



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

March 6, 2008

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. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Ping, Lovejoy Roe, and Schwartz.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Grewal, Peterson, Sizemore, and Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT::** Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; 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:

##### **MAC Update**

Tom Hickson of the MAC gave the update (on file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Irwin asked how MAC is coming on the issue of transit in southeastern Michigan and the ability to raise local taxes to support transit. Hickson stated that MAC is a member of the Let's Get Moving Coalition. He added that MAC strongly supports transit. Comm. Irwin asked about MAC's position on tipping fee legislation. Hickson stated that various Counties had different positions because they are in different positions regarding landfills. Comm. Irwin stated that increased tipping fees will steer Canadian trash away from the State and raise money for recycling. Comm. Irwin stated the MAC should back a good bill and avoid stifling the issue. He also discussed the MAC position on changing sentencing guidelines. Comm. Irwin added that keeping more offenders out of County jail is positive, and keeping people out of the system should also be considered. Hickman stated that MAC has received various proposals on corrections and sentencing guidelines over the years. He stated that it has been emphasized to the State the offenders cannot simply be put back into County jails.

Comm. Bergman stated that savings from changing sentencing guidelines need to come back to the corrections system. She stated that mental health can be strengthened to keep people out of jail. She stated that she would support working in increments to achieve long term goals. She asked if MAC can work hard to ensure that substance abuse money still comes from Cobo Hall. Hickman stated that he testified about community corrections recently. Hickman stated that he is charged with working to ensure that funds are not lost in a new Cobo Hall plan.

Comm. Gunn asked if MAC is effective in helping Counties and gave the example of revenue sharing. She stated that providing basic services is difficult. She added that at MAC they should make more noise and not be so nice. She stated that the State is letting Counties down. Hickman stated that he feels MAC is effective and strong. He added that the MAC is carrying the message of the return of revenue sharing at this time. Comm. Gunn stated that DDA's are involved in economic development. Comm. Gunn discussed the Ann Arbor SPARK program.

Comm. Ouimet stated that on the MAC committee he served on, the Detroit area dominated the discussion, and some out County commissioners did not have much of a voice. He stated that he would like a better understanding of where MAC is at now. Hickman stated that there is a concentration on economic development issues currently.

Comm. Bergman asked if there are film commissions in the State. Hickman stated that there is a film commission in the state. He discussed incentives that may be offered. Comm. Bergman stated that she feels it is important for film makers to pay for land use.

### **Space Plan Update**

Jim Zwolensky presented the Spack Plan Update (on file in County Clerk's Office).

Comm. Bergman asked about the proposed fence around the jail. Zwolensky stated that currently the fence is not in the project or in the budget. He stated that discussion will take place at PS&J next Friday. Comm. Bergman asked about security at the Saline Court. Zwolensky stated that there would be a fence around the parking lot.

Comm. Ping asked about bidding out for builders on the project. Zwolensky stated that normal County bidding procedures are being followed. Comm. Ping stated that she would like contact to be made with the Saline Planning Commission to keep them informed.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she supports Comm. Bergman's statements with regards to fencing in parking areas. Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if the contracts will go to the PS&J committee for approval. Zwolensky stated that they will. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that there are many fine building businesses in the County, and added that she would be thrilled if the work went to these businesses. Comm. Lovejoy Roe stated that she would like to see if something can be done administratively to award more points to local companies. She stated that she would support a policy change. McDaniel stated that the policy can be reviewed by Administration.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to see care if moving toward a new policy.

Comm. Ouimet asked how pricing is coming in. Zwolensky stated that inflation is rising, but construction costs seem to be remaining flat. C omm. Ouimet asked if the contingency has been touched on the Saline Court. Zwolensky stated that the contingency has not been used yet.

### **County Administrator's Report**

None

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

#### **Pending**

#### **Citizen Participation**

None

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

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Lovejoy Roe moved to adjourn until Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Rolland Sizemore, Chair

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

APPROVED: 3/19/08