comm. Gunn stated that she feels that administration is being mixed up with people that serve the veterans.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to define direct services as staff supporting indigent veterans. Motion carried.

Roll call vote on Peterson Amendment: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving an Indigent Veterans Relief Millage of ~~4/50~~ 1/40<sup>th</sup> of a mill to be levied in December, 2008 for use in calendar year 2009 be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

### **Veteran Services Reorganization**

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the reorganization of the Washtenaw County Veteran Services Department to comply with Public Act 192 (MCLA 35.621 et seq) be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

### **Administration:**

#### **Reaffirming the 2009 Budget**

Guenzel reported on changes to the Budget Reaffirmation (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Sizemore moved to approve the recommendation of the Administrator to put two positions on hold vacant. Motion carried.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the Commissioners need to be aware of delays in realizing cost savings from staff reductions. He added that the organizational chart may change in the next year.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she encourages transparency in the budget process.

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution affirming the second year of the 2008/2009 biennial County budget be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 (Comms. Bergman and Grewal). Motion carried.

### **Report of the Chair of the Board**

Comm. Irwin reported that there would be a ten minute break before the start of the Board of Commissioners meeting.

### **Items for Current/Future Discussion**

Comm. Lovejoy Roe seconded by Comm. Gunn moved the Joslin Lake item to the Board meeting. Motion carried.

Comm. Ping stated that she would like to see 2009 rates extended for one year. Comm. Irwin reported that there was discussion on this topic at the Police Services Steering Committee. He reported that the PSSC has discussed holding a Special meeting to outline the necessary details that staff would have to unearth for a productive conversation to take place. Comm. Ouimet added that he was unsure if financial information would be available given the short timeframe. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she felt it is important to move forward on this issue. She stated that there needs to be a number for 2010. Comm. Irwin stated that there is interest from Ypsilanti Township to move quickly to put a millage on the February ballot. Comm. Ping stated that this was brought forward for just the pricing itself.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would like to see information coming back to the Board regarding employee severance packages.

### **Citizen Participation**

Clare Nathan, 119 Fieldcrest, 48103, stated that the Library has been an important part of her father's life. She stated that librarians are often depended upon for providing services. Nathan stated that this library acts that this is a community gathering place. She stated that transferring the library to a regular facility could diminish these services.

Marie Lane, 2969 Pintock Dr., Ann Arbor, stated that the group at the library is a group of physically blind and disabled citizens. She added that nights and weekends are not times that these populations typically get out. She reported on costs of operating the Library. Lane reported that the Library provided an opportunity for networking.

Tom Partridge stated that the Board discuss everything brought up at the Ways and Means committee and reverse direction.

Kathy Nathan stated that the Library staff has received national awards and recognition. She added that human relationships are important.

### **Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

Comm. Irwin stated that he thanks all who have come to speak. He stated that part of the reason is because of promises by the AADL to continue programming.

Comm. Gunn stated that she has great confidence in the AADL to serve with professionalism and caring. She added that they are committed to serving the entire County.

Comm. Smith stated that this decision is not taken lightly. He added that he feels that Comm. Gunn is correct that services can be maintained and even enhanced. He added that he would like to see a committee established during the transition.

### **Pending**

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Lovejoy Roe seconded by Comm. Gunn moved that the meeting be adjourned until October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

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

APPROVED: