



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

September 3, 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, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Bergman

OTHERS PRESENT:: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Anthony VanDerworp, Strategic Planning; Ellen Rabinowitz, Washtenaw County Health Plan; Ken Schrader, ITS; 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

Construction Update:

Jim Zwolensky presented the Construction Update (on file in County Clerk's office).

Jim Zwolensky stated that a sign will be discussed that would sit at the Saline Court location and may be helpful to explain the tall grass which serves an environmental purpose.

Discussion Items:

Presentation on Washtenaw County Health Plan and Washtenaw Community Health Organization – Ellen Rabinowitz and Patrick Barrie

Comm. Gunn stated that she is impressed with the accomplishments of the plan. She added that the plan is doing a great job with leveraging.

Comm. Judge stated that she appreciates the job being done and stated she is pleased with the program. She asked about the money that ran out when the plan was closed. Rabinowitz reported that the fund balance of the plan disappeared. She added that as much money has been utilized as possible at this point. Rabinowitz reported that the plan will attempt to pursue other funding. She stated that she expects that the program may be reopened in the late fall of 2010.

Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to thank Patrick Barrie for the presentation. He stated that success in the future hinges on Medicaid eligibility.

Update on Eastern Leaders Group – Anthony VanDerworp

Comm. Judge asked if the seed microloan fund was authorized through the CAB. Comm. Peterson stated that the CAB authorized administrative costs. He added that the \$50,000 initially contributed by the County are leverage for 7 to 10 times the amount of federal dollars.

Comm. Judge asked if different municipalities also contribute to SPARK. Finney reported that many other municipalities contribute to SPARK. Comm. Judge asked if the \$225,000 appropriate was 2009. Guenzel reported that it was and added that the 2010 recommendation is substantially less. The Ypsi Works publication was also presented (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Smith stated that this has been an exciting opportunity to see synergy develop. He added that this project has been a success due to the vision of Comm. Peterson, partners involved, and interagency cooperation.

Comm. Ouimet stated that this has been a wonderful process to go through. He stated that the Ypsilanti Chamber goals have been interfaced with the Eastern Leaders Group and stated that this has been extremely important. Comm. Ouimet stated that having the university involved brings a piece that has not yet been seen. He added that this is the best opportunity for success in multiple decades.

Comm. Peterson stated that he wants to thank all that have participated in Eastern Leaders as well as all other commissioners. He stated that the County has to be working in concert in order to make a consortium like this work. He stated that the challenges of eastern Washtenaw County will continue for years to come. Comm. Peterson stated that there has not been an opportunity that has gone by with the Eastern Leaders group without participation of Bob Guenzel. He stated that there is no way that the group would have been born without his efforts. He added that all in the County have a vested interest.

County Administrator's Report

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Judge distributed a report on NACo prepared by Trena Rusher (on file in County Clerk's office). She added that she made a connection with Kenneth Coleman of National Cyber Security Division in the Department of Homeland Security. She stated that she and Jerry Clayton will be holding a Cyber Security Event at the end of NACo. Comm. Judge stated that she became a member of the Judicial and Public Safety Committee and added that she will take legislative initiatives from MAC and NACo to department heads.

Comm. Judge also reported on MAC. She reported that a group is being formed titled WOMAC and added that she is running for the MAC Board. She stated that she would like to be on the MAC Board in the next couple of years. Comm. Judge distributed a list of all NACo members (on file in County Clerk's office). Comm. Judge stated that all need to be counted in the upcoming Census.

Comm. Schwartz stated that he would like a report on the ETCS Rehabilitation and Energy Efficiency program.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until September 17th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Jessica Ping, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: