WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

February 18, 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, Judge, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Ouimet and Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Watson, Budget; 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

Discussion Items:
Administration 2010 Planning Initiatives Discussion
Bob Guenzel and Verna McDaniel presented the 2010 Administration Planning Initiatives (on file in County Clerk's office).

Commissioners discussed the following initiatives:

Police Services Cost Analysis
Comm. Judge stated that the Financial Subcommittee of the PSSC would be meeting in the near future and Comm. Prater added that he agrees with the goals.

Lump Sum Agreement
Comm. Gunn asked if a lump sum agreement is necessary. Guenzel stated that it was a model for the State when created. He added that it fosters cooperation.

Comm. Smith stated that he would like to be a part of any conversation related to the lump sum agreement. He added that the budget is the only check over the judicial system.

Comm. Bergman stated that the negotiation of a lump sum agreement should be done for each budget cycle. She added that she would like much more control over the budget.

Jail/Court Construction Project
Comm. Schwartz stated that the PS&J has been effective and has been able to take on various interests surrounding the jail.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to maintain a positive scheduling relationship for meeting space.

Juvenile Division Move to Ann Arbor Courthouse
Comm. Bergman stated that she is against the Juvenile Division move and feels that it is wrong. She stated that she would like to see a consultant come in and offer some advice.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to look at options surrounding the Platt Road building.

Comm. Smith stated that there are family justice court designs that offer a different kind of atmosphere. He added that there are resources that can be tapped into. Comm. Smith added that this is worthy of more investigation.

Comm. Schwartz stated that a court committee on this issue is taking this issue seriously. He added that he feels that this committee will be sensitive to this issue.

Comm. Prater stated that he is also opposed to this move. He added that the court house space is going to be more crowded and congested. Comm. Prater added that the building on Platt Road is still solid but needs maintenance.

Ann Arbor City/County Collaboration
Comm. Judge stated that she would like to say countywide collaboration efforts.

Comm. Prater stated that it will be essential to put a plan together on collaboration. He added that he would like to be brought up to date on Central Dispatch.

Comm. Gunn reported that four dispatchers have been hired that have been with the City of Ypsilanti. She added that the City is paying for these dispatchers. Comm. Gunn added that there are several agreements with other townships.

Comm. Schwartz stated that there are many collaborations occurring in Washtenaw County. He added that move savings can be found in communities through central dispatch.

Comm. Ping stated that it is important to reach out to communities to ask if there is any interest.

Administrator Transition
Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to see a draft of the contract once completed.

Comm. Prater asked if the appointment of the Deputy Administrator would need to be confirmed by the Board. McDaniel stated that executive staff includes the Deputy and the department heads and added that she plans to bring recommendations back.

ETCS Reorganization
Comm. Judge stated that she feels that the ETCS organization is a well oiled machine and added that she does not want to lose integrity or individual programs.

Comm. Smith asked if there has been any thought given to weatherization for the Department of Energy and Economic Development. McDaniel reported that she would like to bring VanDerworp and Callan into this conversation.

Comm. Gunn stated that the Urban County also does this work and added that a strategy needs to be developed to avoid duplication of programs.

Finance & Budget Reorganization
Comm. Judge stated that the plan for the Finance/Budget transition is on the right check.

Comm. Smith asked if there is a check/balance function between Finance and Budget at this time. McDaniel stated that she does not feel that there will be any diminishing checks/balances through the merger of these departments. She added that she has been in frequent communication with Jennifer Watson on this transition. She stated that she feels that these synergies aligning will be beneficial.

Comm. Prater stated that he feels that having budget/finance in the same department will be beneficial.

MSU Extension Reorganization
Comm. Gunn stated that MSU Extension is a valuable part of state government that is supported on the local level.

Comm. Bergman asked if any other information has been provided at this time. McDaniel stated that the State is waiting to see who hangs around and will be moving to educators instead of directors. She added that she is still going through the report.

Comm. Smith asked if any of the clustered communities have a dedicated funding stream for MSU Extension as there is in Washtenaw.

Comm. Ping stated that she would like to thank the Board for their support of MSU Extension.

WCHO/CSTS Integration
Comm. Bergman stated that one of the most important issues that will be coming up is the urban cooperation agreement. She added that she would like the Board to appoint two primary and two secondary consumers.

Transparency of Government Initiative
Comm. Gunn stated that she supports the transparency initiative. She added that she wants to see it done but not overdone.

Comm. Judge stated that she would like to see the Board take the lead on the transparency initiative.

Comm. Bergman stated that putting a ton of data in one place is not a great idea.

Comm. Smith stated that he recommends tracking hits and making access to popular data more accessible. He added that new software programs could also be done.

Comm. Judge stated that meetings have also taken place with the five countywide elected officials.

Comm. Bergman stated that popular hits should be available at this surface.

Revenue & Grants Pursuit
Comm. Gunn stated that cuts in state revenue need to be monitored very carefully.

Comm. Prater stated that some pressure needs to be put on Kirk Profit regarding grants and revenue.

Comm. Judge stated that MAC services should also be kept in mind.

Comm. Bergman stated that the organization and the WHCO have taken initiative in getting grants.

FTE by Department
Comm. Prater stated that he feels that a permanent hiring freeze will need to be put on to get the FTE count down in the next few years. He added that his fear is having to go through job eliminations in the near future. He added that this needs to be high on the priority list.

Comm. Judge stated that she would like continued use of the long document.

Cash Management Policy Development
Comm. Schwartz stated that a discussion on where priorities are going to be needs to take place. Comm. Schwartz asked if cash management is coordinated with the Treasurer. McDaniel stated that it will definitely need to be done. Guenzel stated that he would like to recommend that Pete Collinson and Mark Kettner attend a Working Session to discuss internal controls before moving forward on the resolution introduced at the Board meeting last evening. Comm. Gunn added that this would allow the public to receive information directly.

Review Internal Controls
Comm. Judge stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to review internal controls.

Comm. Prater stated that in most cases internal controls are fine. He added that in most cases it has been something that was overlooked that causes an issue. Comm. Prater stated that he feels this is a good practice.

Comm. Gunn stated that she feels that a Working Session is the place to do this.

Topics not listed on the Initiative Handout
Comm. Irwin stated that some external community leadership was missing. He stated that he would also like to see the Blueprint to End Homelessness the Literacy Coalition, and other external items.

Comm. Schwartz stated that this exercise was positive because it focused on work with the Administrator.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to have a list of where the County has its toe in the door.

Comm. Prater stated that the Planning Initiative is another large item at the top of the sheet that was not brought up. He added that he feels that this is going to take time to deal with. McDaniel reported that the future strategy needs to be vetted through the Board.

Comm. Judge stated that discussions with human services partners also need to take place. Guenzel reported that this is a work in progress. He stated that there was a group that made recommendations to the Board on human services. McDaniel reported that she has attended these meetings and added that the subject matter has been very broad. She stated that this item can be added to the list.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to talk about figuring how much money will be spent on the juvenile court at Platt Road and whether the building is worth saving.

County Administrator's Report
None

Items for Current/Future Discussion
None

Pending
None

Citizen Participation
Gene DeRossett stated that a bike rack has been set aside for a bike rack at the Saline Court. He added that he is in complete agreement with the report presented by the Sheriff on 2/17. He added that he had a conversation with Chief Judge Tabbey to ensure that the facility will be available for use by County Departments. He stated that this is about the citizens.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Sizemore moved that the meeting be adjourned until March 4th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Jessica Ping, Chair

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

APPROVED: March 3, 2010