



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

April 8, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Board of Commissioners Chair, Rolland Sizemore, Jr. 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, Prater, and Sizemore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Judge, Peterson, Ping, Schwartz, and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Mary Jo Callan, Community Development; Patricia Denig, Aaron Kraft, ETCS; Ken Schrader, ITS; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; 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:

Update on American Recovery Reinvestment Act – *Community Development Director Mary Jo Callan and ETCS Interim Executive Director Patricia Denig*

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to thank both presenters for their work. She asked if neighborhood providers can be used to do some of the cooking for neighbors. Denig stated that she feels that the larger the contract the better the system. She added that more could be looked at for getting support to people in more rural areas of the County. Comm. Bergman asked about the cooperation of agencies involved in home ownership. Callan stated that agencies are beginning to look at collaboration. She stated that this can be challenging and added that Community Development is trying to get agencies to look at some of these possibilities. Comm. Bergman stated that the community is going to eventually have to have this conversation. Comm. Bergman asked is there is engagement with schools in conducting training. Denig stated that any funds coming through the Workforce Development side can only be directed to agencies that are federally accredited. Comm. Bergman asked what the figures are on employment for citizens going through job training. Denig stated that she thinks it is around 20% and will get the figures out to the Board. Denig stated that some of these dollars also go to help employees look into new technologies and create and retain positions.

Comm. Gunn stated that the regulations on these programs are incredibly complex. She stated that complying with these regulations is critical and added that she is glad that silos are being broken down between these two departments.

Comm. Prater asked if the reports were based primarily on 2009 work. Callan reported that most of these dollars are not applicable to the normal fiscal year for grants. Comm. Prater asked if following the County budget is difficult given this timing. Verna McDaniel reported that this is dealt with on the budget side.

Comm. Prater asked what is being done to make sure that contracts comply with Davis-Bacon. Denig reported that additional staff that are quality assurance specialist as well as a consultant on Davis-Bacon have been hired to ensure quality control and compliance. Comm. Prater asked if contractors are trained. Aaron Kraft reported that this is correct. Comm. Prater stated that he would like to see a list of contractors and their location of operation.

Comm. Ouimet asked if senior nutrition services are the same services that are provided to senior centers. Denig stated that this is one component along with serving the home bound. He stated that these are beneficial programs for both the food and the socialization.

Comm. Irwin asked what the challenge is around market competition. Callan reported that there is a dilemma around people that can pay cash for a home. She reported that an appraisal must be done before a home can be purchased through the program and stated that there is at least a four week lag. She stated that people can come in and make a cash offer in the mean time. Callan stated that she is seeing people that are speculative, some acquiring for rental property, and fewer as a primary homestead. Comm. Irwin asked what the difference between NSP and CDBG-R. Callan reported that CDBG-R funds can be used for housing development, neighborhood revitalization, and public infrastructure and facilities. She added that NSP is all about foreclosure reclamation. She stated that NSP dollars can only be used in Ypsilanti City, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township.

Comm. Bergman asked if some programs can accept contributions however small. Denig reported that they can.

Presentation on the Proposed Revision to the Washtenaw County Felony Employment Process - Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative of Washtenaw County Community Coordinator Mary King

Comm. Gunn stated that this program works in Battle Creek. She added that there are not many jobs in Michigan. Comm. Gunn stated that the Board should take a careful look at banning the felony box on applications.

Comm. Bergman stated that she feels that the Board should look into banning the felony box on applications. She stated that King has done an excellent job. She stated that people that have been through the MPRI program desperately want to work and return to the community.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he would like to thank King for staying on this path. He stated that he looks forward to working on this. Comm. Irwin stated that this is an interesting idea and stated that he will like to hear from HR, departments, and employees. He added that he would like to thank King for bringing this forward. He added that reducing recidivism will be the key that unlocks the problem with corrections in Michigan.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he looks forward to working with King.

County Administrator's Report

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

None

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Bergman moved that the meeting be adjourned until April 22nd, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Rolland Sizemore Jr., Chair of the Board

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

APPROVED: April 21, 2010