



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

September 7, 2006

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, Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Kern, Ouimet, Peterson, Prater, Sizemore, Smith, Solowczuk

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; David Behen, Dale Vanderford, Uma Harithsa, Andy Smith, Ken Schrader, Information Technology; Gordon Burger, Budget; Mary O'Hare, Scott Patton, Organizational Development; Dave Shirley, Facilities Management; Kerry Sheldon, Administration, 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

Space Plan – Presentation of Overall Plan and Options

Bob Guenzel presented to the board o the space plan.

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Overview
- III. Population and Demographics
- IV. Organizational Structure and Staffing
- V. Available Space
- VI. Planning Principles
- VII. Needs Assessment
- VIII. Issues and Options
- IX. Community Partner Engagement

Comm. Kern asked about the costs related to the Platt Rd. sale option. Gordon Burger responded.

Comm. Irwin stated that he is excited about the space planning document. He asked about moving the 14-A court to the old HVA building. Gordon Burger stated that judge Simpson's preference is to build three small courtrooms. Comm. Irwin asked whether the idea of a regional jail is still an option. Bob Guenzel responded that this idea has not been discounted, but also has not been addressed in over a year. Comm. Irwin suggested discussing the Platt Rd. property options with Ann Arbor City to determine if there is a mutually beneficial use. Comm. Irwin asked about the impact of stretching out some of the jail capacity improvement costs by taking it out of the 1/8th mill allocation. Gordon Burger responded that these options implemented would completely eat up the 1/8th mill, leaving no funds for other improvements.

Comm. Bergman addressed the old HVA building, noting that the use of the building would be coming before board in the near future, not related to the space plan. She suggested the Budget Dept. provide active spreadsheets of this information to the board, so they can manipulate the data themselves. Comm. Bergman stated she would like to hear more about the regional jail.

Comm. Grewal asked if they could contact other counties with a PRC programs for comparable information. Scott Patton responded that they have contacted some jurisdictions about this. Comm. Grewal asked whether the county has engaged the ETCS employees about what they want. Bob Guenzel explained the current discussions about this. Comm. Grewal asked whether the data center could be moved to the Eastern County Government Center. David Behen responded that they would not be able to use this center.

Comm. Gunn asked what the reaction was to the idea of putting the Juvenile Court in the service center. Mary O'Hare responded that most of the people they discussed this with did not consider this a viable option.

Comm. Prater asked why Bob Guenzel would include the option of using modular jailing, after earlier recommending not to use it. Bob Guenzel responded that the Sheriff's similar proposal interfered with the long term solution, while the current option of placing them in the parking lot allows the long term solution to continue. Comm. Prater stated that this is a very poor option of how to spend taxpayers' money. Mr. Guenzel stated that this is the type of comments that they hope the commissioners will provide about the options. He added that he does not see this as a good option for long term planning. Comm. Prater asked what the decision making priorities should be. Bob Guenzel responded that they have not determined this at this point. Comm. Prater asked where they are looking for the funds for this plan. Mr. Guenzel stated that they have a small amount in reserve, that if combined with the funds saved through police services and a bond could allow for these capital projects to be implemented. He added that one concept behind the plan is living within the county's means.

Comm. Smith asked if the financial estimates included the additional cost of complying with green standards. Bob Guenzel replied that they do not. Comm. Smith asked that these be worked in. He asked for Planning and Environment be involved in this, as there are environmental impacts to the implementation of these plans. He stated that they should be aware of whether the plan exacerbates an economic or racial problem that is developing. He stated that these are the types of decisions that should be considered.

Comm. Ouimet asked what the fund balance availability is currently. Bob Guenzel replied that there is about \$14 million in currently in capital funding, though this is tied up in other projects. Comm. Ouimet asked what the fund availability would be without endangering the other projects. Gordon Burger replied that it is over \$7 million.

Comm. Bergman stated that she has great interest in the probation residential center, through they will need to a larger systemic discussion about this.

Comm. Solowczuk asked whether the county's databases are secure. David Behen responded that their databases are quite secure. Comm. Solowczuk stated that the modular jail is not a good idea. He stated it is time to fix the infrastructure. He suggested the board indicate their direction on pods. The commissioners expressed their disinterest in pursuing a modular jail option.

County Administrator Report

None.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

Pending

- Sept. 21 Space Plan – Overview of District Court & Trial Court
- Oct. 5 Space Plan – Feedback from Community Engagement and Human Services
 Community Engagement
- Oct. 19 Space Plan – Alternative Sanctions & Diversions

- Nov. 2 Space Plan - Review of Options & Recommendations
- Nov. 15 (WM) Space Plan – Funding Recommendations
- Nov. 16 Space Plan – Discussion of Recommendations
- Dec. 3 (BD) Adopt Funding Mechanism for Next Phase of Space Plan

Status of Annual Activities/Goals

No report.

Citizen Participation

None.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None.

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Kern moved that the meeting be adjourned until September 21, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Stephen Solowczuk, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Stephen Kirschner, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: