

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

January 21, 2010

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. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore,

and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Judge

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

Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Diane Heidt, Nina Johnson, Human Resources; Jennifer Watson, Support Services; Mark Lindke, Veterans Affairs; Greg Dill, Sheriff's Department; Ben Toole, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, Stephanie Jensen, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and

members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Jeff Sander, 10 Church St., City of Milan, stated that his business purchased a property from the County Treasurer. He added that it was found that the title was not clear after a title search was done. Sander stated that notice was not given to the people that owned the land. He added that he requested the foreclosure file from the Treasurer's office. Sander added that he also spoke with Curt Hedger and it was reported that the Treasurer did not want to have a meeting. He added that he hopes that McClary would resolve the issue quickly and cheaply. He stated that he would like a simple and quick answer. He stated that he would like to see if there is any way that the County can help.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Ouimet stated that this is a solvable issue. He added that he would like someone to coordinate this to get the right people in the room.

Comm. Schwartz stated that if there is an issue with due process with the land owner. He stated that in some instances the general property tax act would require the land back and an issuance of a refund.

Comm. Smith stated that the land bank has now been established. He stated that Comm. Smith and Comm. Prater could request the Land Bank Authority to start a process. He added that Commissioners may be able to play a liaison role.

Comm. Prater asked how long this process has been going on. Sander reported that it was brought in the fall of 2006.

Comm. Bergman stated that she is sad that the Treasurer has not reached out to have a conversation on this topic.

Comm. Gunn stated that the Board does not have jurisdiction over the Treasurer but added that the Board can reach out.

Discussion Items:

County Administrator Interviews

Verna McDaniel gave a presentation on her reasons for wanting to become County Administrator as well has her qualifications for the position (on file in County Clerk's office).

Commissioners asked McDaniel questions from a list provided by the County Human Resources office (list of questions is on file in County Clerk's office).

Letter of Interest, Resume, and Application for Verna J. McDaniel are on file in County Clerk's office.

County Administrator's Report

Bob Guenzel reported on the letter received by Ypsilanti Township regarding contract deputies. He added that the Briefing is Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Comm. Prater asked if the Sheriff is at full staff. Guenzel reported that they are more than full staff which offers the opportunity for Scio Township depending on what the Sheriff wants to do.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he does not want to negotiate with municipalities currently that are involved in lawsuits with the County.

Comm. Irwin stated that the letter addresses having a mutually agreed upon change. He added that this letter does not seem to meet the six month opt out.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Peterson asked when a presentation would be coming forward on the move of Juvenile Court to the downtown Courthouse. He stated that he is concerned about integration. He added that this concern is on behalf of the citizens of Washtenaw County. Comm. Peterson stated that children are still owed a great deal of respect and added that dignity should be respected. He stated that his mind will not be changed on this issue. Comm. Peterson stated that he would like outside consultants to come in and discuss what some other counties are doing.

Comm. Schwartz stated that integration is going to be an issue. He added that dealing with this in an appropriate way is a mandated responsibility of the County.

Comm. Bergman stated that she agrees. She added that exposing children to the mayhem that goes on in the halls of the court is wrong. She stated that she would like the Chair of the Board to put a committee together to look at this issue.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Smith moved that the meeting be a Motion carried.	adjourned until February 4 th , 2010 at 6:30 p.m
The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.	
	Jessica Ping, Chair
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk	

APPROVED: February 3, 2010