



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

November 4, 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, Schwartz, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Prater and Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; William Reynolds, Deputy County Administrator; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Greg Dill, Derrick Jackson, Sheriff's office; Jennifer Watson, SiRui Huang, Budget; Ken Schrader, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, County Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Lily Au, Ann Arbor, stated that she would like to discuss the coordinated funding issue. She stated that she does not feel that United Way should be a part of the coordinated funding proposal. Au stated that the City Council has no participation scheduled before their meeting. She stated that the United Way has been added to corruption in the past. She stated that the proposal in total is \$5 million. Au added that money leads to a power center which leads to corruption. She added that this proposal would lead to anger from groups like the ACLU.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Discussion Items:

Police Services Steering Committee Methodology – Sheriff Clayton

PSSC members Bill McFarlane (Superior Township), Michael Moran (Ann Arbor Township), Pat Kelly (Dexter Township), and Pat Vaillencourt (Manchester Village), also spoke on the value of contract deputies to the entire county (report on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to thank Sheriff Clayton for bringing a more collaborative style to Police Services discussions. He added that he feels that too much is defined into the overhead line. Comm. Irwin added that he feels that the Detective Bureau needs to be included because they provide a direct service to contracting entities. Clayton reported that the Bureau spends time all over the County and in jurisdictions with their own police agencies. Comm. Irwin stated that a lot of County resources on the line for public safety and add that the County would be paying a large percentage of the overhead as shown in Scenario #3. Clayton reported that the financial commitment of the County is understood by PSSC members. He added that other mandated services coming out of the Sheriff's office are not reported in this document. Comm. Irwin added that another \$2.5 million that is put up by the County is not reflected in this spreadsheet. Comm. Irwin stated that all of the information brought forward by the PSSC and the Sheriff's office is well presented in good faith. Moran stated that he does not feel that discussing the Detective Bureau is relevant to discussing the cost of putting a PSU on the road. Vaillencourt stated that County taxes also cover some of these costs.

Comm. Gunn stated that she would like the Sheriff for bringing civility to this conversation. She added that she feels that the twelve general fund deputies should be included. She stated that this is the largest non-mandated service that the County provides. Comm. Gunn added that she has been troubled that Ann Arbor residents have been paying twice.

Comm. Smith stated that he would like to thank all for putting in so much time. He stated that a 61% fringe benefit rate is something that will have to be investigated next year. Comm. Smith stated that he feels that there are ancillary costs that are separate from providing the PSU. He asked what the justification is for recommending a four-year contract. Clayton stated that longer term contracts provide stability and an example of valuing County employees. He added that he feels that expenditure and revenue figures are also known for longer periods of time. Clayton stated that fixed costs being spread out benefits the County as a whole. Comm. Smith stated that he would like to see this as a four-year cycle that aligns with the County budget process. Comm. Smith asked what the break point is for creating and eliminating positions. He added that this is another issue that needs to be factored into the discussion. Comm. Smith asked if there are mutual aid agreements in place. Clayton reported that these agreements are in place. He added that it has to be activated for other jurisdictions to respond. He stated that the Sheriff's office is in jurisdictions with police agencies now more than ever. Comm. Smith stated that he would like to see more work done on enhanced mutual aid. He stated that the number of staff needed to protect people in Washtenaw County needs to be evaluated. He stated that the ability to access road patrol deputies to meet a mandate will be a big incentive.

Comm. Ouimet stated the cost is the cost and added that the baseline has been established. He added that the next step for the Board is to determine the value back to the County. Comm. Ouimet stated that the more that this can be tie barred on a rolling basis to give townships and villages time to plan and manage the better. He added that he would commend the Sheriff and his team for getting things to this point.

Comm. Judge stated that she has been struck most by the detail at the subcommittee meetings. She stated that it was a benefit to come to this process fresh and added that she feels many relationships has been healed. Comm. Judge stated that there is a direct connection between crime rates and jobs. She added that all residents expect public safety. Comm. Judge stated that decisions made by the Board affect all people in Washtenaw County. She stated that police agencies are willing to work together without any reservations. Comm. Judge asked if there is a recommended best practice for a number of law enforcement officers based on population. Clayton reported that there is a calculation that can be used that will provide a number. He added that he would like to focus on per capita crime and preventing crime. Comm. Judge asked if there is a point of pricing the Board out of contracting. She asked about the formula for adding and subtracting deputies and stated that this would be a good thing for the PSSC to investigate. Comm. Judge stated that she would like to bring a resolution to accept the cost recommendation offered by the PSSC and have a decision as a Board. She added that she would like the PSSC to come up with a price recommendation.

Comm. Bergman stated that she would not be ready to accept these costs at the next meeting. She stated that too many questions have been asked at this point. Comm. Bergman stated that she would like an estimate on metrics associated with the Sheriff coming into the City of Ann Arbor. Comm. Bergman stated that she also feels that we are all part of a community.

Comm. Judge stated that the cost would be voted on and not the price. She stated that this would not affect the budget.

Comm. Ping asked if the Northwestern Study was done by other counties. Clayton reported that there was a reference in the Northwestern study to Oakland County. He added that recent models outside of the County have also been investigated. Comm. Ping asked how cutbacks by contracting jurisdictions will be addressed in a four-year contract. Clayton reported that six months advance notice is currently needed. Comm. Ping stated that she would like to ensure that the County is protected. She added that it will be important for the four new commissioners to be briefed before bringing it to a vote.

County Administrator's Report

None

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Judge reported that the HIV Resource Center is celebrating their 7th annual Wine Cellar event on Thursday, November 18th and added that she has tickets if anyone needs them.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 18th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Jessica Ping, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: November 17, 2010