WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

September 2, 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. Gunn, Irwin, Prater, Sizemore, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman, Judge, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, and Schwartz

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; William Reynolds, Deputy County Administrator; Kelly Belknap, Finance; Bob Tetens, Coy Vaughn, Parks and Recreation; Ken Schrader, 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:
Jail Renovation and 14th District Court Project Update – *Dave Shirley*
None

800 MHz Project Update – *Craig Swenson*
Craig Swenson, Jack Ceo, and Kelly Belknap presented the 800 MHz Project Update (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Prater asked when the project is anticipated to be completed. Ceo reported that the project is anticipated to be completed in November. Swenson added that all users would be using the system by this time and stated that some small clean up will still need to take place.

Comm. Sizemore asked why more money was paid for consulting than was budgeted. He asked why land acquisition ran over by $100,000. Swenson reported that this was underestimated in the beginning and stated that the lease on Dixboro contributed to this overage. Comm. Sizemore asked how long this system will operate without changes. Swenson stated that he would estimate 15 years at this point. He added that this project has yielded unprecedented cooperation.

Comm. Gunn stated that the group has done a wonderful job.

Comm. Smith stated that this has been an incredible project. He added that he is concerned about the financials. Comm. Smith asked what is causing the fund balance. Swenson reported that the biggest impact was negotiating extremely favorable terms with Motorola. Comm. Smith asked what the intentions are for the fund balance at the end of the project. Swenson reported that operating this system will continue to cost money. He added that continued maintenance will be needed. Swenson reported that the Project Oversight Committee will likely also institute user fees.

Comm. Smith asked who owns the system. Swenson reported that it is owned by Washtenaw County. McDaniel reported that Swenson has been contracted for the projected. She added that someone will be needed to continue with ministerial duties after November. Comm. Smith thanked Comm. Gunn for her leadership on this project.

Comm. Prater stated that the fund balance may not be as large as anticipated. Belknap reported that the projection was based on declining property values.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan – *Robert Tetens*
The Parks and Recreation Master Plan presentation was presented by Bob Tetens and Coy Vaughn (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Gunn stated that the progress since the beginning has been amazing. She added that the Natural Areas millage will be on the ballot as Proposal A in November added that she would urge people to vote yes.

Comm. Irwin stated that he gets a lot of positive feedback from citizens on the parks. He stated that he would like the Department to look at possibilities for minimizing the use of pesticides. Comm. Irwin stated that there may also be a way to switch to electric vehicles to transport some of the mowing equipment. He asked what role the Road Commission plays in the Boarder to Boarder Trail. Tetens reported that they have been a partner since 1998 and added that the Parks Department has worked with them on all paving. He stated that the Water Resources Commissioner has been extremely helpful in storm water management at Rolling Hills. Tetens stated that the Road Commission is working to expand the roadway off of Huron River Drive. Comm. Irwin stated that he feels the best idea would be to have both bike lanes and a separate trail for recreational purposes. He asked if the Road Commission has taken funds out of their budget to fund any of these projects. Tetens reported that he knows that they have but does not have details. He added that WATS allocates 4% of federal money to non-motorized purposes. Tetens reported that he cannot recall a project done with only the Parks Department.

Comm. Prater asked if the Parks Department has recreation programs for kids from low income families. Tetens reported that there are scholarship programs and discounts offered to in County children. He added that he feels that a miracle field would be very popular here. Tetens added that the Miracle League has been very good at getting corporate sponsor.

Comm. Sizemore stated that Parks is also working with Eastern Michigan University to put information on screens in exercise equipment at EMU that will contain information about the County. He added that the Recreation Center features a lot of youth programming and stated that people at the Recreation Center have done an excellent job. Comm. Sizemore reported that Skate Park in Ann Arbor, and the proposed boat house on Ford Lake have been good examples of collaboration. Comm. Sizemore stated that the Parks system draws many positive comments.

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. Gunn moved that the meeting be adjourned until September 16th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Rolland Sizemore, Jr.,
Board of Commissioners Chair

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

APPROVED: September 15, 2010