WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

December 1, 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, Verna McDaniel; Deputy County Administrator, William Reynolds; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Brian Mackie, Prosecuting Attorney; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Jennifer Watson, Budget; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Patricia Denig, ETCS; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Raman Patel, Dick Steffens, Equalization; Anthony VanDerworp, Economic Development and Energy; Ken Schrader, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, County Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Tom Wieder, 2445 Newport, Ann Arbor Township stated that two investigations have taken place. He added that 80% of ineligible per diems have come from two commissioners. He stated that he would like to describe some of the meetings that were claimed. Wieder added that he had questions about what should be done now.

Trevor Staples, 910 W. Washtenaw, Ann Arbor City, stated that he is present to thank the Board for their support of a skate park. He added that the project to build the skate park has been entered into the Pepsi Refresh project and stated that he would like to see Board support. Staples added that Scott Rosencrans will begin working as a project liaison.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Bergman stated that recreation is a very important part of quality of life and added that she has always supported recreation.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he also supports the skate park proposal. He added that there is a segment of the population that is delighted that the County is looking into this project.

Comm. Gunn stated that she would like to thank everyone working the skate park project. She added that the investigation by the auditor was initiated by the Administrator and not Comm. Ouimet.

Comm. Irwin stated that he hopes that the skate park project is successful and congratulated participants for work done on the project so far. He added that he would strongly urge people to go vote for the Ann Arbor skate park on the Pepsi Refresh page.

Comm. Irwin stated that the Board will be able to respond as new data comes in. He added that a situation has occurred where record keeping and document review may have caused more time and anguish than it would have caused to get rid of the per diems. Comm. Irwin added that he hopes a future board will go in a different direction on per diems and realign commissioner compensation to ensure that it does not require a lot of unnecessary paper shuffling.

Comm. Smith stated that skate park folks have done outstanding work. He added that the Board has been behind this effort.

New Business:

The following resolutions were presented:

1. Resolution recognizing World Aids Day and the work of the HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) in Washtenaw County.

2. Resolution recognizing a distinguished Washtenaw County Citizen.

3. Resolution of appreciation to Commissioner Mark Ouimet for his dedicated service to the citizens of Washtenaw County.

4. Resolution of appreciation to Commissioner Jessica Ping for her dedicated service to the citizens of Washtenaw County.

5. Resolution of appreciation to Commissioner Kenneth Schwartz for his dedicated service to the citizens of Washtenaw County.

6. Resolution of appreciation to Commissioner Jeff Irwin for his dedicated service to the citizens of Washtenaw County.

Civic Infrastructure:

Equalization:

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

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

Land Use & Environment:

Water Resources:

2011 Survey and Remonumentation Grant
Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the 2011 Remonumentation Program in the amount of $105,222; appointing a County Grant Administrator and County Representative; authorizing the Grant 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.

Report of the Administrator:
Administrator Verna McDaniel reported that Washtenaw County is a recipient of LEED Certification for the 14A District Court. She added that an informal meet and greet would be held January 5th from 5:30 to 6:30 and for outgoing commissioners directly after tonight's meetings.

Report of the Chair of the Board
None

Items for Current/Future Discussion
Comm. Smith gave a final update on the Planning Advisory Team. He stated that data has been reviewed over the last few months. He added that staff and the Board will be called on for community engagement. Comm. Smith stated that employees were heard in the last process and will be in this process. He added that McDaniel will be sharing a financial state of the County after the first of the year. Comm. Smith stated that making sure elected officials are included in the process will be important. He added that organizational engagement will be a part of the process. He discussed methods for organizational outreach. Comm. Smith stated that the Administrator plans to share the recommended budget in the fall of 2011. He added that it has been a pleasure to serve with McDaniel on this committee.

Comm. Peterson stated that he would like to see a full report come back in January on the entire process. McDaniel reported that the calendar and the engagement activities will be presented in January for approval. Comm. Peterson stated that he appreciates the service of Comm. Smith as Chair of Ways and Means.

Citizen Participation
Tom Partridge stated that it is gratifying to see the Board presenting awards. He added that a resolution addressing the need for timely expansion of affordable housing needed to be added to the Ways and Means agenda. Partridge stated that comprehensive public transit and health care policies were also left off of the agenda. He added that he hopes that the homeless have been invited to be recognized for their struggles.

Tom Wieder stated that per diems have been requested for meetings lasting 15 minutes. He added that other sessions and meetings are part of what the Ann Arbor City Council is paid to do. He stated that these meetings are why salary exists. Wieder stated that if there is a reason to litigate this matter than it would probably be subject to the six year statute of limitations.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
Comm. Judge stated that she would like to thank Partridge for his comments and stated that work is being done to get better public transit within the County. She added that human services outreach is always being done.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to thank Partridge for bringing up his comments.

Pending
None

Adjournment
Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned until January 5th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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Conan Smith, Chair

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

APPROVED: January 5, 2011