



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

May 19, 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, Judge, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, and Turner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Gunn and Sizemore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelly Belknap, Interim Deputy County Administrator; Jerry Clayton, County Sheriff; Greg Dill, Sheriff's Department; Ben Toole, ITS; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Joanna Bidlack, County Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### Roll Call

#### Citizen Participation

Walter Norris, Executive Director, Ypsilanti Housing Commission, stated that he would like to express appreciation on behalf of his board on behalf of the support that the Board of Commissioners offers. He added that a number of commissioners were present at their recent groundbreaking. Norris added that he would like to express support for human services funding.

#### Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

Comm. Conan Smith stated that it is important to hear from local government partners and added that human services has been made a priority by this Board. He stated that the City of Ypsilanti will benefit from these systemic investments.

#### Discussion Items:

#### **Police Services 2012 Contract Pricing Recommendation – Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton**

(Presentation on file in County Clerk's office)

Comm. Rabhi stated that he has been impressed with the work of the Sheriff's Department through the PSSC.

Comm. Conan Smith stated that he would like the Sheriff and his team. He asked for an explanation on the differential cost increase and how it is sustainable over time. Dill stated that most direct costs are passed on at 100%. He added that the Sheriff has created downward pressure on many of the operating costs presented. Dill stated that sustainability will be discussed between the Board and the Sheriff's office. Comm. Conan Smith stated that he does not take issue with the cost portion and added that he is trying to figure out the apportionment between the local jurisdictions and the Sheriff's office. Clayton reported that this is the recommendation up to 2015. He added that he does not assume that the Sheriff's office can continue to take this hit if the trend continues after 2015. Clayton reported that most of the costs seen by the contracting partners are direct costs. Comm. Conan Smith asked what some of the value metrics are in early research. Clayton reported that the overall value of the property in the County is one. He gave the example of investing in real estate and the insurance it provides. Clayton reported that the difficult part is trying to quantify the human value.

Comm. Conan Smith asked if the leveling off around 20% is something the contracting entities feel comfortable with. Michael Moran, Ann Arbor Township Supervisor, reported that he has tried to put together calculations of some of the financial metrics being dealt with by cities and counties. Moran reported that Ann Arbor Township revenue sharing is down 30% since 2002. He stated that all of the revenue sharing and general fund operating tax support is insufficient to cover costs for police services units in Ann Arbor Township, Superior Township, and Ypsilanti Township. He added that it was the intent of the local contracting entities to ask for a lower price but added that everyone realized that there would need to be a shared sacrifice. Moran stated that he believes that contracting jurisdictions can sustain this recommendation. He added that they are all committed to reducing the cost while maintaining safety.

Comm. Conan Smith stated that he is curious in thinking about 2016. Moran stated that everyone is hopeful that the economy has started to turn around by that point. He added that the contracting entities have made a significant effort so far. Dill stated that the Sheriff has challenged the office to look at everything in totality. He added that he would like to look at the revenue side of the equation as well. Comm. Conan Smith stated that the Board has the desire to minimize conflict between the Board and the Executive Branch. He added that stability over the long haul leads to less conflict. Dill reported that he expects assumptions to be modified over time. Comm. Conan Smith stated that the residents place a high premium on public safety and invest a higher portion of their tax dollars in public safety. Moran stated that it has been recognized that the County has a responsibility to provide public safety at some level. He added that the County cannot provide support without the contracting deputies.

Patricia Valliencourt, Manchester Village President, stated that Manchester is a beautiful and unique corner of Washtenaw County and added that it is a piece of history that must be protected. She added that the price for a PSU continues to go up. She stated that a Manchester Village resident pays 7 mills for police services. Valliencourt reported that it is impossible for such a small village to contract for a deputy. She added that she wants all residents to be safe and stated that she is pleased with what happened with the Police Services Steering Committee. Valliencourt reported that everyone can work together to weather this storm and added that she is personally committed to making this work. Comm. Conan Smith stated that there is a vast difference in the capacity across the County and added that the desire to stay safe is the same. He stated that he is pleased that the Sheriff is taking a values approach to this conversation. Comm. Conan Smith stated that he supports the price model.

Comm. Prater stated that he feels good about where this process is at and added that things have progressed slowly over the previous ten years. Comm. Prater stated that things have begun to turn around since Sheriff Clayton was elected. He added that this is the first department making the commitment to contain the cost. Comm. Prater added that this is a good start and provides four years of law enforcement service in the County.

Comm. Turner stated that he appreciates Clayton presenting this information to new commissioners. He added that this has been easier because costs were agreed on and predictability was provided. Comm. Turner stated that he appreciates the County commitment for helping this out. He added that the townships would not get the services they need without the assistance of the County. Comm. Turner reported that keeping the cost to the townships down will promote having more police on the road.

Comm. Sizemore asked how the partnership between Manchester Village and the other jurisdictions is working out. Valliencourt reported that this partnership has worked very well and has been happy with the service. She added that the residents are grateful for this collaboration. Comm. Sizemore stated that he would give everyone a lot of credit and thanked Comm. Prater and Comm. Judge for their hard work on Police Services committees. Dill reported that this has been a labor of love for the Sheriff's office. He added that there are a lot of hours in this model and stated that he would like to thank everyone.

Comm. Ping stated that she would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for their leadership and stated that this goes toward building community. She added that this model provides for shared sacrifice and stated that she is looking forward to hopefully not having issues around budget time with this issue. Comm. Ping stated that she feels it would go far on the part of the Board to add a 457 provider for deputies.

Comm. Judge stated that the question for her is pricing a PSU so high that she worries about what areas of the County will look like. She added that it has to be an affordable price. She added that public safety and human services are the two top priorities for the Board.

Comm. Dan Smith stated that he would like to express his thanks for this work. He added that township residents do place a high value on public safety. Comm. Dan Smith stated that the County is able to assist all communities in making residents feel safe. He added that he appreciates the work on the direct costs and how it relates to price. Comm. Dan Smith stated that the scary projection is the benefit increase over the years. He asked if there is any handle on that at this point. Clayton reported that the County has projected a 12.5% increase. Belknap reported that this is in line with the national trends. She reported that some of this does come back to the Board. Clayton reported that these numbers would be adjusted if the fringes come in below. Comm. Dan Smith stated that the contract would be revisited after two years but that a four year contract would be put in place.

Comm. Prater stated that the COAM and POAM stepped up and did what they needed to do. He added that that Board would like to thank these bargaining units.

Comm. Turner stated that he was at the law enforcement memorial service. He added that there is closeness between all of the police agencies. Comm. Turner stated that it amazes him how they all come together.

**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. Judge moved that the meeting be adjourned until June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.  
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Yousef Rabhi, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: June 1, 2011