WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

May 5, 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. Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Bergman

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Bob Guenzel; Deputy County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Catherine McClary, County Treasurer; Patricia Denig, ETCS; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Mark Lindke, Veteran's Affairs; Greg Dill, Sheriff's Department; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; James McFarlane, Andy Brush, Support Services; Damon Thompson, Community Development; Brett Lenart, Economic Development and Energy; Ken Schrader, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation
Tom Partridge stated that he would like to congratulate President Obama on his speech to University of Michigan graduates. He added that President Lyndon Johnson used this occasion to launch his Great Society. Partridge stated that he is calling on the Board to enact the policies of the Great Society programs and of 21st century programs.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation
None

New Business:

Economic Development:

Economic Development & Energy:

Saline Automotive Components Holdings, LLC Brownfield Redevelopment Plan
Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Schwartz moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution to adopt the proposed amendment to the Brownfield Plan for Washtenaw County approving the Automotive Components Holdings, LLC – Saline Brownfield Redevelopment Project in the City of Saline be adopted.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Bergman). Motion carried.

Community Development:

Urban County Annual Action Plan
Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Schwartz 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: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Bergman). Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:
2010 First Quarter Budget Update

Jennifer Watson presented the 2010 First Quarter Budget Update (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Ouimet stated that this news bodes well for the administration and for staff. He stated that as revenues decline it will be important to monitor the percentage of fund balance. Comm. Ouimet asked what Watson wants to look at as far as fund balance. She stated that there has not been a discussion on long term policy.

Comm. Schwartz asked if any thought has been given to coordinating with the retirement board to incentivize attrition. Guenzel reported that this has not been looked at in the last fifteen years. He added that this was at a time when the WCERS plan was overfunded. Guenzel stated that an actuarial report would have to be obtained. Watson reported that this report is typically received in June. Comm. Schwartz asked if any surpluses from non-general fund departments can be added to the complete budget. Watson reported that they could.

Comm. Judge asked if $1.5 million in projects was missed in labor savings. Watson stated that this is the case. Comm. Judge asked if these projections were fixed by December. Watson stated that those assumptions were not revised. She stated that an overestimation was made based on projected savings. She added that it was communicated that staff knew that there would be a shortfall and stated that the amount was unknown at that time. Guenzel stated that the team ran out of time and did not realize that the gap would be so large. Comm. Judge stated that she would like to see departmental fund balance broken out by cash and assets. Comm. Judge stated that she would like to see money kept in savings.

Comm. Irwin stated that there seems to be some offset in the projections. He added that he would like to see communication to employees on the full financial position of the County. Guenzel stated that this will continue to be communicated. He added that it should be stressed to staff that they stepped up. Comm. Irwin stated that addition pains should be taken to communicate this message to the organization.

Comm. Ping asked if the labor numbers are included in the total deficit. Watson reported that there is a lot of netting out happening in this presentation. She added that the projected numbers for 2011 will continue to be monitored. Comm. Ping asked if more consolidation is being looked at between departments. McDaniel reported that this is one of the initiatives. She added that she will continue these updates at Working Session meetings.

Comm. Prater asked if revenues could be refined a bit to include unions that did not participate. He added that he requested a complete list of the total liabilities so that the Board knows how much is owed.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is pleased to see that the County has been pinching pennies. She added that she feels that there are still big problems ahead.

Comm. Sizemore asked if the court and jail expansion are included in the presentation. McDaniel reported that all of the people involved will be attending the next Working Session.

Comm. Smith stated that it was known that certain bargaining units did not come to the table. He added that he felt that there was appropriate give provided. He added that this is why regular updates from Budget are incredibly important.

Presentation of Deputy Administrator Candidates
Verna McDaniel presented candidates Jose Reyes and William Reynolds along with their profiles.

Report of the Chair of the Board
Comm. Sizemore reported that there would be a short 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. Gunn seconded by Comm. Sizemore moved that the meeting be adjourned until May 19th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Conan Smith, Chair

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

APPROVED: May 19, 2010