



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

April 18, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bergman at 6:31 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Armentrout, Bergman, Craiger, DeLong, Gunn, Irwin; Kern, Kestenbaum, Montague, Prater, Shaw, Sizemore, Solowczuk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Peterson, Yekulis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy Administrator, Amy Klinke, Administration; Gordon Burger, Peter Collinson, Andrea Dunathan, Jennifer Watson, Damon Thompson, Finance; Barbara King, Clerk/Register Office.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Joel Newhouse told the Board he hoped we could be leaders in pushing for the Lansing to Detroit Rail Study. He encouraged the Board to do whatever could be done to move this forward.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Armentrout responded by saying she was once a long distance rail commuter and she is sure there will be quite a few people who replicate Mr. Newhouse's beliefs to put this into place.

Lansing to Detroit Rail Study

For this section of the agenda, Chair Bergman turned over the position of Chair to Comm. Irwin. Comm. Irwin introduced Michael Benham, who has helped to focus the attention of a lot of the elected local leadership in the state on this issue.

The presentation by Mr. Benham included the following topics:

- Route Map
- Initial Station Locations
- Trip Purpose Breakdown
- Service Plan
- Proposed Schedules
- Capital Cost Summary by System Component
- Funding Strategy
- Revenue Summary
- FTA New Starts Application
- Community Involvement
- Finalize Station Locations
- Organizational Oversight
- Timeline

Time was provided for questions and answers.

At this point, Chair Bergman resumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Budget Update – State/Federal Cuts

Frank Cambria, Deputy Administrator started the presentation by talking about the Development Principles, Pattern of Partnership, and Quarterly Business Meetings.

Gordon Burger, Budget, BIP Manager, discussed Global Trends and then turned the meeting over to Kirk Profit.

Mr. Profit's presentation included the following:

- Introduction (re: the State budget)
- Causes for Concern by the Numbers
- Time for concern
- Options for State Government

His Recommendations included:

- Targeted lobbying so that funding for a particular program is less likely to be diminished.
- Working locally to make sure there is some measure of reserve so that the deep "valley" that may occur during the next few years can be smoothed out with "peaks" that are likely to follow later.
- Make sure that we translate our understanding of our vulnerabilities into actions by GCSI that might include legislative committee work, executive department work, and other appropriate actions.
- Other options as the elected leadership with the County Administrator may determine to be appropriate.

Time was provided for questions and answers.

Mr. Burger then continued with the presentation by discussing the following:

- General Fund Projection
- General Fund Revenues
- General Fund Expenditures
- General Fund 10 Year Projection
- Other Major Funds
- Impact of State Cuts
- Recommendations included:
 - Continue to monitor and report back to BOC in July.
 - Use Quarterly Business meetings to gather information and generate strategies.
 - BOC Working Session on Police Services forthcoming.
 - Update to BOC on impact of final State Budget.
 - Further discussion on labor negotiations and personnel costs on May 2.

Time was provided for questions and answers.

Commissioners Items

Comm. Armentrout asked for an updated on capital reserves, perhaps in July. Mr. Guenzel agreed.

County Administrator Report

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

Pending

None.

Status of Annual Activities/Goals

No report.

Citizen Participation

Mathew Reingold addressed the Board in support of the commuter rail system.

Joel Newhouse thanked Comm. Armentrout for telling him about tonight's meeting and Comm. Irwin for his continuing interest in this.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

Comms. Armentrout and Irwin responded.

Adjournment

Comm. Prater supported by Comm. Solowczuk moved that the meeting be adjourned until May 2, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

Peggy M. Haines, Clerk/Register
By: Barbara L. King, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: May 1, 2002