



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

November 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, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, Sizemore and Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Peterson, Sizemore, and Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; William Reynolds, Deputy County Administrator; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Ben Toole, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, County 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:

##### **MAC Services Overview – Tom Hickson**

(Presentation materials - 2 folders - on file in County Clerk's office.)

Comm. Prater stated asked what the problem has been in getting road funding. Tom Hickson stated that Michigan is 50th in road infrastructure and funding. He added that a hindrance is a willingness to vote for anything that is perceived as a fee or tax increase. Hickson stated that people are fearful of the political repercussions.

Comm. Judge stated that she always hears positive comments from legislators that she talks with. She added that she feels that it is imperative that the Board speaks as a whole. Comm. Judge added that MAC provides a way to connect with 83 counties on specific issues. Hickson stated that there are constituent services staff.

Comm. Irwin asked if MAC has a position on MPRI and the funding surrounding it. Hickson stated that the platform position is to support re-entry programs. He added that 60% of people coming out of prison end up back in. Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to see the platform become more specific and tailored toward MPRI. He added that MPRI provides a human services and a financial benefit. Hickson stated that a blueprint for a safer Michigan was co-authored. Comm. Irwin stated that indigent defense is a huge problem in Michigan. He added that he appreciates the work done by MAC on revenue sharing.

Comm. Ouimet stated that he would like to thank the presenters from MAC for attending. He asked what some of the support would be to provide the best practices for managing County budgets. Hickson stated that some counties have looked at three-year budgets. He stated that projecting the future is key. Comm. Ouimet stated that there is opportunity in MAC providing support.

Comm. Bergman asked about the efforts to see that the MPRI funding and community corrections funding is sufficient. Hickson reported that MAC has worked to help ensure a \$1.2 million increase in funding this year. He stated that 18 prisons have recently closed but the budget for the Department of Corrections keeps increasing.

Comm. Bergman stated that she is interested in a specific platform of action to see that practices change. She added that relying on fees says that charging fees is a cash cow. She stated that many fees have been forgiven for the County. Hickson stated that he looks forward to develop the platform.

Comm. Ping stated that she would like to thank MAC for the updates. She added that it is good to know that MAC has an attorney on retainer.

**County Administrator's Report**  
**Six Month Report**

Verna McDaniel presented a six month report (on file in County Clerk's office). She stated that the report presented is a summary of the work of the organization.

Comm. Gunn stated that she does not have constructive criticism and added that she feels that McDaniel has done a great job. Comm. Gunn added that she feels that the Administration team is moving in the right direction.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would like to thank McDaniel for her work and added that there has been a lot of praise in the community. She added that she trusts McDaniel and Reynolds.

Comm. Ouimet stated that this report has been a good benchmark. He added that a clear vision of challenges has been painted. He stated that staff has been pulled around to compliment strengths. Comm. Ouimet stated that he has also received a lot of positive feedback. He added that this work has also been done with style and grace.

Comm. Irwin stated that the outcome of the County property on Platt Road after the move of the Juvenile Court has not been discussed in the report. He added that his feels are that it is a liability. Comm. Bergman asked if that building will be fenced or knocked down. She stated that the Building Master Plan will be discussed in 2011.

Comm. Ping stated that she feels that it was great that McDaniel surrounding herself with good people. She added that it is great that there is a focus on consolidation and reducing the cost of government. She stated that activities are transparent. McDaniel stated that she would like to thank the Board for her comments. She added that staff has been very helpful throughout the process.

**Items for Current/Future Discussion**

None

**Pending**

None

**Citizen Participation**

None

**Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.  
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Jessica Ping, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: December 1, 2010