

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

June 21, 2007

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Irwin, Ouimet, Lovejoy Roe, Sizemore, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Grewal, Gunn, Ping Mills, Peterson, and Schwartz.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; David Behen, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County

Administrators; Catherine McClary, County Treasurer; Denise Dalrymple, Children's Services; Jennifer Watson, Budget; Gordon Burger, Andy Brush, Scott Patton, Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Finance; Mark Lindke, Veteran Services; Dale Vanderford, Ken Schrader, Information Technology; Kerry Sheldon, Joanna Bidlack, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members

of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Discussion Items:

Planning Process: Global Summarization

Bob Guenzel gave the Planning Process: Global Summarization Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Ouimet stated that how work is conducted on an intergovernmental basis is an important consideration. He stated that finding ways to leverage assets to help other governmental units is helpful. He added that he is thinking about how these relationships can be leveraged to assist non-profits. Comm. Ouimet also stated that working with for profit corporations is another consideration. He added that these are ways to challenge ourselves. He stated that he feels the County does a good job, but could do better. He stated that finding ways to partner in these three areas will be important. Guenzel stated that this is a great point, Commissioners should raise more challenges such as these for staff. He added that there needs to be breakthroughs on how the County works with other governmental agencies. He commented that relationships with non-profit organizations and for profit organizations are also crucial.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he feels a paradigm shift is coming for non-profit and government entities. Guenzel added that the link to businesses needs to be better and more strategic. Comm. Ouimet gave the example of partnering with the Humane Society as a way to think in these terms.

Comm. Bergman stated that community actors were called together to deal with the child abuse issue, and develop a 10 year plan. She added that there is an absolutely fabulous leader in the Department of Human Services. She stated that this made her rethink her position that funds from Children's Well Being only go to private non-profits. She stated that there may be some reason that staff of governmental agencies may be able to use the help. She added that this County has continued to support community corrections. She stated that funds allocated that the WCHO has a presence in mental health in community corrections, and thanked all for participation.

Comm. Bergman stated that Livingston County had a collaborative agency that had federal funds that could only be applied for by townships and villages. She added that she was not sure that the County was mining this resource through assisting townships or digging for any odd funds. She thanked Guenzel for pulling this information together.

Comm. Irwin stated that he supports the planning process and schedule. He added that a retreat needs to be talked about over the next month, and possibly finding other ways to discuss the current budget. Comm. Irwin suggested staff hosting a number of workshops to give Commissioners the opportunity to ask about details within the budget.

Comm. Irwin added that this Board wants to push intergovernmental partnerships. He stated that dispatch and consolidating public service answering points are issues that stand out in his mind. Comm. Irwin also added that many of the Support Services Department's functions could be another avenue for cooperation.

Comm. Smith stated that there is a fantastic resource put together by the Citizens Research Council. He stated that this resource is a survey of some services provided by Washtenaw County local governments. Comm. Smith added that 16 local governments do document archiving and asked if there is a general strategy for intergovernmental relations. Guenzel stated that Administration wants to be more systematic, and that recommendations would be forthcoming. He stated that this would be done on a service by service basis. Guenzel stated that the issue of central dispatch would be looked at. He added that there has been a lot of support with the City of Ypsilanti. He stated that there are strategies depending on the size of government. The strategy includes looking at individual services for smaller governments and pooling resources for larger governments. Guenzel stated that this offers potential for staff and Commissioner leadership. Comm. Smith stated that Michigan Suburbs Alliance (MSA) resources should be utilized, and that he would love to be a part of the process.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he is pleased that the County is working with youth programs, Eastern Michigan University, the Washtenaw Parks Commission, and the University of Michigan. He stated that the County is headed in the right direction. He added that he would like to challenge State Representatives to participate in this process. Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like the staff to investigate working with Wayne County on countywide programs. He also thanked staff for their work on these issues and stated that he was pleased on the direction the County is headed.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she sees several areas of potential for intergovernmental cooperation. She pointed out the potential of pooling benefits. She stated that the idea of being able to outsource or lease employees in the field of HR could be another option. Comm. Lovejoy Roe added that the issue of archiving is a good place to start to look at. She stated that the areas of IT and Building Department Services could be other areas that cooperation may be possible. Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked about the date of the budget presentation. Guenzel responded that the date is September 19, and that the budget must be adopted by the end of the year. Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if it were possible to focus only on the budget and no other items during some Ways and Means meetings. Guenzel stated that he feels this is a good suggestion. She stated that she appreciates the patience of staff in her requests, and that the information ahs been useful for her.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the three areas he mentioned earlier can offer information. He stated that there are avenues set up to explore intergovernmental, government/for profit, and government/non-profit cooperation. He stated there is an infrastructure, history, and employee team members that have expertise. Comm. Ouimet stated that this means the wheel does not have to be invented. He communicated that it would be interesting to see where this path would lead.

Comm. Bergman stated that the idea of study groups is the answer when it comes to discussing the budget in depth. She also stated that she is willing to have additional Ways and Means sessions if it is necessary. She added that housekeeping issues come through every two weeks, so only discussing budget issues at regular meetings may not be the answer. Comm. Bergman communicated that this needs to be built into a process.

County Administrator Report

None

Space Plan Update

Jim Zwolensky stated that a lot of headway has been made in the last four weeks. He stated that both projects are on schedule. He added that a draft Space Plan program has been completed by the jail. He stated that there have been about six programming meetings since the last update. Zwolensky stated that collaboration among staff has been excellent. He added that he is very happy with the design team. He added that upcoming activities on the jail include finalizing adjacencies. He stated that the design team is developing operational narratives on some of the inner workings of the jail. He reported that a County review will take place after this. Zwolensky stated that a design is getting started on the jail, and that floor plans and visuals are finally being developed on the site. He stated that he would expect to be able to show something in the August meeting.

Zwolensky added that on the Saline Court conceptual floor plans are being reduced slightly to stay in budget. He commented that good meetings have taken place on the issue of the court, and that maximum flexibility is being kept. He stated that geo thermal sources are being looked at to heat the building. He added that finalizing square footages is going to take place in the next two weeks. Zwolensky stated that he is working with the Drain Commissioners office on this project. He reported that in the next month there needs to be meetings set up with the Saline Fire and Police Departments.

Comm. Bergman asked if Zwolensky is working with the National Institute of Corrections on this project. Comm. Bergman stated that she is concerned with best practices and direct supervision. Zwolensky stated that these conversations have taken place. He stated that he is looking at how the first phase pertains to the second phase of the project. He added that it is important to get the first housing pod correct, to ensure inmates are being moved correctly. Comm. Bergman stated that she is concerned about the movement of people who do not need to be secured at all times, and allowing them to get to the library for example. He stated that a center is tentatively planned to be on each cell block including a classroom setting and library. He stated that he feels this works out well. Comm. Bergman stated that she hopes that the skills, practices, and experiences are adhered to by jail staff. She stated that she hopes expertise prevails.

Comm. Ouimet asked about a form that will be used to monitor costs and expenditures. He stated that he would like to see the form relatively soon. He added that he would like to have an opportunity to look at the pricing issue. Comm. Ouimet asked about early estimates to this point. Zwolensky stated that it is on the higher end of the budget right now. Comm. Ouimet asked if it would be possible to benchmark the cost against other similar buildings. Zwolensky stated that this could be done against other jails in the state. He added that there are only two commitments that have been made up to this point, and that he is currently comfortable with costs.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if schematic design is beyond the expected budget. Zwolensky stated that this step has not yet been taken. He stated that this is a much smaller project, and added that the floor plan is being used as the actual program document.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he hopes that the project comes in under the budget figure. He asked if geothermic heating was in the original budget. Zwolensky responded that it was not, but that it was being evaluated by Jennifer Watson. Comm. Sizemore stated that he does not want any surprises. He added that the facilities on Zeeb Road are pleasant, and that he could live with a building such as this.

Comm. Irwin stated that he was present at one of these meetings, and that his experience is that everyone was invested in the process, and determinations were being made to ensure more could come out of the budget. He added that things seem to be progressing at a good pace. Comm. Irwin added that he is pleased with the design team. He added that there are a lot of different good ideas.

Comm. Smith asked about the shelter and the bonding ability. He also asked about taking \$6.5 million out of capital reserves. Guenzel stated that the \$6.5 would be a bond, and that the Humane Society would pay it back. He added that \$1 million would actually be taken out of reserves it approved. Comm. Smith asked about the debt service would be. Comm. Smith asked if the bonds could be offered over 20 years. He stated that he likes the project, and that he is concerned about the impact. He stated that he would like to see the impact of offering a longer term bond. He stated that he does not want to give up on the Space Plan.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the worst case scenario is that the County owns the building. He stated that in the worst case, there is a smaller amount refinanced. He added that the further out you go, the less of a risk to the project. Comm. Ouimet stated that it is important to think about how to partner with non-profits.

Comm. Smith stated that he hopes sensitivity to the prospect for failure is understood. He added that he would like to see the numbers work out correctly.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Pending

• July 19 State Legislators' Roundtable (?)

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

APPROVED:

Comm. Lovejoy Roe seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to adjourn until Thursday, July 19th, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.	
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk	Rolland Sizemore, Chair