



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

May 20, 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, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, and Sizemore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Janis Bobrin, Water Resources Commissioner; Tony VanDerworp, Brett Lenart, Anya Dale, Economic Development and Energy; James McFarlane, Jason Fee, Support Services; Dave Shirley, Facilities; Ben Toole, ITS; 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:

A Primer on Infrastructure in Southeast Michigan – SEMCOG Manager of Environmental Programs Paul Tait, Director of SEMCOG and Chuck Hersey (on file in County Clerk's office)

Paul Tait also presented *Infrastructure Action Steps (draft)* (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to thank SEMCOG for the opportunity to sit on the committee. He added that he has volunteered his services to do a pilot program to look at all of the utilities. Comm. Sizemore added that he believes these programs will put the County in a better position for funding.

Comm. Gunn asked what carrots and sticks will make this work. Paul Tait stated that there needs to be a gas tax right now and added that another strategy is needed long term. He added that better communication with utilities can be done in the interim.

Comm. Prater stated that he has not seen anything about performance and management in the report. He stated that these are key factors in cost reduction. He added that he hopes people that can make a difference receive this report.

Comm. Bergman stated that she strongly feels that things need to change. He added that a gas tax is regressive and stated that it is not in the best interest to do this. Comm. Bergman added that there is a lesson on the micro level to determine what the first emphasis will be. Tait reported that the average income since 2000 has dropped 20%. Comm. Bergman stated that she feels that increasing the sales tax is a terrible idea. Chuck Hersey reported that basic needs need to be met if people are going to want to live here. Comm. Bergman stated that environmental quality is a luxury of wealthy nations and added that this may not last forever.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the condition of the roads in the County is scary. Hersey stated that extrapolation is needed to show what the various numbers are. Comm. Ouimet stated that the information provided is more of a snapshot. Comm. Ouimet stated that he would like to look at these issues and understand all of the alternatives. He added that he thinks a plus is the private sector and potential partners.

Comm. Judge stated that she feels that SEMCOG will be very important in the coming years. She stated that she would like to help lead the charge for collaboration. Comm. Judge stated that MAC and GCSI should also be brought into the conversation.

Comm. Schwartz stated that this presentation shows that Michigan has been a declining economy. He asked if governments need to take some action to reign in costs. He added that information needs to be put out to the public on how the public can extend the life of the infrastructure. He stated that the water around the state needs to be maximized for economic growth.

Comm. Irwin stated that reality needs to be faced in southeast Michigan and that the word rightsizing may be appropriate. He added that support is trying to be given over a sprawled population. Comm. Irwin asked how investment of transportation dollars will be invested in urban areas. Tait stated that the strategy is based only on maintaining what exists. Comm. Irwin asked how he would classify plans around the 75 and M59 corridors. Tait reported that it is stalled. Comm. Irwin asked if reducing the quantity of infrastructure is taken. Hersey reported that this is being looked at. Comm. Irwin asked if it would be appropriate for SEMCOG to circle the six largest areas and focus on them. Tait reported that the City of Detroit is doing this with neighborhoods.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he asked the Washtenaw Utilities Group to sit on the Board. He added that he agrees with Comm. Irwin on this topic.

Comm. Prater asked how all of these things can be done as long as Michigan Constitution has home rule.

Comm. Ping asked how many units of government are members. Tait reported that there are 7 counties and 233 smaller units of government in the region. Comm. Ping stated that it is going to take education on all levels of government to solve these problems. She asked what the goals of SEMCOG are on this project. Tait stated that he would like to see the infrastructure piece hitting home. Hersey stated that he feels that the first step is to engage utilities. Tait reported that there are concrete action steps.

Jail and Court Project Update – Facilities Manager Dave Shirley (on file in County Clerk's office)

Verna McDaniel presented two cover memos and resolutions regarding the 14A Court and Jail Renovation projects (on file in County Clerk's office). She indicated that she would like to bring these forward at the June 2nd Ways and Means meeting.

McDaniel reported on the jail and District Court construction. She reported that \$495,958 is the amount needed to finish the project. Comm. Bergman stated that she is concerned that the fence was built. She added that she would like the fenced area to be open to the public.

Comm. Judge asked if the fund balance in the Facilities O&M Fund Balance is similar to a document received earlier. McDaniel reported that it is and added that it will not impact anything else being done. Comm. Judge asked if the normal amount of change orders came forward on a project of this size. Dave Shirley reported that it is. Shirley reported that the project management by Clark was extended out due to the project being pushed back.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he wanted to make sure that the definitions of the three parts of the anticipated amount needed to finish the project were clear. He asked how the management will take place moving forward. McDaniel reported that she would come back with detailed reports on a regular basis.

Comm. Schwartz stated that there were some issues that came up. He added that there were many things found underground. He stated that Ann Arbor required the payment of a watershed fee. Comm. Schwartz added that some of the structure had to be changed to meet the philosophical needs of the new Sheriff that will likely save money in the future. He added that staff and Clark Construction deserve a lot of credit for keeping this thing online. He stated that for security purposes that a fence needed to be put up.

Comm. Bergman stated that the lot should be open for public use if spaces are taken. McDaniel reported on Non-Project Scope Considerations (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Judge asked if a contingency would be needed. Shirley reported the \$165,000 is within the last 30 days. Comm. Judge asked if the \$600,000 could be revisited prior to June 2nd. She stated that she has had some concerns about security on 14A-2.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to work with Shirley to reduce the cost of demolition. He added that he would look into the security issue. Comm. Sizemore asked why Clark is being retained through September. Shirley reported that there is a lot of work being done from one end of the building to the other and added that their services are needed.

Comm. Prater stated that he has never seen so many small change orders. Shirley gave the presentation (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Irwin asked what the price option is for the higher cost entrance. Shirley stated that he believes it is \$1.5 million but would forward the final number.

Comm. Prater asked if waivers of rights are being collected when payments are being made. It was reported by Clark Construction that they are. Comm. Ouimet asked what the lag time is on the waivers. Shirley reported that the lag time is approximately 30 days. The waiver verification process was discussed.

Comm. Prater asked what the process is for approval of change orders. It was reported that all change orders are taken through PS&J.

Energy Pilot Project and Energy Tracking – Economic Development and Energy Director Anthony VanDerworp

The presentation was given by Anya Dale and Brett Lenart (on file in County Clerk's office)

Comm. Gunn stated that she feels that the internal should be looked at before the external.

Comm. Prater asked if there is data that could be shared on other savings that were incorporated. Anya Dale reported that there are some difficult things to measure but added that there are some numbers available. Brett Lenart stated that he has spoken to Facilities about these savings and he feels comfortable with the numbers presented. He added that the level of detail such as saved trips on replacing equipment cannot be articulated. Comm. Prater stated that he does not think that their information should be accepted because of this. Tony VanDerworp stated that he will attempt to break more information out.

Comm. Schwartz asked if Chevron numbers are being audited in some way. Dale stated that energy savings have been checked. Comm. Schwartz asked if meteorological statistics have been tracked. Dale reported that she feels that DTE has tracked these numbers. Comm. Schwartz stated that the overall energy impact is not yet on paper. He added that savings are not really being seen after all payments to Chevron are taken into consideration. Lenart reported that this data is from five of eighteen buildings that are being serviced.

Comm. Ouimet stated that Dale has worked with the Dexter and Chelsea area plans. He stated that she did an excellent job on these plans. VanDerworp stated that he would like to get some direction on the pilot project.

Comm. Prater stated that something that will take hold and be attractive to the public should be done. He reported that solar heat for hot water is probably the most effective. He stated that if the payback and the initial cost are in line he would like to look at it. Comm. Prater stated that a method of tracking could be done through the CAB.

Comm. Bergman asked if a decision needed to be made tonight. Lenart reported that there is a fall grant deadline. Comm. Ping stated that the Board can get back to the group. Comm. Schwartz stated that the Board should go where the public is trending.

County Administrator's Report

Verna McDaniel reported that the Deputy Administrator candidates have been invited in on May 5th for an assessment.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Bergman stated that IT with seven counties is a very public priority for the County. She asked what the goals and staff time of the project are. Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to see goals and time commitments. She stated that it may be a worthy project and added that she would like to know more about it. Comm. Prater stated that this is a SEMCOG project.

Comm. Schwartz stated that he would like to have a report on the Home Energy Efficiency program.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Sizemore moved that the meeting be adjourned until June 3rd, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Jessica Ping, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: June 2, 2010