



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

October 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ping at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comms. Bergman, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, and Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Gunn, Peterson, and Sizemore

**OTHERS PRESENT::** Bob Guenzel, County Administrator, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Dave Shirley, James McFarlane, Andy Brush, Brenda Kerr, Tom Fielder, Support Services; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; 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 Citizen Participation

None

#### Discussion Items:

##### **Presentation on the Infrastructure Review**

Presenters included: Guenzel, McFarlane, and Shirley.

Comm. Smith stated that he feels it is important to start taking a 100 year view of the development of the City of Ann Arbor. He stated that the area around Platt Road will be more like a town center. Comm. Smith stated that he feels it is worth digging into possibilities of Platt Road with planning staff. Comm. Smith asked about the rate of change in technology in relation to the rate of change in the work being done. Comm. Smith asked how this can be anticipated and evaluated. He added that more portable forms of technology may be more beneficial for employees in the field. McFarlane stated that emerging trends need to continue to be evaluated. He added that there is some money for automation of grants. Guenzel stated that work of IT staff needs to continue to be integrated. Comm. Smith stated that many of the items he uses on a daily basis are stored online. He added that he would like to see information coming from staff on usage of applications. Comm. Smith asked what is driving large increases and decreases in line items in 2010 and 2011. McFarlane reported that more PC's will need to be replaced in 2011. Comm. Smith asked if the upcoming HVAC projects are of the caliber to use federal funds. Shirley reported that the project at 22 Center is one of those projects. Comm. Smith stated that he would love to explore the ROI on behavioral changes and give incentives to departments to get them to behave differently.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he has found it interesting to see how many vehicles are out outside of the Sheriff's Department. He asked if there is an operating plan that talks about how the use of vehicles will be downgraded within the organization. Mossing reported that vehicles listed are often needed by the department. He stated that every vehicle is looked at around replacement time. Comm. Ouimet asked what the goal in mind would be for an optimal staffing number that could be handled for the number of PC's. McFarlane reported that the recommended number is 1 tech per 300 PC's and added that desktop capabilities all for a higher number of PC's in the County. Comm. Ouimet asked what the optimal numbers are for Facilities Management staff. Shirley reported that an industry standard is one maintenance staff for every 45,000 sq ft.

Comm. Ouimet asked if there is an opportunity to help non profits in the community by allowing the non profit to operate a building unable to be sold at this time. Guenzel reported that this needs to be looked at seriously in 2010 as decisions are made about the Platt Rd. and Zeeb Rd. buildings.

Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to thank McFarlane, Shirley and Mossing. He asked if there has been discussion about white roofs. Shirley reported that white roofing materials have been looked into where replacements are needed. Comm. Irwin stated that he feels that selling the building on Platt Road is a really bad idea. He added that real estate professionals have told him that now is a very bad time to sell property. Comm. Irwin stated that he feels that the correct course of action would be to look at the Parks and Recreation Commission for opportunities on the building for the time being.

Comm. Prater stated that a number of forecasts were used when the Chevron project was presented to the Board. He stated that he would like to see the data on savings. Shirley reported that he could forward the information. Comm. Prater asked what type of data is generated from Tririga that would be helpful to the Board. Shirley reported that all space is categorized and assets are tagged. He reported that workflow and day to day operations can be logged. McFarlane reported that this technology provides the ability to provide reports on replacement needs. Comm. Prater asked why there are more PC's than employees. McFarlane reported that this is due to partnerships with local units of governments, non profits, public pc's. He added that partnerships with local units are revenue generating. He stated that the new cost per PC in the Ypsilanti contract is to recoup the cost of doing business. Comm. Prater asked about the cell phone standards. McFarlane reported that standards have been revised and stated that there are more concrete standards.

Comm. Judge asked for information on the governance section of the document. McDaniel reported that there is an online system for departmental project requests. Comm. Judge stated that there needs to be one document that shows who works where. She added that having many smaller departments makes things messy. She stated that she would like to see the actual numbers to go along with trends. Comm. Judge stated that she has never had a problem with the Help Desk and stated that they are always very friendly. Comm. Judge asked if there could be additional savings from employees that exclusively use a cell phone. McFarlane reported that there would not be because of investments that have already been made in the infrastructure.

Comm. Bergman stated that she has some real concerns about the Platt Road building and the condition it is in. She added that she feels that the building will represent a public hazard. Comm. Bergman stated that she would also like to engage Parks and Recreation for utilization of the property. Comm. Bergman stated that her question is how to dispose of the Zeeb Rd. building. She added that she would be sad to see employees in the Annex moved. Comm. Bergman stated that there are work enclaves around the County working with the developmentally disabled. She stated that vans are needed to support staff.

Comm. Ping asked why the vehicle allotment has been increased for the Public Defender's office and for the Treasurer's office. Mossing reported that the Public Defender's office had been using a pool vehicle and stated that this was a more cost effective measure for them to take. He stated that the Treasurer's office is using funds from the foreclosure fund to cover costs.

#### **County Administrator's Report**

None

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

Comm. Ping reported that there is a proceed night taking place October 30<sup>th</sup> for the Fifth Corner.

#### **Pending**

None

#### **Citizen Participation**

None

**Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Ouimet moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Jessica Ping, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: