



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

September 22, 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, Brackenbury, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Curt Hedger, Corporate Counsel; David Behen, Ken Schrader, ITS; Mary O'Hare, Library; Gordon Burger, Jennifer Watson, Maiyuwai Reeves, Finance; Kerry Shelton, County Administration; Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Jim Olsen stated the human services are under funded. He said that he looks forward to hearing how the county plans to deal with this funding issue.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Gunn stated that the county reaffirmed their commitment to human services last night in approving grants. She added that the townships are often not willing to pay for the services they receive.

Comm. Smith commended the speaker on his commitment to these services and the county is in a good position to continue its support.

Comm. Bergman stated the townships and citizens are going to have to step up to the plate and pay for the services.

Comm. Irwin commended the speaker on his commitment to human services.

Discussion Items

Comm. Brackenbury stated that the Road Commission's counsel advised them that they were safe from removal by the County Board of Commissioners. He asked Corporate Counsel to review this opinion. Curt Hedger explained that as an appointed commission there is a process for removal, and this process is carried out by the County Commissioners. He stated he would issue an opinion soon. He ended saying yes they can remove a road commissioner.

Summary of community needs, strategic plans and goals

Bob Guenzel made a presentation on community needs, strategic planning and goals. [Report on file]

- Evolution of Communities of Interest
- Communities of Interest in 2006/07 Planning Process
- Strategic Planning Efforts
- Next Steps

Presentation of Financial Capacity and Major Variables

Gordon Burger made a presentation of Financial Capacity and Major Variables [Report for file].

- Revenues – Funding Sources and Trends
- Expenditures – Distribution and Trends
- Major Influences for 2006/07
- Future Factors
- Summary

Comm. Kern stated that the December levy is an advanced levy and asked for elaboration. Mr. Burger stated that she is correct, but the December funds went into reserves that supplement lost revenue sharing and not into the general fund. Comm. Kern asked if state revenue sharing was more volatile than county tax collection. Mr. Burger stated that the volatility existed because the revenue lay at the whim of the legislature. He stated that, in that sense, the county tax is more stable. Comm. Kern asked if the loss of employees subsidizing the increase in fringe benefits. Mr. Burger replied affirmatively.

Comm. Prater asked for clarification on a slide. Mr. Burger clarified.

Comm. Ouimet asked how the early tax collection will take affect at the end via the pull through. Mr. Burger stated that after a few years revenues will stable out. Mr. Guenzel stated that the actual amount will be in the budget. Comm. Ouimet asked how much money is at hand. Mr. Burger answered there is about 7 million dollars. Comm. Ouimet asked how many days of cash are on hand. Mr. Burger stated he does not have those figures. Comm. Ouimet asked about amount in the Capital Reserve Fund balance. Mr. Burger stated about 13 million dollars. Comm. Ouimet asked if this is on the rise. Mr. Burger said no. Comm. Oumiet asked for a comparison to industry standards. Mr. Burger stated the county is one to one, the industry norm. Comm. Ouimet asked about revenue and expense per employee. Mr. Burger stated that the county does not track these numbers in this relationship. Comm. Ouimet asked where the county budget growth is after inflation. Mr. Burger stated that budget growth has remained flat.

Comm. Prater asked for the actual number of decrease in employees since the staffing cuts. Mr. Burger stated that about 130 positions have been cut, but the number varies depending on grants.

Comm. Gunn asked about the general government chart, specifically the reduction indicated occurred. Mr. Burger said yes. Comm. Gunn stated that the personal services stayed flat, despite increases in salaries and benefits because of staffing cuts. She concluded by saying the public should be aware that the staffing cuts were in general government, not human services.

Brackenbury asked if the county has ever had to borrow short term. Mr. Burger stated that they have not, that the general fund has maintained a balance of about 30 million for the last eight or nine years.

Commissioner Items

None.

County Administrator Report

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

Pending

Status of Annual Activities/Goals

No report.

Citizen Participation

None.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Stephen Solowczuk, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Stephen Kirschner, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: