



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

October 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rabhi at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comms. Brabec, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith and Turner

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelly Belknap, Finance; Greg Dill, Facilities; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Ken Schrader, ITS; Lisa Moutinho, County Administration; Elaine Holleran, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### **Roll Call**

#### **Citizen Participation**

None

#### **Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation**

None

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

Elaine Holleran provided a briefing on the agendas of the upcoming board meetings.

Comm. Ping asked if an in kind contribution level could be provided for the Senior Nutrition item on the Ways and Means agenda of October 17. She added that she would like to know what sort of service was being received.

Comm. Conan Smith asked Comm. Dan Smith if it would be alright if Curt Hedger came to the next board meeting and did some work on a civil infractions ordinance. Comm. Dan Smith confirmed that it would be ok with him.

Comm. Ping asked why the Extension of Coordinated Funding was being called a pilot program if it was in its third year. Comm. Conan Smith explained that it was a federal program and so the name was not up to the county. Comm. Brabec said that it was being extended for an additional year in order to collect better data. Comm. Conan Smith noted that his answer had been incorrect.

#### **Discussion Items:**

#### ***Road Commission Annual Report & Project Update – Roy Townsend & Ken Schwartz, Road Commission***

Comm. Dan Smith said that his impression from the map is that there is a road project in nearly every municipality in the county. He asked Roy Townsend to comment on the local funding mechanism versus the federal funding. Roy Townsend said that if federal funds are used then roads are graded. He added that some of the roads in Washtenaw County would need to be completely rebuilt under the guidelines for using federal funds. He said that the situation for using federal funding to repair bridges and culverts was similar to road repair. He noted that it was great to use federal funds but he noted that there were strings attached. He said local funding allowed for more flexibility. Comm. Dan Smith stated that the list in front of the board was just the start. He asked for a comment on the effect of starting these projects. He asked what would happen if a 1/25 of a mill was secured. Roy Townsend said that it would be a start.

Comm. Prater said that he had only seen two bridges or culverts on the map. Roy Townsend noted that there were three and several closed bridges in Lima Township which were not listed. Comm. Prater asked how many bridges need repair in Washtenaw County. Roy Townsend said that there are 33 out of 112 in the county that are considered "structurally deficient".

Comm. Ping thanked the road commission staff for giving a presentation. She said that she was glad that solutions were being tailored to each community.

Comm. Brabec asked when Ann Arbor – Saline rd. would receive attention. Roy Townsend said that money was being committed for 2014.

Comm. Turner stated that Washtenaw County has an extraordinarily high level of bridges. Roy Townsend noted that Washtenaw County was in the top five of Michigan Counties with most bridges. Comm. Turner asked about the per mile cost for maintaining gravel roads. Roy Townsend said that it was approximately \$1,500 per mile. Comm. Turner said that when winter maintenance costs \$1,000 per mile per winter then there is not much money left for additional repairs. Roy Townsend said that staffing levels are below where they were in the 1960s. Comm. Turner said that people need to know that they need to encourage their township officials to work with the road commission.

Comm. Dan Smith asked about the approximate cost of installing a traffic sign. Roy Townsend said it was approximately \$300. Comm. Dan Smith said he was glad that the road commission was here making this presentation. He said that people are willing to support the right fix for their roads. He said that Public Act 119 of 2011 gives counties another tool to get roads repaired. He said that township boards are not responsible for roads, period. He said that Public Act 119 gives this board the ability to transfer surplus funds to the road commission. He noted that the board can also put millage proposals on the ballot.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the Dexter Road Project was a Road Commission project. Roy Townsend noted that mostly it was a city project.

***Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD) – Michael Gebhard, IT***

Comm. Rabhi applauded CARD for the time and energy they have put in on this issue.

Comm. Ping thanked CARD for their attendance. She said that it was the first time she had realized how serious the situation was. She asked if new regulations would change the amount of dioxane allowed in water. Michael Gebhard said that if that the standards changed depending upon whether it affected surface water near a drinking water source. He noted that dioxane moves with groundwater at the rate of flow. He added that it remains in the water system. Comm. Ping asked how the board can help CARD get access to the database they need. Michael Gebhard noted that the board could write a letter. Comm. Ping asked if this was something that Kirk Profit could help with. She said that she was on board to help in any way that she could.

Comm. Rabhi asked how this has already the City of Ann Arbor's drinking water supply. Matt said that there used to be a well in the city, two down at the airport and another at Barton Pond. He said that dioxane had been detected at the city well in a miniscule amount. He noted that the well had been shut down. He reported that establishing a source of drinking water takes years of work. He added that the better part of the city could be served using the wells at the airport but they don't want to rely on that.

Comm. Brabec asked about the parts per billion standard for Ann Arbor. She said that she was curious because the city had shut down a well upon discovering 2 parts per billion of dioxane. Michael Gebhard said that DEQ has been talking about 4 parts per billion as being acceptable. Comm. Brabec asked how you get it down to 0. She asked why the plume was growing if so much dioxane had been removed. Richard Rail said that the reason is that there is more dioxane than the company had reported. Michael Gebhard noted that the site was still being remediated but since it doesn't break down the chemical is still spreading.

Comm. Prater said that CARD should introduce an item to the board through a communication with the assistance of the public health department. He asked about the status of the old city landfill on Ellsworth road. Richard Rail said he used to have a display illustrating the dramatic difference between the landfill and the damage done by Pall. Matt said that the city built a wall around the site when they identified contamination. He said that a study has recently been done which found that all water leaving the landfill is captured.

Comm. Rabhi said that the database would be part of the action taken by the board as well as the implication of a new DEQ standard. He thanked the CARD members for attending.

### ***Fracking Update – Michael Gebhard, IT***

Comm. Prater asked about waivers done to safe water and clean air act. Michael Gebhard said that there are a variety of exemptions. Comm. Prater said that in the Irish Hills there are wells burning methane and the air pollution is so bad it affects the quality of life. Michael Genhard said that when oil is captured methane is a by-product. He said that releasing the methane without flaring it presents its own set of problems. Comm. Prater said that it is hard to find information on the safe water act. Michael Gebhard said that there is a strong economic and lobbying component.

Comm. Brabec asked how many other active sites there are. Michael Gebhard said that 1,700 active sites have been identified in Michigan. Comm. Brabec said that the situation in Irish Hills is unbelievable. She said that if an accident was to occur with one of those tankers it was highly likely it would crash into a water source. Comm. Brabec asked about the possibility of converting an oil well into a well that would support fracking. Michael Gebhard said that hydraulic fracturing was to secure gas while oil drilling was a different process.

Comm. Dan Smith asked what a county board of commissioners could do related to fracking. Michael Gebhard said that the role of county government in this issue was pretty limited. Comm. Dan Smith said that township boards have the ability to limit truck traffic on certain roads. He asked if that traffic had taken place in Washtenaw County. Michael Gebhard said that it had happened in Gratiot County. He noted that it had been a collaborative effort between the county and the oil company.

Comm. Prater said it was his belief that road commissions have been successful in establishing haul routes. He noted that it would be a way for local governments to have producers bear the costs of the damage their work does to roads.

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

None

### **Pending**

None

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

None

### **Citizen Participation**

None

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

None

### **Adjournment**

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Brabec moved that the meeting be adjourned until October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Yousef Rabhi, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register  
By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: October 17, 2012