



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

January 24, 2008

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, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Ping, Lovejoy Roe, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Grewal and Peterson

**OTHERS PRESENT::** Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Gordon Burger, Dale Vanderford, Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Ken Schrader, ITS; Kerry Sheldon, 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:**

##### **Space Plan Update**

Jim Zwolensky gave a Space Plan update (report on file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Schwartz asked if the project as approached includes the Washtenaw Ave. entry. Zwolensky reported that it does not, but added that signage and landscaping are included. Comm. Schwartz reported that consensus in local governments is that this is currently a good project.

Comm. Sizemore asked about progress in the Saline Court project. Zwolensky stated that a kickoff meeting with architects has taken place to set up a work plan, and that meetings with judges will be proceeding on the design.

Comm. Ouimet asked about the marketplace for materials and labor. Zwolensky reported that this is a favorable market from a bidding perspective. Comm. Ouimet stated that the project is getting the best in skilled labor, and materials pricing has been good.

Comm. Sizemore asked about the issue with fencing around the parking lot. Zwolensky reported that there is still a strong desire for employee parking to be fenced. Comm. Sizemore asked about the type of fence. Zwolensky reported that the fence would be an 8' chain link fence along with a card scanner and camera to control access. Zwolensky stated that he would check with the Sheriff's Department for hard data. He added that PS&J may be the right forum for this discussion.

Commissioners expressed concern about proposed fencing around the parking lot. Incident reports were requested from the Sheriff's Department.

Comm. Sizemore asked for Space Plan updates at all Working Session meetings.

Comm. Bergman thanked Zwolensky for meeting with one of her constituents.

#### **Board of Commissioners Round Table Discussion**

The Board of Commissioners discussed topics that they would like to see on the Working Session agenda in 2008.

Comm. Smith stated that he would like to discuss the Road Commission issue, and revisit expansion.

Comm. Schwartz stated that he would like to discuss greater general fund reserves in the future.

Comm. Ouimet reported that he has asked Behen to work out staff coming out to explain Success by Six. Behen reported that he has sent out dates, and asked for a report to be given to the Board. Comm. Ouimet stated that he agrees that a potential general fund balance increase should be discussed in the future for the purpose of favorable bonding.

Comm. Gunn stated that she would like a Working Session on the Urban County Task Force and update on West Willow Project. She added that she would also like to see an update from the Literacy Coalition.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would like to take a look at the company that gave an actuarial in the Retirement Commission. She asked if the history or WCERS could be presented. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would also like to see more transparency and Commissioner input in the budget process, along with some possible policy changes. She stated that she would like to see the County more prepared for future budget issues. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would also like to see more communication/information coming from employees. She discussed concerns on the cost of the jail early in her term as Commissioner.

Comm. Irwin stated that he believes in transparency and stated that he feels that the County does a good job. Comm. Irwin reported that information and documents are easily available for review. He added that discussion about increasing transparency is always welcome.

Comm. Ping stated that the communication between Commissioners is sometimes lacking, and added that there is some hostility between Commissioners.

Comm. Ouimet stated that in the coming year, the BOC will have a great opportunity to work on issues that have been sticky in the past. He added that he feels that the way County government operates is going to change because of the budget. Comm. Ouimet stated that communication will be important throughout this process, and that emotions will have to be put off to the side.

Comm. Bergman stated that she feels that the public is under-taxed, and stated that services are going to diminish in the County.

Comm. Sizemore reported that he would like to add Commissioner Discussion to the Working Session agenda.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he agrees, and appreciates being invited in on the process of the Working Session agenda.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to see automobiles in the County examined. He stated that he would like to see an examination of the energy coordinator, and tasks of that position. He added that he feels County services are going to have to be cut. Comm. Sizemore reported that he would like to see an update on the wind energy project. He added that it is up to staff and Commissioners to ensure the passing of information to communities.

Comm. Gunn reported on the interview with Comm. Irwin on YouTube.

**County Administrator's Report**

Bob Guenzel reported on a calendar for the 2008/09 Budget Modification Process (On file in County Clerk's Office). Guenzel also presented a list of members on the Strategic Oversight Committee (On file in County Clerk's Office). He discussed the Budget Modification process moving forward.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked about having labor management involved in more discussions. Guenzel reported that there will be a town hall approach in this process.

**Items for Current/Future Discussion**

**Pending**

**Citizen Participation**

None

**Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Ping moved to adjourn until Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Rolland Sizemore, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register  
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: 2/6/08