



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

December 7, 2011

Comm. Sizemore 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, Brabec, Gunn, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Sizemore, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, and Turner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Interim Deputy County Administrator, Kelly Belknap; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Mary Jo Callan, Community Development; Tony VanDerworp, Economic Development and Energy; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Andy Brush, Information Technology; Dave Shirley, Facilities; Ben Toole, ITS; Jason Brooks, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### Roll Call

#### Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge, Washtenaw County and City of Ann Arbor resident as well as advocate for senior citizens, called upon the Board to protect the rights and health of senior citizens and disabled residents of the County. He urged the Board to protect vulnerable people in the County. He encouraged the Board to adopt a new approach to governing.

Christine Jones stated that it was unfair for citizens to not have a say about taxes being raised to pay for roads. She encouraged the board not to pass the proposed Road Commission millage.

Margie Hagene, Board Chair of Food Gatherers, thanked the Board for restoring the cuts to Coordinated Funding. She urged the Board to pass that motion through the Board meeting. She thanked the Board for their efforts.

Paul Saginaw, Board member of Food Gatherers, thanked the Board for reinvesting in Human Services.

Lourdes Salazar Bautista and Martha Valadez (her translator) stated that it has been fourteen years since she came to America which had always been a dream of hers. She reported that her father had made many trips to America to work in the fields and he always said good things about America. She went on to say that she has three children who were born in the United States. She reported that her life went well until Immigration came to her house and detained her for 23 days. She said that her husband was detained and she has been informed that she will be deported. She went on to say that her brother has put in a petition for her to become a citizen. The translator noted that Bautista was asking the Board to do anything they could to help her. Bautista urged the Board to do something before December 27, 2011 which is the date of her deportation.

Laura Sanders, WICIR, asked the Board to help Bautista. She stated that 4,000 people deported last year, like Bautista, had no criminal history. She reported that Washtenaw County sees more deportation activity than many counties in the state.

Cheryl Elliot, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, thanked the Board for considering a restoration to Coordinated Funding. She stated that she understood how hard it was to find funding in these challenging times. She noted that the Community Foundation felt strongly that restoring Coordinated Funding was the right move. She stated that coordinated funding was working and working well. She noted that the partnership with Washtenaw County was one of her organization's strongest tools.

Carlos Zalval, member of Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition, stated that he has known Bautista for several years now and that she has been upstanding member of the community. He reported that the U.S. would gain a productive citizen if Bautista was allowed to stay. He noted that breaking apart a home would not be a good use of resources. He said that part of what made the U.S. so strong was the work of migrant workers.

Diana Carolina, Doctorate Student U.M., stated that as the daughter of an immigrant worker she understood how difficult it can be for these members of society. She reported that ICE is tearing apart families. She said that you cannot imagine

how much trauma would be caused to Bautista's children if their mother was deported. She noted that Bautista's husband has been deported back to Mexico already. She urged the Board to sign a letter of support.

Linda Kurtz, Bautista's neighbor, stated that Bautista is a good neighbor and a good friend. She noted that Bautista is a hard working woman who does everything she can to pay her staggering legal fees. She added that even with all of Bautista's trouble, Bautista has found time to come and check in on her. She reported that Bautista paid her bills on time, was an avid consumer and owned a home. She said that Bautista and her family was the embodiment of the American dream.

Pam Smith, Executive Director of Child Care Network, thanked the Board for reestablishing Human Services Funding. She added that last week she volunteered at a non-profit that provides \$80 for children to buy all of the winter clothes that they will need for the winter. She noted that it was a humbling experience to be with people who are excited to be able to purchase an additional pack of underwear. She added that she knows how hard it is to be a commissioner. She told the commissioners that the community is behind them and supports what they do.

Priscilla Martinez read a letter from the school that Bautista's children attend.

Dick Soble thanked the Board for what they had just done. He noted that he was a past president of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance. He added that he knew the Board was considering an item that would add funding to the Housing Alliance and Food Gatherers, which he is also involved in. He stated that the support of the Board was critical when the Housing Alliance was begun and he thanked the Board for their action then and for their continued support now.

Jean Carlberg, Board Washtenaw Housing Alliance, thanked the Board for their efforts to increase funding to the Housing Alliance. She noted that homelessness is on the rise. She added that the Board is a model for public-private collaboration. She thanked the Board for their work.

### **Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation**

Comm. Gunn stated that the Board was touched by the story of Bautista and so the Board had signed a letter stating that they supported Bautista's cause.

Comm. Rabhi thanked Bautista and the people who came out to support her. He thanked the people who had come out to speak for human services.

Comm. Brabec thanked Comm. Rabhi for bringing the potential deportation of Bautista to the attention of the board. She thanked everyone from Human Services who came to the meeting. She agreed with Comm. Rabhi's assertion that the need is great for those services.

Comm. Turner noted that since the beginning of the year the Board has said that Human Services was one of their top priorities. He noted that the vote tonight would reaffirm that Human Services are one of the top priorities of the Board.

### **New Business:**

#### **A. Public Safety & Justice**

##### **1. Office of the Sheriff – Emergency Services:**

###### **a. 2010 Homeland Security Grant:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator to sign the 2010 Homeland Security grant program interlocal fiduciary agreement with Oakland county for the period of August 1, 2010 through April 30, 2013 in the amount of \$904,800 to reimburse Washtenaw county for approved homeland security planning, training, equipment and personnel expenses; and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

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

##### **2. Trial Court:**

###### **a. Annual Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG):**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the application to the State of Michigan, Department of Human Services for Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program in the amount of \$21,949 for the period April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

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

## **B. Economic Development:**

### **1. Office of Community and Economic Development:**

#### **a. Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant Brownfield Redevelopment Plan:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the proposed Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Plant Brownfield plan for Washtenaw County.

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

#### **b. Arbor Hills Crossing Brownfield Redevelopment Plan:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Brownfield plan for the Arbor Hills Crossing redevelopment project in the city of Ann Arbor.

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

#### **c. Establish BOC Subcommittee:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners establish an energy policy subcommittee of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

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

## **C. Land Use & Environment:**

### **1. Water Resources Commissioner:**

#### **a. Full Faith & Credit for Territorial Road Drain Project:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners pledging the Full Faith and Credit of the County of Washtenaw, within constitutional Limitations, for the payment of the bonds of the Territorial Road Drain Drainage District.

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

## **D. Civic Infrastructure:**

### **1. Equalization:**

#### **a. 2011 Apportionment Report:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2011 Apportionment Report.

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

### **2. Clerk/Register of Deeds / Washtenaw County Road Commission:**

#### **a. Proposed Washtenaw County Road Commission Projects**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners reject the

request from the Washtenaw County Road Commission to approve an additional millage of 0.60 mills pursuant to MCLA 224.20 to pay for approximately \$8.7 million dollars in additional road projects.

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

### **E. Board of Commissioners:**

#### **a. 2012 and 2013 Budget Amendments for Children's Well-Being/Human Services Funding:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners amend the 2012 and 2013 general fund budgets by transferring \$257,076 (\$128,538 in 2012 and \$128,538 in 2013) from the final 2011 fund balance, which includes the funds received during 2011 for the Police Services Settlement to the outside agency line "CWB/HS Coordinated Funding" for FY 2012 and 2013.

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

#### **Report of the Administrator:**

Verna McDaniel invited the board to Argiero's after the meeting

#### **Report of the Chair of the Board**

Comm. Conan Smith stated that there would be a five minute break after citizen participation.

#### **Items for Current/Future Discussion**

Comm. Prater stated that the County needed to examine its policy around tax breaks.

Comm. Peterson noted that the media had miss-communicated the vote on the budget at the last Board meeting. He added that the budget vote had not been unanimous as was reported in the media. He asked that every employee who worked at HeadStart be commended for their exemplary service. He noted that he felt that the transition to not providing funding for HeadStart had not been handled well. He asked about the status of the HSHV discussion and what the county obligations were starting January 1, 2012. Comm. Conan Smith responded to Comm. Peterson's question about the HSHV saying that the staff has been communicating with HSHV about the list of services that has been developed. He went on to say that the door was open to have discussions with the Humane Society's negotiating team which consisted of; Board Chair Mike Walsh, Board member Mark Heusel and Executive Director Tanya Hilgendorf. Comm. Peterson asked what happens on January 1, 2012. Comm. Conan Smith stated that HSHV has indicated that they could not serve the county at a reduced rate but that they would be willing to help handle the transition. Comm. Conan Smith noted that Verna McDaniel has been looking for organizations that could handle the services during the transition period. Verna McDaniel stated that work was being done to ensure that the County had sufficient options. Comm. Peterson stated that he hoped negotiations would continue even after January 1, 2012. Comm. Conan Smith stated that January 1<sup>st</sup> was not going to be the end of negotiations but it would be the end of the contract with HSHV. He added that beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> there would be an organization providing the services that had been laid out by the County staff. He noted that if that meant paying boarding fees, or veterinary services then the County would pay it but that the billing would reflect the services provided much more accurately than they had in the past. Comm. Conan Smith added that the ultimate resolution for this issue would return to the Board.

Comm. Turner noted that the Humane Society was in no way responsible for the money that was owed on the building that they occupy. He reported that the Board had turned Humane Society line item on the budget over to the Sheriff's Office. He asked why this decision would come back to the Board if the funds had been moved to the Sheriff's Office. He stated that he thought that this Board no longer had to approve the contract and was concerned about it coming back to the Board.

Comm. Peterson stated that no one can speak for the HSHV except for the HSHV. He reported that much of the County's obligation to the HSHV was made in the form of verbal agreements. He said that there was a 3 ½ million dollar liability for the County in the form of the building that HSHV occupies. He noted that he did not believe that the Sheriff Department now had authority over this decision and that the money had been transferred to the Sheriff's budget for negotiating purposes.

Comm. Conan Smith stated that Comm. Turner's concerns were valid. He noted that the Sheriff's Office has the authority to enter into contracts on their own. He proposed an amendment to item 40 of the budget "No contract for Animal Control services shall be entered into without the approval of the Board of Commissioners (60 days)" supported by Turner. Comm. Rabhi asked whether the amendment was dealing with the Administrator's ability to enter into a short term

contract. Comm. Conan Smith proposed that the Amendment allow the Administrator to enter into contracts that were not in excess of \$25,000. Verna McDaniel stated that she believed Comm. Peterson was looking for a short term contract. Comm. Peterson said it should not exceed 30 days before it came back to the Board, or 60 days if the Chair was comfortable with that. Comm. Sizemore agreed with Comm. Peterson about the wisdom of a short term contract. Comm. Bergman stated that the Board should turn authority over to the Sheriff. Comm. Conan Smith checked the change to the amendment with Comm. Turner who approved it.

Comm. Conan Smith seconded by Comm. Turner moved to amend to item 40 of the budget "No contract for Animal Control services shall be entered into without the approval of the Board of Commissioners (60 days)"

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

#### **Citizen Participation**

Thomas Partridge, Washtenaw County Resident, called on the County to recognize that in his opinion President Obama was campaigning for the rights of the middle-class. He stated that this Board made decisions contrary to the thrust of Obama's 2008 campaign promises. He stated that he felt it was time for civil rights lawsuits at the State and Federal level to reinforce the rights of the disabled and children who he felt were attacked by the Board's budget. He called on the Board to reverse their position on HeadStart.

#### **Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None

#### **Pending**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that the meeting be adjourned until January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

---

Rolland Sizemore, Chair

---

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: