



# WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## WORKING SESSION

**April 21, 2005**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Brackenbury.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register; Stephen Kirschner, Clerk/Register's Office; Daniel Minzey, Sheriff; Kirk Filsinger, Gary Greenfield, Harry Valentine, Sheriff's Office; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Peter Ballios, Finance; Mary O'Hare, Human Resources; Dan Dwyer, Court Administration; Mark Lindke, Veteran Services; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, James McFarlane, Andy Brush, Ken Schrader, ITS; Kerry Sheldon, Judy Foy, Administration; Alan Israel, Prosecutor's Office; Gordon Burger, Jennifer Watson, Scott Patton, Budget; Greg Dill, Ed Holley, Facilities; Nancy Thelen, MSU Extension; Donna Sabourin, CSTS; Mary Udoji, Library; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; James D. Higginbottom, Deputy Clerk; various citizens; and members of the press.

### Roll Call

#### Citizen Participation

Michael Moran, Supervisor of Ann Arbor Township stated that the county had an obligation to the townships.

Brenda Stumbo, Clerk of Ypsilanti Township spoke about commitments made by the county and she believed that police services were forgotten.

John Allison, a Trustee in Ann Arbor Township stated that the previous millage used police services to bear the cost of the Juvenile Center. He was concerned that similar issues would rise from the current situation.

David Phillips, a Trustee in Superior Township was concerned that costs predicted for operations are too high.

Mike Redzik, Police Administrator for Ypsilanti Township believed the PSU formula was flawed.

Keith Cloras, of 7280 Middale questioned the discrepancy between the costs for Washtenaw County PSU's and other counties in Michigan.

Ruth Ann Jamnick, Supervisor of Ypsilanti Township, asked that the board stop and reevaluate the jail plan before further decisions are made.

Doug Winters, Salem Township Attorney, referenced comments of previous Commissioners and resolutions passed by the Board.

Harry Valentine of the Sheriff's Office spoke as an advocate for the fellow Sheriff's Deputies.

Jeff McDowell of Dexter Township stated that the county residents see the Sheriff's Office as the face of the county.

David Petroski, a Trustee at Ypsilanti Township said that the Townships used to use both sheriff's deputies as well as constables. Now they are dependant on the deputies. He said he would support a ballot proposal making police services mandated.

Mike Trust of Sylvan Township and a Lieutenant at the Sheriff's Office said that all deputies respond countywide.

Patrick Dell of Pittsfield Township and a Supervisor at the Sheriff's Office said that the Sheriff's Deputies support other police agencies. Carlos Avecado of Ann Arbor spoke as the former chair of the Board of Commissioners and said that he still trusts the numbers used for Police service contracts. He said that they should maintain the original policy.

Mark Nunan, a Detective at the Sheriff's Office commented on the taskforce and said that all counties are facing the same issues. He said that all counties should work together to solve the problem.

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

Comm. Gunn said that the county was dependant on state revenue sharing and it was entirely cut. She stated that eh county is mandated to provide a jail and is not obligated to provide Police services. She said the board also has other obligations that must be allocated and the board would not vote against other non-mandated services.

Comm. Irwin thanked everyone for attending. He said that he and many members are willing to discuss the issues at hand in other forums. He added that prior to 2000 Ypsilanti Township had to pay for services while others did not. He said that collecting accurate data is important.

Comm. Bergman said that there are population issues and people in urban areas need protection. She said that there are many other faces of Washtenaw County that service smaller populations of the County.

Comm. Ouimet said that he was visiting with officials from the various cities, townships and villages in his district. He said that partnerships are important and all should be recognized.

Comm. Sizemore asked to see the Sheriff's total budget. He wanted to help cut costs.

Comm. Peterson said that he appreciated the participation of the many county entities. He said that the board should not approach the issue with a decision made, but rather look for changes, modifications of the plans. Comm. Peterson asked how the decision would influence the county budget. Bob Guenzel responded that it could be delayed, but it would be of greater benefit the sooner a decision is made. Comm. Peterson said that the board should both decide for or against a millage and be decisive.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Public Safety & Justice Alternatives**

Bob Guenzel presented a memorandum with his funding proposals for the jail.

- Ask the citizens to approve a millage increase to cover the amount needed
- Eliminate county support for non-mandated programs from the General Fund in areas outside of Public Safety & Justice
- Eliminate county support for non-mandated programs from the General Fund within the Public Safety & Justice system

Bob Guenzel said that a ballot proposal could not make the ballot until November. He also stated that cutting non-mandated could eliminate federal funding. He did not recommend the first two since they both have been attempted. He recommended the third proposal. If phase three were chosen, it would be done gradually. He expected the townships to have better luck with millages for police services than the county. He said that it was still up to the board to determine the course of action.

Comm. Peterson said that he was happy to see there would be forums for discussion before a decision was made. He hoped that all accurate data would be provided at the forums. Bob Guenzel responded that documents would be provided and the goal would be to have a decision by June.

Comm. Kern expressed concern over the conflict of one of the forums with the Board of Commissioners meeting. Comm. Irwin stated that the Ways and Means meeting would be shifted to Thursday May 5, 2005 in order to prevent the conflict.

Comm. Solowczuk commented that he hoped the forums would gain ideas and not only complaints.

Comm. Sizemore said that he wanted to add an additional forum in southeast Washenaw County.

### **Commissioner Items**

None.

### **County Administrator Report**

None.

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

#### **Pending**

Customer Assessments in Strategic Plans – May 5<sup>th</sup>

- Emergency Preparedness, Revenue & Record Keeping, & Support Services

#### **Status of Annual Activities/Goals**

No report.

#### **Citizen Participation**

Michael Moran, Supervisor of Ann Arbor Township said that his township pays more than any other jurisdiction in the county for police services.

Drew Wagner of the Sheriff's Office said that many county resources are used by the City of Ann Arbor.

Sheriff Minzey responded to the proposal from administration by reading a written statement. He said that the proposal ignores many other mandated services and he believes that it is bad public policy.

William McFarlane, Supervisor of Superior Township, said that the Board of Commissioners has a difficult decision, but he did not believe that another millage would pass.

Marilyn Halbeard of the Sheriff's Office said that there is a better way.

Brenda Stumbo, Ypsilanti Township Clerk, said that Ypsilanti already has high taxes and many of which go to the county. She requested that the data be collected by an independent source.

Doug Winters, Salem Township Attorney appealed to the undecided Commissioners that all jurisdictions are assisted by the Sheriff's Office. He added that townships also permit the Sheriff's Office to use their PSU's for other services.

Harry Valentine of the Sheriff's Office said they need to look to the whole county. He said that Township millages are more likely to pass because township governments are more in tune with the will of the people.

Lisa King of the Sheriff's Office said that the people want the Sheriff's Office as their police agency. She added that Head Start and other programs would not be successful if they did not have the follow up of the Sheriff's Office.

Mike King, retired from the Sheriff's Office said that they needed to focus on the quality of service.

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

Comm. Smith said that Comm. Gunn's comments were fair and just and said that she never sought to cut police services.

Comm. Kern requested the costs for Police Service Units. Bob Guenzel said that the information has been shared. He added that they would schedule a meeting with local Supervisors and the MTA meeting.

Comm. Sizemore warned people to beware of rumors and no decisions have been made.

Comm. Peterson said that he is not rushing for a vote because it is more than just the law enforcement, but public safety as a whole. He asked if they were only going to focus on the jail. Bob Guenzel responded that the proposal would address the entire plan.

#### **Adjournment**

Comm. Ouimet seconded by Comm. Kern moved that the meeting be adjourned until May 5, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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Stephen Solowczuk, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register  
By: James D. Higginbottom, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: