



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

March 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; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Brian Mackie, Prosecuting Attorney; Catherine McClary, County Treasurer; Jennifer Watson, Dale Vanderford, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Finance; Trenda Rusher, Jenny Bivens, Tiffany Lucas, ETCS; Anthony VanDerworp, Patricia Denig, Strategic Planning; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Diane Heidt, Rebecca Curry, Human Resources; Ken Schrader, ITS; Caryette Fenner, CSTS; Scott Patton, Joanna Bidlack, Stephanie Jensen, Administration; Khalil Hachem, Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Linda Bacigalupi, JPORT, reported that on March 29 a soccer game fundraiser will take place between the Sheriff's Department and JPORT. Members of the competing teams discussed the game and opportunities that will come out of it.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Gunn stated that information about this fundraiser is on the employee website.

New Business:

Literacy Coalition Presentation

Bob Guenzel and Josie Parker gave the presentation on the Washtenaw Literacy Coalition (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Irwin thanked all for making a great presentation and thanked Comm. Gunn and Comm. Peterson for their work to spark this project.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he thanks all in the audience along with Comm. Gunn and Comm. Peterson.

Comm. Peterson stated that he is grateful for the commitment to this project. He added that all can feel pleasure from government, non-profit, and businesses coming together. Comm. Peterson stated that the County has come together on this project. He stated that no child has a say in life without the assistance of others.

Comm. Gunn stated that this is the best group she has known. She added that this group was able to go out and do things.

Economic Development Community of Interest:

ETCS:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Crisis Assistance (LCA)

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the ETCS, Michigan Department of Human Services, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Crisis Assistance (LCA) Deliverable Fuel Agreement, in the amount of \$20,171 for the period of February 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009; approving the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts be adopted.

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

Children's Well-Being Community of Interest:

Head Start:

Annual Head Start Program

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the Chair of the Board of Commissioners to sign the application to the Department of health and Human Services for the Head Start Program, a program of excellence, for the period of August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010 in the amount of \$4,821,046; authorizing the County Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; approving the 2009-2010 Head Start budget; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts be adopted.

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

Support Services Community of Interest:

Office of Strategic Planning:

Aerotropolis

Comm. Bergman seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution adopting an intergovernmental agreement to create an Aerotropolis Development Corporation through the Urban Cooperation Act (P.A. 7 of 1967) be adopted.

Comm. Smith stated that he feels that he made a mistake in judgment in arguing against the Aerotropolis. He stated that he is still concerned about urban sprawl. He added that he feels that the governance structure helps to alleviate some of these issues. Comm. Smith stated that transit still needs to be at the forefront and added that transit is essential to the progress of this project. He stated that there needs to be an overall development focus. Comm. Smith stated that there is an opportunity to do something here that will be the envy of the country and the world.

Comm. Prater stated that there should be some concern about the process. He added that the selection of the County representative is important. Comm. Prater stated that he feels that these issues can be dealt with in a straightforward manner. He added that this project is about jobs for him.

Comm. Bergman stated that this will support goods moving around the globe. She added that she feels that there will be less goods and stated that she feels the world going forward will be less wasteful.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he feels fortunate to have this land for the development. He added that this is a long term investment and stated that this seems to have the greatest amount of momentum at this time so far.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he is going to support this and added that he feels that this project is a benefit. He stated that this could lead to more partnerships with Wayne County. He added that he will be putting his name in to sit on the Board.

Comm. Judge stated that she feels more comfortable because the cost of initial investment is not as high. She added that this also reaches out to Wayne County.

Comm. Ping stated that she is in support of Aerotropolis but is concerned about the \$50,000 investment. She asked about the money coming from the Eastern Leaders Group. Guenzel stated that he is recommending that the money come from ETCS. He stated that there is no commitment for the Eastern Leaders money at this point. He stated that the preference was to hold these dollars for future commitments. Comm. Ping asked where the \$300,000 will be going at this point. Guenzel reported that a plan will come forward on economic development from the Eastern Leaders group on April 16th.

Comm. Irwin stated that he is dubious of the project for the same reasons as Comm. Smith. He added that the representative needs to be empowered to go to the group and represent the interests of the County. Comm. Irwin stated that one reason that this project appeals to him is the reason of logistics. He added that the Detroit to Ann Arbor rail would go through the northern part of this project. Comm. Irwin stated that time should be devoted to development around this proposed rail line.

Comm. Peterson stated that he is happy that the Board wants to do business with Wayne County and participate in regional activities. He stated that this brings the opportunity to create jobs. He stated that 20,000 jobs have been lost on the eastern side of the County in the last ten years. Comm. Peterson stated that Eastern Leaders dollars were to support economic development on the eastern side of the County. He stated that the \$300,000 will be leveraged. He stated that he has supported projects in all parts of the County if it is to the benefit of the County. Comm. Peterson stated that he is suspicious of back door activity and added that if the eastern side of the County benefits than the entire County benefits. He added that this is not the appropriate time to raid projects and programs. Comm. Peterson stated that County business should be done in the public eye.

Comm. Smith seconded by Comm. Ping moved to amend the resolution to strike "ETCS" from the first "Be it further resolved".

Comm. Gunn stated that she would rather not tap into this money at this time. Comm. Irwin stated that he will be siding with Comm. Gunn and will not be supporting the amendment.

Comm. Ping stated that she brought this up because of the current County budget situation. She added that this will give the Administrator other avenues to look at where to get funds.

Comm. Smith stated that he is attempting to ensure that the maximum amount of money go to the eastern side of the County. He added that creating flexibility gives the Administrator the opportunity to look at options.

Comm. Peterson stated that the Eastern Leaders group was not asked for funds. He stated that the Board is deciding to join Aerotropolis and not the Eastern Leaders group. Comm. Peterson stated that there are going to be several projects coming forward that will lead to a commitment of \$300,000 or more. He added that no one should have a flexible hand to dip into funding.

Comm. Schwartz stated that he will support the project. He stated that he feels that there has been a tipping point in the Aerotropolis project. Comm. Schwartz stated that right of ways have an indefinable amount of value. He stated that this will also unify zoning and planning and will create express permitting. Comm. Schwartz stated that Ypsilanti City and Ypsilanti Township have already executed this agreement.

Comm. Prater stated that he is not going to support the amendment because Administration has already done a review and made a recommendation.

Comm. Judge stated that she feels that she would like to help Pittsfield Township become a part of Eastern Leaders. She stated that she feels strongly about the open meetings act and added that Administrative Briefings are posted. She added that she encourages public to attend Administrative Briefings.

Roll call vote on Smith Amendment: YEAS: 2 NAYS: 9 (Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Schwartz, and Sizemore) ABSENT: 0. Motion failed.

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

Report of the Administrator:

None

Report of the Chair of the Board

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

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Irwin moved that the meeting be adjourned until April 1st, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Conan Smith, Chair

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

APPROVED: 4/1/09