



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

October 20, 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, Prater, Smith, Solowczuk.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Brackenbury, Peterson, Sizemore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator; Peter Ballios, Gordon Burger, Maiyuwai Reeves, Jennifer Watson, Finance; Verna McDaniels, Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Nancy Thelen, MSU Extension; Tony VanDerworp, Planning and Environment; Dennis Wojcik, Drain Commissioner; Steve Purri Road Commission; Mary O'Hare, Library; Kerry Shelton, County Administration; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, Uma Harithsa, Ken Schrader, ITS; Stephen Kirschner, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### Roll Call

#### Citizen Participation

None.

#### Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None.

#### Discussion Items

#### Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest

Bob Guenzel presented on the Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest (Report on File at Clerk's office).

##### Community Goals

- Recap of Key Strategic Plans
- Community Goals
- County's role in achieving vision
- Community goals – progress to date

##### Measures of Success

Actions for 2006/07

Bob Guenzel responded to commissioner questions.

Comm. Gunn asked for elaboration on pre-trial services. Bob Guenzel explained that in many cases the judges do not have the information available to them to adequately serve the citizens coming before them. He stated that through a grant, the trial court will create two positions to do pre-trial work to assist judges gather information before trials.

Comm. Bergman stated that these positions would be supervised by community corrections. Bob Guenzel stated the goal is to help people that should not be in jail out of jail. Comm. Bergman stated that the WCHO did not get the grant of ACT. She stated that they would try again to get the grant.

Comm. Irwin asked for a description of the probation residential center. Bob Guenzel stated that this would be a step down from jail, allowing for close work with offenders without incarceration. Comm. Irwin clarified that the residents would potentially leave during the day to work. Comm. Irwin asked how the Trial Court's new lump sum agreement is working and whether there has been success in drawing the budget under control. Bob Guenzel replied that from his point of view it has helped. Gordon Burger stated that the quarterly meetings are different from other entities quarterly meetings and it is taking some time to work out these differences. Bob Guenzel said that there is a good relationship with the court administrator and he envisions success.

Comm. Ouimet asked how many people could be handled in the residential center and the duration. Bob said that approximately 50 residents that would stay from a month to six months.

Comm. Bergman stated that it could be six months or less. She stated that the facility would not be a night jail, but would hold on to people in the day when necessary.

Comm. Ouimet asked if the maximum of 50 residents is reached, would others who ought to be in that program be able to join. Bob Guenzel responded that they could serve more than 50, but it would have to be out of county. He added that this is not optimal, but better than being in jail.

Comm. Sizemore asked where the Probation Residential Center would be and whether the participant limits are determined by the size of the facility. Bob Guenzel responded it will be located at the service center and the program size is limited by the building size. Comm. Sizemore asked if the county could use old school buildings for the center. Bob Guenzel responded that the residents by the school may not respond well to placing this type of center near them.

Comm. Kern asked whether transfers from jail would be accepted or if only people sentenced to the program could participate. Bob Guenzel responded that transfers from jail would be accepted. Comm. Kern asked if there is a periodic inmate review that would increase usage of this program. Bob Guenzel stated that there is a close relationship between the jail staff and the community corrections staff and they do attempt to transition inmates when appropriate.

Comm. Bergman stated that there is a constant review of inmates to determine the appropriateness of their status. She invited the commissioners to a Community Corrections open house on Friday, October 21 from 12:00-3:00pm.

Comm. Smith asked if a pre-arraignment survey would reduce demand on the county's jail space. Bob Guenzel stated it would have a negligible effect. Comm. Smith asked whether the county has a civil rights board. Bob Guenzel stated that there is an internal grievance service for employees and the Sheriff has an advisory committee for his department. Comm. Smith stated that there has been an increase in race related crimes in Southeast Michigan. He asked what the county is doing to prepare for these events in Washtenaw County. Bob Guenzel responded that he would look into it.

Comm. Bergman stated the Community Health has a very large and active civil rights investigation procedure.

#### **Land Use and Environment Community of Interest**

Dennis Wojcik and Tony VanDerworp presented on the Land Use and Environment Community of Interest (Report on File at Clerk's office).

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##### Measures of Success

Actions for 2006/07

Tony VanDerworp, Nancy Thelen and Steve Purri responded to commissioner questions.

Comm. Smith thanked Bob Guenzel for his work with the Public Safety and Justice area. Comm. Smith thanked the Land Use and Environment Community of Interest for their work. He asked for details about context sensitive design. Steve Purri responded that this item is evolving and will probably involve creating streetscapes in conjunction with the local jurisdictions. Comm. Smith stated that the local Homebuilders Association would be informational about this issue. Steve Purri stated the Road Commission does work with them often. Comm. Smith asked for the future financial outlook for the MSU extension. Nancy Thelen stated that there would be a loss of positions but not a loss of personnel. She stated that her organization is looking for any grants that may assist them. Comm. Smith asked about the development of an environmental justice program within the Planning and Environment department. Tony VanDerworp stated that their goal is to create this type of program but it would be a few months before any significant progress could be accomplished.

Comm. Sizemore asked for a listing of which drains belonged to which department. Comm. Sizemore stated that a lot of pollution washes off of golf courses and other structures and he asked for information on water quality in the county. Steve Purri responded that by early next year his office will have the requested maps available. He added that his department is informing various businesses about the pollution potential of various fertilizers.

Comm. Gunn stated that these departments have done a wonderful job. She asked for information on the Soy Bean Fertilizer marketing campaign. Nancy Thelen replied that this program was up and running.

Comm. Prater asked about solid waste disposal, specifically strategies for using a preferred hauler to eliminate large trucks tearing up gravel roads in the spring thaw. Tony VanDerworp stated that this concept is gaining in popularity. Comm. Prater stated that using a preferred hauler is a worthwhile initiative.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the county's model of funding sources for the SPARKS and Washtenaw Development Council is light on the part of the universities. Tony VanDerworp stated that the University of Michigan recently provided a substantial contribution. Bob Guenzel stated that while University of Michigan leadership is desired, the goal was to have the program be more than a U of M program. Comm. Ouimet stated that Nancy Thelen has done a great job in the agricultural and land use area.

Comm. Kern asked if there are hazardous material drop off dates. Tony VanDerworp responded that the facility is still operational and there are special pick-up days every year. Comm. Kern asked how the pick-up information is advertised. Tony stated that it is given on TV, radio and in print, as well as being available at most township offices. Comm. Kern asked if her group collaborated with the POWER on financial management training. Nancy Thelen stated that they provide the training for this organization.

Comm. Irwin stated that there is funding for solid waste program that exists. Comm. Irwin stated that the county tends to underestimate the amount of participation in this program. He added that work has been done on creating model ordinances for franchising solid waste pickup.

Comm. Sizemore asked if there is a permit required to put in drain fills for septic tanks. He asked for information regarding possible loopholes in these regulations.

Comm. Prater asked for the Road Commission to inform local jurisdictions about the potential protection derived from changing to a preferred hauler. Steve Purri stated that the Road Commission had many opportunities to spread this knowledge.

Comm. Solowczuk stated that information on this topic is in the community, but many local jurisdictions are skeptical, seeing this as an attempt by the county to seize power.

### **Support Services Community of Interest**

Frank Cambria and Gordon Burger presented on the Public Safety and Justice Community of Interest (Report on File at Clerk's office).

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#### Measures of Success

#### Actions for 2006/07

Frank Cambria, Gordon Burger and David Behen responded to commissioner questions.

Comm. Gunn thanked the help desk for their support.

Comm. Bergman thanked Frank Cambria and several departments for their great support.

Comm. Irwin asked about the elongation of the replacement cycle. David Behen stated that this was a cost savings plan implemented several years ago. Comm. Irwin asked how often these products needed to be replaced. David Behen stated that the current three year period matches the warranty period. Comm. Irwin asked about contracting for backup storage. David Behen stated that this is an important issue and he is working with Ann Arbor City to create a joint data center. Comm. Irwin asked how much was in the delinquent tax fund when it was created. Gordon Burger stated he did not have that figure. Comm. Irwin reminded the board that the county's reserves have dwindled down because of previous building programs.

Comm. Ouimet stated that commended Support Services community on their progress. He asked about interest rate fluctuation and its affect on the total capital reserves predictions. Gordon Burger stated that the rates have been stable over the past years, but any increase would be a concern. Comm. Ouimet asked for interest rate tolerances for these figures. He stated that these could be beneficial for the budget department to have these figures.

Comm. Brackenbury asked what the savings have been from implementing the Chevron Committee's recommendations. Gordon Burger stated Chevron would do analysis themselves after the implementation of the recommendations is finished. Comm. Brackenbury asked about the fiber network. David Behen answered that IT is looking at purchasing its own fiber and possible sharing it with local jurisdictions.

Comm. Prater asked about online direct deposits. Peter Ballios stated that about 97% use direct deposits. Comm. Prater asked about the measures of success for policy alignment. Frank Cambria stated that the communication routes are different, but specifically he is not sure. Gordon Burger stated that the weekly updates are the major reason for the improvements. Bob Guenzel stated that the town hall meetings played a role in raising these numbers. Comm. Prater asked how many people responded to these surveys. Gordon Burger replied that 77 replied to the leader survey, 78 replied to the liaison survey and 563 replied to the employee survey. Comm. Prater asked for a copy of the report containing these figures.

### **Commissioner Items**

None.

### **County Administrator Report**

Bob Guenzel stated that if there are any questions or comments on these communities of interest, the commissioners should contact him.

### **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. Gunn seconded by Comm. Solowczuk moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 3, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Stephen Solowczuk, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register  
By: Stephen Kirschner, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: