



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

February 18, 2009

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. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Bob Guenzel; Deputy County Administrators, Verna McDaniel and David Behen; Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Catherine McClary, County Treasurer; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Janis Bobrin, Water Resources Commissioner; Jennifer Watson, Dale Vanderford, Andy Brush, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Finance; Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Patricia Denig, Planning and Environment; Dick Steffens, Marge Bixby, Equalization; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Mark Breckenridge, Emergency Management; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Kirsten Osborne, Treasurer's office; Ken Schrader, ITS; Greg Dill, Sheriff's Department; Nancy Heine, Caryette Fenner, CSTS; Scott Patton, Joanna Bidlack, Administration; Jim Dries, Jason Brooks, 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:

Office of Strategic Planning:

Chelsea Center for the Arts Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Funds Application

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the Washtenaw County Administrator on the application to the State of Michigan Historic Preservation Grant program for funding the Chelsea Center for the Arts Rehabilitation Master Plan and National Register Nomination in the amount of \$22,000 for a total program amount of \$36,994.35; authorizing the Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget; and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts be adopted.

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

Information Technology:

Pittsfield Township Interim Services Revenue Contract

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the Administrator to sign the revenue contract with Pittsfield Township for interim information technology support and repair services for the period February 10, 2009 through May 31, 2009 at the weekly rate of \$1,125 be adopted.

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

Economic Development Community of Interest:

ETCS:

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) National Emergency Grant (NEG)

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board on the ETCS Workforce Investment Act (WIA) National Emergency Grant (NEG) project plan to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) in the amount of \$138,606 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009; authorizing the County Administrator to sign the notice of grant awards; amending the budget; and authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

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

WIA Statewide Activities for High Concentrations of WIA Eligible Youth

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Program Year (PY) 2008 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Activities for high concentrations of WIA Eligible Youth plan in the amount of \$21,442 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 for ETCS; authorizing the County Administrator to sign the notice of grant awards; amending the budget; and authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

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

FY 2009 No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP)

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) funding from the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) for the time period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 in the amount of \$38,450 for the Employment Training and Community Services (ETCS) Department; authorizing the County Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

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

FY 2009 Food Assistance Employment & Training Program

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Food Assistance Employment and Training program plan application to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) in the amount of \$92,525 for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 for ETCS; 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: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

FY 2009 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)/MI Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) Energy Assistance Program

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the ETCS contract with the Michigan Community Action Agency Association for the 2009 Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Energy Assistance program (MPSC/MCAAA 2009 Energy Assistance program), in the amount of \$72,827 for the period of October 8, 2008 through July 31, 2009; 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: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

FY 2009 Community Services Block Grant Discretionary (CSBG-T)

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the ETCS Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Community Services Block Grant Discretionary (CSBG-T) grant to the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) in the amount of \$15,000, for the period of January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009; approving the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign the grant agreement be adopted.

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

Office of the Administrator:

Revenue Projection and Reform Presentation

Bob Guenzel and Catherine McClary gave the presentation on Revenue Projection and Reform (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Prater asked about getting a short term loan for the first six months. Watson stated that there is a possibility to issue short term notes until revenue from tax collection comes in. Guenzel stated that more work could be done looking into this option.

Comm. Ouimet stated that it is critical to manage cash flow. He added that more focus has been placed on the income statement and added that the balance sheet has become critical. Comm. Ouimet stated that he is concerned about where the County is in its cash position. He reported that cash needs will become greater if there is intent to shift the fiscal year.

Comm. Judge asked if there are foreclosures how will property value be affected. McClary stated that assessed value is based on market value in the entire neighborhood. Steffens reported that if foreclosures are a significant number in an area than they are to be considered. McClary stated that she invests money as a pool. She stated that tax anticipation notes could be issued. She added that she does not feel that tax anticipation notes are not needed at this time. McClary stated that tax anticipation notes will have to go to market rather than being held in the portfolio.

Comm. Gunn stated that she does not want to take the risk of changing the fiscal year at this time. Comm. Bergman stated that she agrees with Comm. Gunn and added that staff can make some pretty accurate guesses. She stated that there are some very large balances at the Treasurer's office but added that much of that money is already pre-committed.

Comm. Smith reported on revenue estimates. He stated that he would like the Board to give general direction to staff on projections. Comm. Gunn stated that she feels that staff should be ultra conservative in projections. She stated that it is easier to adjust upward in the long term. Comm. Bergman stated that she agrees that it is easier to add rather than subtract. She stated that she is not in favor of across the board cuts. Comm. Ping stated that she agrees that the worse case scenario will put the County in a better position long term.

Comm. Ouimet stated that quickness in action is important. He added that he agrees with erring on the side of caution. Comm. Ouimet stated that the plan needs to be well thought out and needs to take place soon. He added that revenues and expenses need to balance with cash needs. Comm. Ouimet stated that human needs are going to be balanced with the declining ability to fund them.

Comm. Judge stated that she agrees with erring on the side of caution and looking at the worse case scenario. Comm. Schwartz stated that he agrees with taking the worse case scenario as the realistic scenario.

Comm. Irwin stated that the best way to come up with projections is to use indicators that have been presented. He added that he feels revenue will be around 3/4 of the worse case scenario. He stated that some departments may be more short changed than they have to be.

Comm. Prater stated that it is a good thing that there are three issues to watch rather than six. He added that something has to be done about the fact that there are not general fund dollars to fund operations in the first six months of the year.

Comm. Smith asked about the impact of the federal stimulus package. Guenzel stated the hope is that it will help the economy and have some impact on CPI. Comm. Smith stated that his inclination is in line with Comm. Irwin. He stated that his focus is around the middle lower end of the projection.

Comm. Bergman stated that cuts may need to be looked at in this moment. Guenzel stated that more will be known in April with regards to the 2009 budget.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he will look at cuts from the top as well as cuts from the bottom. He added that he does not want to cut a certain percentage from every department.

Comm. Prater stated that his understanding that about \$6.5 million will be coming in from the stimulus. Curt Hedger gave an update on Headlee Override and Millage Reapportionment options.

Comm. Gunn distributed a handout on 2007 Property Tax Levy (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Bergman asked about progress on the study of 67 committees and boards. Hedger reported that he has a draft that can be rolled out.

Comm. Sizemore stated that the buildings are a good idea to take a look at. Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to see a plan put together.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the buildings situation gives the opportunity to get an idea of what the County will look like on space needs. He added that it will be important to look at space that will be needed coming out of this cycle.

Comm. Ping stated that she feels it would be beneficial to look at properties being used in kind and asked to look at the possibility of renting those out.

Comm. Schwartz stated that the County is looking at long term downsizing and added that he does not see a huge bump in revenue. He stated that he would like to see restructuring of the organization.

Comm. Peterson asked about a set calendar for getting insights. He asked about revenue matching programs and needs. Comm. Peterson stated that he would not like to see trimming across the board. He stated that he would like to hear about impact.

Comm. Ping stated that she would like to open up the Working Session to any comments to be brought up at the Working Session.

Comm. Sizemore asked about the State cutting prison staff and the effect on the justice system. He stated that he would like to hear from elected officials on their departments. Clayton stated that he assumes that any initiative to reduce levels at the state level will reinforce more need at the local level. He added that a strategic response is being planned.

Report of the Chair of the Board

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

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Citizen Participation

Tyrone Bridges reported that his organization helps youth learn to build computers. He stated that his organization applied for a grant but was denied because they do not have an audit. Bridges stated that \$4,500 will fund ten students. Bridges stated that his organization does not need much funding but does not want the door slammed in his face.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Bergman stated that Bridges should look into Community Aid.

Comm. Sizemore thanked Bridges and stated that this falls into what he has been talking about. He added that he will do whatever he can.

Comm. Judge stated that what is being done is very important. She stated that the Board needs to be creative in finding ways to help.

Comm. Peterson stated that the policy of requiring an audit may need to be reviewed. He added that anyone that receives government money should receive accounting for that money. Comm. Peterson stated that he will pay for the audit.

Comm. Ouimet stated that audits and review statements are different requirements. He added that the broader question needs to be looked at as well.

Comm. Irwin stated that he thanked Bridges and added that Children's Well Being funds have been given over the years and urged the protection of this funding. Comm. Irwin stated that special attention needs to be given to how small grants are handled. He added that it is worth considering bulleting a small amount of dollars to micro grants.

Comm. Schwartz stated that he agrees with Comm. Irwin. He added that some of them just need a little handout to do the work that they do.

Comm. Smith asked Guenzel to mention these points to granting departments.

Comm. Bergman stated that some outside funders have some rigid funding requirements. She added that she hopes funding can be maintained for Children's Well Being.

Comm. Judge stated that SEMCOG is putting on a Grant USA seminar. She asked if sponsoring one of these seminars may be an option along with sending two County employees.

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Ouimet moved that the meeting be adjourned until March 4th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Conan Smith, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: