



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

January 20, 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, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, and Turner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Judge, Peterson, Ping, and Sizemore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; 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:

##### **Board of Commissioners Retreat Planning Discussion – *Commissioner Conan Smith***

Conan Smith presented the framework for the Commissioner Retreat to be held on January 29, 2011. He discussed information needed before the retreat and essential outcomes. Comm. Conan Smith presented the following items expected to be addressed at the retreat: officials' key interests, scope of Public and Employee engagement, Budget priorities, and getting a grip on what is the County's business. Comm. Gunn stated that non-mandated services also need to be reviewed.

Comm. Dan Smith asked if numbers are attached to services provided in the mandated/non-mandated document. McDaniel reported that if the numbers are not there than they could be added.

Comm. Prater stated that it would be helpful to review the uniform budget and accounting act to look at beginning and ending fund balances as required.

Comm. Rabhi stated that having something to take back to the district to citizens would be very beneficial.

Comm. Bergman stated that the production of something such as a citizen satisfaction survey that would be of interest to city voters would be helpful.

Comm. Prater stated that figuring a way to communicate to employees would be helpful. Comm. Gunn stated that she would like to add that commissioners need to listen to employees for effective ideas. Comm. Turner stated that he would love to participate in some of the town meetings to show that commissioners are interested in what employees have to say. Comm. Dan Smith stated that he has been impressed with the quality of employees. He added that they are often constituents and taxpayers. Comm. Rabhi stated that engaging employees will be crucial going forward and added that the employees are implementing decisions made by the Board and have a lot of great ideas.

Comm. Prater stated that interest based bargaining is useful but he added that there are employees that have no interest in the unions at all. He added that he would like to develop a process to allow for employee suggestions. McDaniel reported that engagement of employees will begin with a survey to the group of 180. She explained the 180 group.

Comm. Bergman stated that the CHC has noted their outcomes. She added that it may be interesting to have priorities of the CHC distributed.

Comm. Gunn stated that there was a communities needs assessment done a few years ago that should be added to the list of documents. Comm. Gunn stated that activities done by others need to be taken into consideration.

Comm. Turner stated that coming together as a group on determining the County's business will dictate the success of the retreat. Comm. Dan Smith stated that he agrees with Comm. Turner and added that this needs to be a focus at the retreat. He added that there may not be perfect agreement at the retreat.

Comm. Gunn stated that it will be important not to let people that have been in a long time to get too bogged down in details.

Comm. Dan Smith asked who is facilitating the retreat. Comm. Conan Smith stated that the retreat will be held in the Board Room and added that he will be facilitating.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he encourages anyone watching to come out and see it in person.

#### **County Administrator's Report**

None

#### **Items for Current/Future Discussion**

Comm. Rabhi stated that the tentative agenda for future Working Sessions has been set and added that he will be expecting some feedback.

Comm. Turner stated that he would like to see a Working Session on the Trial Court project. McDaniel stated that more information will be available in late March or early April. She added that the architectural study has been given the go ahead. Comm. Prater stated that it is essential to get a cost laid out. Comm. Turner stated that there have been a couple of different estimates on cost. Comm. Dan Smith stated that there may be some interest in expediting the Working Session timeframe on this issue.

#### **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 February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.  
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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Yousef Rabhi, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: February 16, 2011