



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

May 21, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman, Peterson, and Sizemore (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT:: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel and David Behen, Deputy County Administrators; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Peter Ballios, Finance; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Watson, Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Ben Toole, ITS; Scott Patton, 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

Construction Update

Jim Zwolensky reported that both projects are within budget and stated that there is a good contingency remaining on the Saline Court. He reported that the Saline Court is nearly finished. Zwolensky reported that the jail project has progressed as expected in the last two weeks.

Discussion Items:

Update from the Office of the Sheriff

Jerry Clayton gave the update from the Office of the Sheriff (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Gunn stated that she appreciates with work of the Sheriff and the outreach to communities. She asked if the Sheriff should be given the Police Services Steering Committee. Clayton stated that he has a very good team and added that he will work with that group and would welcome taking leadership of that group.

Comm. Smith stated that he echoes Comm. Gunn's comments. He asked about the process of measuring the need for police services throughout the County. Clayton reported that service calls are being put against response time at this point. He added that citizen perception of service is also being taken into account. Comm. Smith asked how the Sheriff's Department is looking at the mutual aid service approach. Clayton reported that he has had discussions with leaders of law enforcement agencies around the County. He stated that the challenge is changing the way that public safety services are viewed. Comm. Smith asked if cultural sensitivity training will be integrated. Clayton reported that there are plans. He added that he is looking at overhauling the entire professional development system in the department. Comm. Smith asked what is going on in the Sheriff's Department regarding cost reductions and asked where the Board should be paying attention for better prioritization. Clayton reported that overtime has been a major overliar in recent years. He added that the biggest outlier that could be controlled is staff deployment in corrections. Clayton stated that significant reductions have been made in overtime. He stated that two of the largest contract service providers are being looked at for renegotiation. Clayton added that opportunities to generate revenue are also being investigated. He added that he also would like to look at the budget over the long term.

Comm. Smith asked if savings could be realized even though the police service contracts have been extended. Clayton reported that first quarter numbers look positive. He stated that he is a little more concerned with summer months but that he is cautiously optimistic. Comm. Smith asked if things could be talked about that would make the job easier. Clayton stated that significant engagement between County leadership and with State leadership is positive.

Comm. Prater asked about the level of service in all parts of the County and authorization that was given in 2006 for 12 county-wide deputies. Clayton stated that deputies will respond to where the calls of service are coming from. He added that these deputies are essential from an operational standpoint. Clayton stated that he is working on putting on an educational presentation for communities that are not currently contracting.

Comm. Schwartz asked what physical infrastructure Clayton would like to see on the criminal justice campus. Clayton reported that he would like to see all buildings related to human services and public safety and justice. He added that he would like to see a step down minimum security facility for the population that does not need to take up beds in the jail. Clayton added that this would include intensive programming. Comm. Schwartz stated that he feels that there needs to be one campus. Comm. Schwartz asked if there has been an increase in petty crimes. Clayton stated that he is seeing an increase in breaking and entering and larceny from buildings. He added that these trends are being seen in both traditionally high crime and low crime areas.

Comm. Irwin stated that he congratulates the Sheriff on early success. He stated that it is nice to hear that the Sheriff is embracing a more holistic approach.

Comm. Judge stated that the holistic approach is important to her. She added that she is impressed with reaching out.

Comm. Ping asked who is doing the audit. Clayton reported that Rehmann Robson is doing the audit. Dill reported that procedures are currently being examined. He added that he feels that the financial component should be complete by mid June with the rest complete by the third quarter. Clayton reported that changes in policy will be examined.

Presentation on Reserves

Jennifer Watson gave the Presentation on Reserves (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Judge asked if the Head Start expenditure could be explained. Watson reported that the Head Start expenditure is tied to bonding for the Head Start facility. She added that federal funds come in as part of the agreement that took place. Comm. Judge asked if the Board has a policy to set aside \$250,000/year for fund balance. Watson reported that this is a policy.

Comm. Ouimet stated that this information will be critical to managing the balance sheet. Comm. Ouimet added that these funds should not be used to balance the budget one time. He stated that he feels that he is happy that the amount going toward fund balance will increase the overall percentage.

Comm. Ping asked about the typical percentage to be placed into fund balance. Watson reported that the auditor has provided that data and stated that she could bring that data forward. Comm. Ouimet stated that it has never been in the management letter.

County Administrator's Report

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Smith stated that he apologizes for last night's budget discussion. He stated that he feels that the Commissioners want to take this step to cut their budget before adopting any of the Administrator's recommendations.

Comm. Judge stated that all Commissioners are going to work together.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Smith moved to adjourn until Thursday, June 4th, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Jessica Ping, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: 06/03/09