WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

September 2, 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. Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman and Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Bob Guenzel; Deputy County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Corporation Counsel Curt Hedger; Jennifer Watson, Andy Brush, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Roberta Allen, Finance; Judy Kramer, Risk Management; Patricia Horne-McGee, Head Start; Mark Lindke, Veterans Affairs; Nancy Thelen, MSU Extension; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Lisa Greco, Children's Services; Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Donna Sabourin, CSTS; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Ken Schrader, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, Stephanie Jensen, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Kevin Lawler, President, NSF International, thanked Commissioners for service to the County. He stated that he is present as the Chair of Food Gatherers Board of Directors. Muller reported on the activities of Food Gatherers. He stated that County human services dollars support these programs.

Steve Davis, Vineyard Church of Milan, stated that his organization also provides food to needy residents. He reported on people being served by the organization. He added that he relies on support from Food Gatherers.

Jill Barker, 2620 Hickory Road, Scio Township, stated that Friends of the Developmentally Disabled provides support to families with developmentally disabled members. She stated that people rely on programs provided by CSTS. Barker discussed impact of program reductions. She stated that the Boards need to consider factors when moving to different providers. (Written statement provided, placed on file in County Clerk's office.)

Margee Long stated that she works for Planned Parenthood in Washtenaw County. She reported that Medicaid does not begin to provide service for her program. She stated that she would like the Board to tell lawmakers that it is time to begin raising revenue.

Tonya Harwood, 23065 Cherry Dr., Sylvan Township, AFSCME 2733 President, stated that she would like Commissioners to keep in mind that 2733 made many concessions during the prior contract. She stated that the union is losing work that it performs.

Tom Partridge stated that he called on the Board to move forward on far reaching programs and challenge constitutional and statutory restraints on enlightened and forward looking planning. He stated that the Board needs to move forward on public transportation, housing, and education.

Janice Stephens, 6170 Plymouth, Superior Township, stated that she is the mother of a 39 year old developmentally challenged woman. She stated that changes in staff will lead to disruption of service for her daughter. Stevens stated that staff and services need to be maintained.

Anne Gage, 7478 Fox Hill Ln., Salem Township, stated that she is attending on behalf of her sister who is developmentally disabled. She added that she is also the mother of someone developmentally disabled and added that continuity is key in the CSTS program. She asked that price and quality be considered before making cuts.

Martha Stange, 911 Honey Creek Dr., Scio Township, stated that it took a long time to find the right people to get help for her son, Dominic. She stated that staff at CSTS has been more helpful than anyone in getting the right help.

Rebecca Krieger stated that she works with developmentally disabled persons through CSTS. She stated that she was amazed at the different skill levels at CSTS. Krieger discussed programs offered at CSTS. She added that she is scared to see how limited services may become if cuts are made. She added that members of the community should be involved in the community in any way they can.

Lynn Evans stated that her and her brother who is developmentally disabled have been going to the center for years. She added that staff have a real commitment to individuals. She stated that she hates to see any of the programs end and added that staff do manage to make things work. Evans stated that she feels it would be a shame if participants did not have anywhere to go or anything to do. She added that many consumers will not have a place to go to be productive.

Deborah Gibson, 727 Miller, Ann Arbor City, stated that she would like to speak to cuts proposed that will have an effect on those with disabilities. She stated that she would like to see these services that contribute to quality of life in Ann Arbor. Gibson stated that these services have an effect on everyone. She added that the City of Ann Arbor has made a commitment to provide low income housing.

Michele hill, 8963 Crane Rd., York Township, stated that she would like to advocate for the CSTS Day Program. She added that people with developmentally disabilities cannot cope with change they way everyone else can. She stated that staff at the Day Program goes above and beyond. She added that activities are conducted to carry out recreational activities without use of taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Judge thanked citizens for their participation. She stated that she feels it is the role of County government to take care of those most in need. She added that Mary Jo Callan has shown the importance of outside agency funding.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is sitting at the table because of her commitment to human services. She stated that she has been amazed at the work that has been done by all of the non-profits. She added that the County is currently in a crisis and added that there is a crisis at the State and Federal levels.

Comm. Peterson stated that he appreciates citizen input and added that it is important to hear from people affected. He stated that he would like to know if discussions have taken place by those most affected. Guenzel reported that there has been advocacy by staff. Sabourin reported that official communication goes through the WCHO and added that a communication has been sent out to all consumers. Comm. Peterson stated that the Board has not moved forward on any steps at this point. He asked how communications can be increased in the future. Sabourin reported that the WCHO has a formal process called the significant change process. Comm. Peterson stated that he feels it is more important for the consumers to feel more comfortable than he does as a commissioner.

Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to thank everyone that participated. He stated that Food Gatherers has an incredible community impact. Comm. Irwin stated that he felt that it was incredibly valuable to hear the impact that will be felt on developmentally disabled residents.

Comm. Smith stated that the County started off with two major goals. He stated that hunger and housing are priorities for the Board of Commissioners. He added that the Board is in an unusual economic crisis. Comm. Smith stated that residents are well heard during this process and added that the Board will do everything in its power.

Comm. Ouimet stated that many commissioners have spent time with clients. He added that the need factor and the importance of services is often observed. He stated that non profits are challenged when the county, state and federal budgets have challenges along with the United Way budget.

New Business:

Children's Well Being Community of Interest:

Children's Services:

Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Contract

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the Administrator to sign the contract with Washtenaw Intermediate School District for educational services for the Children's Services Detention and Day Programs for a total amount of $461,068 for the 2009-10 school year and a second year contract for the 2010-11 school year be adopted.

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

Economic Development Community of Interest:

ETCS:

Senior Nutrition
Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Peterson moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the ETCS grant application to the Area Agency on Aging 1-B for the Nutrition Program for the Elderly for the period of October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012; authorizing the County Administrator's signature on the application for the first year of funding in the amount of $1,133,747 for the period of October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; authorizing the Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate and lease contracts be adopted.

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

County Administrator/Corporation Counsel:

Executive Session – Pending Litigation and Labor Negotiations
Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation as well as labor negotiations strategy.

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

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:09 p.m.

Settlement of Pending Litigation
Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the settlement of the following litigation: (1) Bruce Lee v The County of Washtenaw ET AL (Case No. 08-12350-GL); and (2) Beatrice McKeown v The County of Washtenaw ET AL (Case No. 09-0457-GL) and authorizing the County Administrator to execute all documents required as part of the settlement be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 3 (Comms. Bergman, Peterson, and Sizemore) ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Schwartz). Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:
Employee Recognition Awards Presentation – Bob Guenzel

2009 United Way Workplace Campaign Presentation (On file County Clerk's office)

NACo Prescription Discount Card Program Presentation – Kirby Bessant, Vice President, Consumer Programs, CVS Caremark (On file in County Clerk's office)

Public Health Budget Presentation – Dick Fleece (On file in County Clerk's office)

Community Support and Treatment Services Budget Presentation – Donna Sabourin (On file in County Clerk's office)

2009 Budget Presentation – Bob Guenzel (On file in County Clerk's office)

Report of the Chair of the Board
Comm. Ouimet reported that there would be no break before the start of the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Items for Current/Future Discussion
None

Citizen Participation
Tom Partridge stated that he would like the Board to not listen to sales representatives.

Roberta Asplund, 3033 Newcastle, Ann Arbor City, stated that she was a public health nurse for 5 1/2 years. She added that there are ways that could help with public nursing. She stated that GE Admin and staff took cuts in order to keep staff. She stated that everyone was employed at least part time.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
None

Pending
None

Adjournment
Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Ping moved that the meeting be adjourned until September 16th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

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Conan Smith, Chair

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

APPROVED: