



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

April 21, 2010

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 Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Janis Bobrin, Water Resources Commissioner; Raman Patel, Richard Steffens, Loreen Cash, Charles Mosher, William Guenther, Timothy Kettinger, Matthew Heering, David Rowe, Gregory Zamenski, Paul Steigerwald, Jeffrey Hammerberg, Frances Patton, Samuil Spang, Equalization; Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Greg Dill, Sheriff's Department; Andy Brush, Support Services; Damon Thompson, Community Development; Ken Schrader, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, Administration; 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:

Economic Development:

ETCS:

Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on the agreement for Fiscal Year 2010 DOE Supplemental Weatherization Assistance program to the United States Department of Energy/Michigan Department of Human Services in the amount of \$426,833 for the program period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011 be adopted.

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

Community Development:

Urban County Annual Action Plan

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Washtenaw Urban County Annual Action Plan for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Notice Grant Award; approve the budgets in the total amount of \$4,552,181; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign the delegate contracts be adopted.

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

Land Use & Environment:

Water Resources:

Full Faith & Credit for Allen Creek Sylvan Ave Drain Project

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution pledging the full faith and credit of the County of Washtenaw, within Constitutional limitations, for the payment of the bond of the Allen Creek Drainage District described in the bond resolution attached to this resolution be adopted.

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

Civic Infrastructure:

Equalization:

Equalization Report

Raman Patel presented the annual Equalization Report (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Gunn stated that this is good news and added that she would like to put funds aside at this time. She added that someone in the state is proposing to do away with personal property tax.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he has been talking about industrial property for a long time. He asked what the impact on commercial property would be going forward. Patel stated that he still feels that commercial property will continue to decline. Comm. Ouimet stated that the County should keep this in mind from a budgeting standpoint. Patel reported that Washtenaw is much better off than other counties. Comm. Ouimet stated that the question on the commercial side is whether adequate cash flow will exist. He added that there are also positives in this report.

Comm. Judge thanked the Equalization staff. She asked if the 4% decrease shown under Commercial is worse because of the new Industrial class rules. Patel reported that it is and that this is a good observation.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to thank the Equalization staff. She stated that funds that come in over budget should not be spent.

Comm. Schwartz asked if there was \$900 million on appeal. Patel stated that this is correct. Comm. Schwartz stated that some refunds will be due to citizens. He added that the wealth of citizens has taken a hit.

Comm. Smith stated that he would like to thank the Equalization team. He added that this is only half of the equation with the budget. Comm. Smith stated that savings from the budget still need to be accrued. He added that interest earnings are down, police service costs, and jail staffing costs still loom large. Comm. Smith stated that any windfall should be approached with extreme caution.

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution approving the 2010 Washtenaw County Equalization Report be adopted.

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

Report of the Chair of the Board

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to see the changes in health insurance before the change takes place. McDaniel reported that a report can come forward at any session in the future.

Comm. Ping seconded by Comm. Judge moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign a contract with Caremark PCS Health, L.P. to provide a comprehensive discount prescription drug program for the citizens of Washtenaw County be adopted.

Comm. Irwin seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to amend the contract under section 9.8 – Exclusivity - to add "or any other plan that Washtenaw County may enter into during the term of this agreement or any renewal."

Discussion took place on the proposed amendment.

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Judge moved to call the question on the amendment. Roll call vote: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 6 (Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Peterson, Schwartz, and Smith) ABSENT: 0. Motion failed.

Discussion continued.

Roll call vote on the proposed amendment: YEAS: 5 NAYS: 6 (Comms. Judge, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, and Sizemore) ABSENT: 0. Motion failed.

Roll call vote on the original motion: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 3 (Comms. Bergman, Gunn, and Smith) ABSENT: 0. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation

Eric Sturgis, 6655 Jackson Rd., stated that he lived in Oakland County from 2005-2008. He stated that he used the Caremark card when he was a college student. He stated that any time people can be helped it should be done. He added that if a better contract comes up than it should be taken into account. Sturgis stated that he feels that this is the right thing at this time.

Audrey Tisdale, 5900 Ridge Rd., Ypsilanti, stated that Ricky Banks, Washtenaw County United Way, has prescription drug cards that do not require a contract.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Judge stated that she did not say that other commissioners do not work hard.

Comm. Irwin stated that there is already a better card available and added that the card is the 4D card.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to wish a citizen that often attends the meetings well.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the United Way caring card is very important in providing a benefit to the community.

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Bergman moved that the meeting be adjourned until May 5th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Conan Smith, Chair

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

APPROVED: May 5, 2010