



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

February 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rabhi at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Judge, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, and Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; Bill Reynolds, Deputy County Administration; Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk; Ken Schrader, ITS; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Roger Rail stated that he is here to provide an update on the Pall Gelman dioxane contamination. He added that some of the dioxane may be heading for Barton Pond and have an impact on Ann Arbor municipal water. Rail stated that there are other readings showing large spikes in sampling wells.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Gunn stated that this is a problem that needs to go to the legislators. She added that she feels most of them know that this is a real threat. Comm. Gunn thanked Rail for bringing this back to the Board.

Comm. Judge asked if it would be helpful to create a resolution in opposition to the approval of the plan in the legislature. She added that she would be happy to help with support.

Discussion Items:

Redistricting – County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum

Lawrence Kestenbaum gave a presentation on redistricting (presentation materials are on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Conan Smith asked if precincts will remain static through the redistricting process. Kestenbaum stated that congressional district boundaries can cut through a community and added that precincts will probably have to be dealt with to accommodate. He added that the precincts not being dealt with at the County Commission level are the precincts that are already there. Comm. Conan Smith asked what the ideal role for the Board of Commissioners is through this process. Kestenbaum stated that commissioners are welcome to attend redistricting meetings and added that he anticipates sending out updates through e-mail. Kestenbaum reported that he feels that this census is going to be an accurate one. Comm. Conan Smith asked if there has been any thought about public engagement in the process. Kestenbaum reported that he would like to have public hearings and possibly in different parts of the County. He added that public and commissioner input is a part of the process. Comm. Conan Smith stated that he would like to see another Working Session as the Apportionment Commission gets close to making a decision.

Comm. Bergman stated that avoiding split precincts is important. She added that she could not see decreasing the size of the commission.

Comm. Prater asked if redistricting is based on the number of population and not the number of registered voters. Kestenbaum confirmed that it based on population. He added that the commission has not yet met and stated that he is eager to get the process started.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he would like to thank Kestenbaum for attending and added that the approach to redistricting sounds very rational. He added that the approach of doing what is right for the community sounds best. Comm. Rabhi stated that he agrees with Comm. Bergman and added that more representatives means more representation for the community.

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. Gunn seconded by Comm. Bergman moved that the meeting be adjourned until February 17th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Yousef Rabhi, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: February 16, 2011