



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

October 19, 2011

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Bergman

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Interim Deputy County Administrator, Kelly Belknap; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Mary Jo Callan, Community Development; Tony VanDerworp, Economic Development and Energy; Michael Smith, Veterans Affairs; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Lisa Greco, Children's Services; Patricia Denig, ETCS; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Andy Brush, Information Technology; Dave Shirley, Facilities; Ben Toole, ITS; Cheryl Perry, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Lily Au encouraged the Board to see the bigger picture. She stated that United Way cost too much money. She reminded the Board that there are people in the County who are suffering and that those suffering people need help.

Thomas Partridge, Democrat, stated that he was attending the meeting as an advocate for those disadvantaged residents unable to attend these meetings or lobby for themselves for responsible funding of human services programs. He called for the end of discrimination, corruption and to require all housing developments to provide affordable housing. He reported that unions are being challenged daily by Governor Snyder. He called on this commission to turn aside republican designed legislation and reminded the board of their responsibility to provide affordable housing and transportation.

Paul Saginaw, Zingerman's and Food Gatherers, urged the board to not make any further cuts to social safety net. He reported that there had been a 139% increase in families seeking food assistance. He stated that less than 15% of Food Gatherers money comes from funding. He stated that Food Gatherers leverages private resources to solve public sector problems. He asked the board to maintain 116k funding which is 5% of the orgs operating budget.

Lisa Jackson, Board of Directors Ozone House, asked board not to cut funding as she believes that this program's work supports the goals and budget principles of the board. She reported that the therapy done there provides better outcomes for patients and lowers burden on the county. She stated that the board has a guideline addressing the need to feel safe and she reports that homeless teens do not feel safe and that Ozone House solves that problem. She asserted that it is a valuable resource the county cannot do without. She reported that the organization has a broad base of support in the community. She urged the board to preserve the funding of Ozone House.

Lisa Birchmeier, Humane Society, read a letter on behalf of a volunteer who could not be there. The letter asserted that this is a community of animal lovers. It stated that the community had supported the Humane Society because it wanted better for our pets. The letter reported that stray animals are lost animals, they are not feral dogs. The letter asserted that the board continues to get an incredible deal on the services provided by the Humane Society of Huron Valley.

Susan Karp, read a letter from Debbie sharp of the Michigan pet fund alliance. The letter stated that the mission of the MPFA is to end the killing of treatable animals that have been abandoned.

Debora Noble introduced her dog Snickers to the board. She stated that she had served on the planning commission of Superior Township. She stated that the Humane Society in Washtenaw County is second to none. She shared with the board the fact that she had been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer and that there is no stage 5. She reported that her animals have helped her get to where she is. She asserted that animals are definitely part of human services. She urged commissioners to remember that when you cut funding to the shelter you are talking about killing animals. She finished by encouraging the board not to cut funding.

Dave Knight, resident of Ann Arbor, stated that since 2005 he has been a volunteer reading coach at the Family Learning Institute. He stated that the institute has made intangible progress towards encouraging children's enjoyment of reading. He stated that it was his belief that FLI is worth the investment of the board.

Jim Wiseman stated that in 2010 there was approximately 2000 homeless in Washtenaw County. He reported that there are children who are affected by homelessness. He stated that homeless children are more likely to suffer from depression or anxiety. He reported that in 2010 100% of the people who went into permanent housing were still in permanent housing a year later.

Jessica Anderson, volunteer Humane Society, stated that the recent growth of HSHV shows how important the services they provide are. She asked how many citizens would bring strays in if they believed the dog was going to be put down. She asked the board to preserve quality of life for all community members. She asserted that HSHV has never been more efficient. She urged the board to investigate the programs they fund rather than pitting them against each other.

Karen Patterson, Humane Society, stated that the well being of animals in the community are people problems. She reported that 44% of the people who did not evacuate New Orleans after Katrina stayed for their animals. She told the story of a girl who lost her dog and was then encouraged to look for her dog at the Humane society. She encouraged board to re-examine the budget.

Paul Leighton, Prof. criminology at EMU, stated that he has studied the economics of domestic violence. He listed for the board the effects of domestic violence on victims. He reported that a 2003 national study on domestic violence/sexual assault showed 8.2 billion dollars of costs of the violence. He stated that unresolved trauma can have a cumulative impact. He mentioned that Safe House provides services that cannot be provided by family or friends of the victims.

Jeff Harold, Family Learning Institute, stated that the pathway to higher education is literacy. He went on to say that the pathway to jail is illiteracy. He reported that the FLI operates on a shoe string budget that cannot be cut more. He stated that he speaks for the least of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Deb Kern, marketing director of Humane Society, stated that she understands that cuts must be made. She posited that the Humane Society saves the county money. She mentioned that she left a corporate job to work at the Humane Society. She reported that the Humane Society provides good customer service for people calling after lost animals. She stated that people who call looking for a lost pet need help and the HSHV provides it to them. She added that HSHV does a lot of extra outreach to let people know about their services and it is not cheap. She finished by saying that more people are re-united with their pets in Washtenaw County than in any other county in Michigan.

Elise Ramsey, animal cruelty investigator, stated that she investigates 500 cases each year. She reported that there were 30 cases prosecuted last year. She stated that she has located people with outstanding felony warrants. She reported that Animal Cruelty only has 2 animal control officers while nearby counties employ more investigators even though they have smaller populations. She stated that law enforcement does not have the time or training to do what these people do. She mentioned that animal cruelty investigators investigate dog fighting. She added that the Humane Society holds animals for cases because they have to, not because they want to. She finished by saying that a stray dog is not just a dog that you can shoot.

Eric Streeter, representative of Ozone House, stated that there are a lot of youth in Ypsilanti who are homeless. He asserted that cutting funds from this program is a bad idea. He reported that he used to work at the Delonis center and that during his time working there he has personally seen a lot of people he knows living at these shelters. He finished by thanking the board for their time.

Demoni, resident of Ozone House, encouraged the board not to cut funding. He mentioned that the board should not cut funding to the Humane Society. He told the board that if they stop funding these places then a lot of people and animals will not have a place to stay. He reported that Ozone House is a safe place for people to go, stay, and discuss their problems.

Tiffany Cho, works at drop-in center, thanked the board for their support of programs. She stated that teens deserve safe, drug and alcohol free environment. She encouraged the board to think about programs in community. She asked the board to examine their community.

Colleen O'Brien stated that she has worked at Ozone house for the last 17 years. She asked the board not to cut funding to Ozone House. She stated that she started working at Ozone House as a college freshman. She reported that the young people she works with are amazing. She stated that the three young people who had just spoke before the Board, represent thousands of young people. She reminded the Board that they are the leaders these people are looking up to and she encouraged the Board to prioritize safety.

Nicole Brown asked board to reconsider funding for Ozone House and the Humane society. She stated that it is important to show that the young people in this community are cared for. She thanked the board for their support.

Dave Morris, F.L.I, stated that he tutors a young girl named Gina. He reported that she comes from a large immigrant family and has fallen behind the curve. He said that this girl has reached a point where she can decide that math is too hard to bother with, or she can get a boost and choose a better path. He stated that he teaches for free despite his P.h. D. in mathematics from U of M. He asked the Board to support this program.

Deborah Ledford, HSHV volunteer, Milan, stated that all of these programs are deserving of funding. She reported that the funding cuts that are being made to HSHV amount to \$0.72 per person in the County per year. She stated a belief that any reasonable person would elect to pay the 72 cents in order to prevent animals from being killed. She asked the board to consider additional types of funding for the Humane Society.

Michael Appel, Associate Director of Avalon Housing, thanked the board for their support of Human Services. Shelter Plus Care. This program moves people off the streets into permanent housing. HUD requires \$800,000 worth of services to match the housing funding. Thanks board for their support.

Alan Haber encouraged the board to think about money spent on war and nuclear weapons in this country. He called to the attention of the board the OWS movement. Alan then stated that the board should raise taxes. He reminded commissioners that local is part of the global. He reported that money should not be going to war but to literary programs.

Kristin Klevering, SOS Community Services, thanked the board for the support that has been given to SOS. She stated that she works with the single point of entry initiative. She said that the single point of entry system started on October 1 when the County decided to streamline the process of helping individuals and families with housing emergencies. She reported that SOS connects people with the appropriate available resources. She noted that during the first week on the single point of entry pilot program 203 screenings were completed. She added that all of the agencies in the County were working hard to make this single entry process as smooth as possible. She told the story of a single mom on Ypsilanti who could not pay her rent because of a dental emergency and some other extenuating circumstances. The mother came in to SOS with all of the paperwork documenting this series of unfortunate events and was able to walk out that same day with a check in her hand. Kristin Klevering noted that appointments for the in person assessment done for homeless families is steadily booked because of the great need for these services. She stated that single point of entry has a great chance of succeeding because it connects people to the services that they need. She thanked the Board for their continued support.

Anne Alatallo shared a quote from Mohatma Ghandi.

Nicole Adelman, Director of Interfaith House, reported that Wash. County has been a true partner to Human Services. She stated that continued cuts to operating budgets make it harder for these agencies to continue. She thanked the Board for their funding.

Max Heinrich asked the Board, what are the needs of the people in the county? He asked what could be done to satisfy those needs? He encouraged the board to identify what matters and then plan a way to do it.

Kelly Schwartz stated that there is a lack of due diligence on the county's part in regard to outside agencies. She reported that two jobs on the County's payroll are animal control officers. She said that the animal control officers' job description does not match what the county is required to do. She posited that HSHV picks up the slack that is left by these animal control officers. She reported that HSHV is the only licensed facility in the County.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Rabhi thanked the audience for showing up. He thanked Al Haber and Max Heinrich for their words. He reported that Local government was being squeezed from all sides and one of those sides is the state. Comm. Rabhi encouraged the audience to contact their state representative and talk to them about personal property tax. He stated that coordinated funding provides funding for many of the organizations that came here tonight. He posited that many of the organizations are receiving the same amounts of funding they did last year. He said that in 2012 there will be a cut to the coordinated funding as a whole but he does not think that means any single program will be cut entirely. (Look up his bit about the Humane society) Says that the state mandate is pretty brutal and that he would like to help the humane society but he does not think that it can happen at the same level that it has in the past.

Comm. Gunn reported that she remembers when there was no shelter and stated that the County has created an incredible resource in the Delonis center. She went on to say that the County has been extremely generous. She mentioned a wish that the county could be more generous. She went on to say that the county revenue depends upon taxes and right now there is nothing the County can do to increase revenue. She said that losing personal property tax will be devastating to the county. She stated that 10 years ago taxes were put into revenue sharing. She reported that the fund will be depleted in 2013 and that the state will not reimburse the county for the money invested.

Comm. Conan Smith thanked everyone who came out. He thanked the people who made a call for additional revenue. He said that he heard some interesting ideas tonight. On the topic of the humane society he thanked Comm. Rabhi for his input. He said that animal cruelty investigations by statute need to be charged to the defendant. He stated that he will work diligently to find new revenue sources for the animal shelter. Conan noted that there will be a meeting with HSHV leadership next week. He stated that the County received a letter from HSHV stating that they could not provide the services at the reduced rate. He said that there is mandate that needs to be satisfied and if the HSHV can not provide the service then they will need to find someone who can. (Look for his bit on Human services). He said the county relies very heavily on non-profit partners in the community. He stated that human service funding needs to be considered as a high priority. He asserted that if it really is a high priority for the voters then he believes that they will reach into their pockets to support it. He reported that it was not the intention of the board to vote on this budget for several weeks. He finished by thanking the audience for coming out.

Comm. Turner reported that the County has been facing a \$21 million deficit. He stated that the board set priorities and one of the highest priorities was human services and the safety net that they provide. He stated that the administrators have done a great job of streamlining the staff. He said that the general fund safety net of the County will have to be cut down to 13% which is the lowest level that you can have and be considered a stable government. He reported that if personal property tax revenue is cut then the county's budget is going to be in a dire position. He said that if a vote came up for a social services millage then he would vote for that. He reported that the County overwhelmingly voted down a millage to support the schools. He hoped that the County would support a millage that would fund human services.

Comm. Prater stated that the County has been very generous when the money was available. He went on to say that it will be devastating to County Government when personal property tax is cut. He stated that the information the board deals with is all public information. He said that this board is transparent and the public should make use of the information that is available online. He reported that there will be more cuts coming.

Comm. Peterson stated that nothing has been adopted. He asked Comm. Conan Smith, "What are the options in regards to Humane society and a continued relationship with them?" Comm. Smith responded that Verna McDaniel, the County Administrator, has presented her budget recommendation to the Board, which came out of discussions and recommendations. He stated that part of her recommendation was reductions in outside agency spending. He reported that it has been formally recommended as a part of the budget that the amount of money spent on HSHV be reduced from \$500,000 to \$250,000. He went on to say that this recommendation has not been voted on. He stated that the Board is now free to deliberate on this issue. He added that the Board must have a balanced budget at the end of the day. He finished by saying that the floor is open for amendment. Comm. Peterson said that something had been mentioned about alternative service delivery and he then asked if the Board could maintain a relationship with HSHV. Comm. Conan Smith stated HSHV has indicated that 250k is insufficient funding to continue contract. He noted that the contract between the County and HSHV expires December 31, 2011. He said that leaves a limited amount of time during which to come up with a solution. He reported that HSHV has volunteered to serve in a transition period. He mentioned that none of the commissioners anticipated not having a relationship with the HSHV in the future. Comm. Peterson stated that it was good to hear that there is some discussion happening about trying to continue work with HSHV. Comm. Conan Smith stated that his understanding is that there is a lot of leeway there. He reported that the current contract includes a number of things including care for cats which is beyond the mandate of care the County must provide. He stated that the County may be able to cut the number of services that it purchases from the humane society. Comm. Peterson stated that the issue is broader than coordinated funding. He went on to say that it is not limited to the commissioners. He noted that there are 2 major universities in this community. He expressed a desire for a broader table of policy makers talking about how coordinated funding works. He stated that he wished to get major members of this community such as the universities and businesses involved with the discussion on poverty. He stated that Washtenaw County government should not shoulder the entire burden of fixing poverty in the County.

Comm. Sizemore recommended that the audience come to some working sessions and start talking about getting some millages proposed. He stated that he cannot support the budget at this point in time.

New Business:

Verna McDaniel introduced Steve Powers, the new City Administrator of Ann Arbor, to the Board. Steve Powers stated that he has worked in local government for 25 years, mostly recently as the County Administrator of Marquette. He reported that he was excited about the prospect of building upon the spirit of collaboration that existed in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. He finished by thanking the Board for the opportunity.

A. Health and Human Services

1. Public Health/Solid Waste:

- a. **Michigan Department of Agriculture's Clean Sweep Grant:**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the contracts to the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Clean Sweep Grant in the total amount of \$30,000 for the period of October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. It is further requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award, amend the budget and authorize the Administrator to sign delegate contracts

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

b. Ingham County Social Justice Grant:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the grant application submission to Ingham County for Social Justice Dialogue Project in the amount of \$40,000 for the period of November 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012. It is further requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Administrator to amend the budget, and authorize the Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

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

B. Children's Well Being:

1. Trial Court & Department of Human Services:

a. 2011/2012 State Child Care Fund Budget

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the Chair of the Board's signature on the 2011/2012 State Child Care Fund Budget Summary Form 2091. The total anticipated expenditures for fiscal year 2011/2012 is \$8,559,333.

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

C. Economic Development:

1. Office of Community & Economic Development (ETCS):

a. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Crisis Assistance Grant for Deliverable Fuels

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Crisis Assistance (LCA): Deliverable Fuels Agreement with the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), for the period of September 15, 2011 through August 31, 2012; in the amount of \$46,900.

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

2. Office of Community & Economic Development (OCD):

a. Emergency Solutions Grant Program

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the County Administrator's signature on the electronic submission of the grant application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for the 2011-12 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program in the amount of \$286,509; authorize the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award; approve the budgets; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

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

D. County Administrator:

a. 2012-13 Budget Discussion

Comm. Rabhi seconded by Comm. Gunn moved to recommend a motion to eliminate the MAC line item and transfer the balance of that line item to the Delonis Center line item for the amount of \$26,230.

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

Report of the Administrator:

None

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Conan Smith stated that the board would reconvene for the next meeting after a fifteen minute break following adjournment.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge, Democrat, suggested that budgets be held tight but services increased through the service of interns and volunteers. He stated that these meetings sound more like corporate board meetings than those of a government body. He said that there seems to be very little nurturing of volunteers from the board. He reported that there are senior citizens and children being neglected and abused who need help of the board.

Ellen Schulmeister, Director of the Delonis center, thanked the board for the motion that was passed.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Conan Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 2nd, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Rolland Sizemore, Jr., Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: