# COUNTY 1826

### WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

#### WORKING SESSION

# August 2, 2007

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Ping Mills, Ouimet, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz and Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Bergman, Peterson, and Sizemore.

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

Jennifer Watson, Budget; Gordon Burger, Jim Zwolensky, Brenda Kerr, Support Services; Dale Vanderford, Ken Schrader, Charlie Wolfe, Information Technology; 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:**

## **Website Demonstration**

Brenda Kerr gave a presentation on the new website. She thanked the Board for their support and distributed a handout with the layout of the proposed new homepage (on file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Gunn stated that she feels this is dynamite. She asked about the location of Board agendas on the website. Kerr stated that it could be linked to the calendar of events.

Comm. Grewal thanked the presenters. She suggested explaining where sections of the site come from. She suggested adding more programmatic information to the meetings section of the site. Comm. Grewal asked how people are directed to the site. Kerr stated that about 47% come from search engines, and another 20% are directed from other entities such as the City of Ann Arbor. Comm. Grewal asked if data can be used to put items of interest in the front of the website.

Comm. Irwin stated that he likes the website now, but that the living and working sections are not being used. He suggested using photos from Comm. Bergman.

Comm. Smith asked about the tornado warning section on the page. Kerr stated that the idea is to partner with emergency awareness. She added that warnings may be scrolled across the page. Comm. Smith stated that he likes the concept. He asked about the search function, and whether the Google search function will help. Wolfe stated that he believes the Google engine will be an improvement. Comm. Smith stated that one problem is naming protocol for County documents. Wolfe stated that correcting this problem will be relatively labor intensive, but will be done. Comm. Smith asked for a plan going forward. Kerr stated that it is a matter of training the liaisons.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he feels this is a huge step forward. He added that he has received a lot of positive feedback.

# **Development of Qualifications and Questions for New Road Commission Appointments**

Commissioners developed a list of qualifications for potential appointees.

#### **County Administrator Report**

None

#### **Space Plan Update**

Zwolensky presented the "Space Plan Update" document (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Schwartz stated that he would be willing to discuss adjusting the budget to ensure that the building is nice from the outside. He stated that these improvements can help make people feel differently about the building in their community. Zwolensky stated that this would be welcome.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is excited about the environmental heating in the building.

Comm. Ping Mills asked about the figures for the geothermic heating. Zwolensky stated that they must get past the impasse at the court before this analysis can be conducted. He added it would take about 6 weeks after the conflict is resolved. Comm. Ping Mills asked if the project is going to wait until spring. Zwolensky responded that he hopes so, in order to keep the cost of working in winter conditions down.

Comm. Schwartz asked if the Saline Court is going to have backup power. Zwolensky stated that IT would prefer to have an emergency generator. Comm. Schwartz stated that there should be a seamless flow of energy.

Comm. Smith stated that he agrees with Comm. Schwartz on architecture, and suggested that Zwolensky take a look at Washington D.C. standards.

Comm. Ouimet asked where the project is on land and building costs. Zwolensky stated that the project is at about \$230 per square foot. Comm. Ouimet stated that the spreadsheet prepared could be used in the future. He added that a time chart should be included in the next section.

Comm. Schwartz asked about a 4% contingency for the entire budget. He added that if the project can be brought in under, that would be amazing. Zwolensky stated that there would be a better chance if there were an 8-9% contingency.

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

#### **Pending**

• September 6 State Legislators' Roundtable

September 20 Presentation of Recommended Budget - Overview

October 4 Recommended Budget & Community Impact: Children's Services and Health

October 18 Recommended Budget & Community Impact: Public Safety & Justice

Plus: West Willow Neighborhood Plan Progress

November 8 Global Summary of Recommended Budget; Q+A

#### **Citizen Participation**

None

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

None

# <u>Adjournment</u>

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.		
	Rolland Sizemore, Chair	
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk		

APPROVED: 9/5/07