

# SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Sharon Township Hall

April 13, 2005

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Ron Mann
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Sign In sheet circulated
4. Introductions
5. Draft Agenda approved, adding Steve Solowczuk
6. Minutes of March 9, 2005 (including Minutes from Fred Lucas presentation) approved
7. Review/Comments – Frederick Lucas presentation  
Comments – Jim Fish, members of Bridgewater Planning Commission that attended were very pleased. Ron Mann stated that Fred did a good job stressing it is not always what you want to do but what the law allows. Karl Racenis, Village Planning Commissioners felt it was very worthwhile. It was outstanding for new members to be made aware of these issues.
8. Police Services / Criminal Justice Discussion – Mr. Guenzel's recommendations are on the web site. He feels we need to add 96 beds at a cost of \$86 mil. We advocated another, more reasonable, millage request to build the 96 beds. Steve S. stated that options were reviewed at their meeting but there is no plan yet. Next Thursday night is another meeting. Everything is on the table. After the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting they will be visiting communities. Steve would like to be on our next agenda. Mr. Guenzel may attend. Jim Fish questioned who is in jail. Are there people awaiting sentencing on a misdemeanor who perhaps could be out with a tether. Steve stated that it is up to the Judges who is held in jail. Jim would like to see numbers on who is in and see if we are exploring ways to reduce the bed demand. Ron asked to see how many prisoners we are contracting out to other jails. Stan asked how many out-county prisoners we are housing. Steve said any numbers we have are only a snap shot of that day. Karl would like to see some information on the performance of judges in comparison to other areas and to each other. Dick I. stated that we do need a jail but the commissioners need to realize that we are just as broke as everyone else and they need to address only the jail need. Jim stated that they must do a much better job of communicating what they are proposing and true costs. Ron stated that one commissioner stated that her district has it's own police service so they feel they are getting double dipped. Ron has a hard time seeing what we are getting for all the taxes we pay into the county. Cindy questioned whether the police can be separated from the jail in the budget. Steve stated that they are run as two separate entities but run by the same person. Pat stated that we need to understand why Washtenaw Co. costs are so high and the services lower than other neighboring counties. Someone needs to be held accountable to justify their costs. Karl commented that he would like to see a spreadsheet comparing costs from county to county. Pat questioned whether the County is trying to price themselves out of the policing business. Ron confirmed that in the past we never had road patrol, only emergency response. Steve would like to see a list of questions so they can be prepared. Steve also let us know that there is an opportunity for someone to serve on the Raisin River Council.
9. Continuity of Government Plan – Jim Fish  
Ken Kelly, Emergency Management Division Wash. County, contact him. Under homeland security they want to know what steps have been taken to reinstate if there is an event. They do have a check list and a form to use. They deal primarily with populations of 10k or greater but considered us the SWWCOG and will handle our information. Ron stressed that as a minimum we should all be keeping duplicate, off-site records of critical information.
10. Traffic Committee Report – Ron reported that Ken Reiter was not able to be at this meeting but expects to be at the next meeting to wrap up the ROW plan. WATS projects in our area is left turn

lane M52/Pleasant Lake Rd. will be next spring, in the fall they hope to work on bridges on 94 and 23, relocating Chelsea rest area.

11. County Sponsored Recycling Day, April 16 – Local Volunteer coordinator, Richard Steffani  
There are still opportunities for volunteers. Be there at 8:30. Enter off Dutch Drive to keep back up traffic off M52. There will be signs posted and a prison work crew will be there to help unload. Volunteers will do traffic control, hand out surveys and other light work.
12. Wireless Project Report – Ray Berg distributed a timeline and reviewed two March meetings. There was about 100 people at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The goal is to have high speed internet access for Wash. Co. equally available in 2007. They are now talking about 3 pilot programs, rather than 2. We are lobbying hard and hoping that we have a good shot at being one of the pilots. There will be a vendor technology meeting in May. The time line states that by the end of this year the first pilot program should be installed. There will be an article in the Manchester Enterprise tomorrow on wireless. Jeff Whitman questioned who was going to pay for this. Ron explained that there maybe a very basic service free but as the service levels go up there will be fees associated. Jeff expressed concern that we mislead residents that “free or very low costs” and how it will affect those in this business. Other concerns expressed about County plan/influence on small businesses that are working now to provide these services.
13. SWWCOG web site – Ray Berg distributed list of suggestions for format and items to include. He would like suggestions. Next week there is a meeting of One Washtenaw. County will help set up and Ray will do the main loading. We should have a good web site in 4 – 5 months.
14. Election of Officers – Ron announced that he cannot devote the time to fulfill the position and opened the floor for nominations for volunteers. No response. Ron stressed the good things that this group is doing and that there will be more demands in the future to work together as our revenues continue to be reduced. Pat offered to accept the Chair position if someone would take over the Secretarial duties. Ron suggested that maybe we could find a volunteer, not necessarily a member, to be Secretary. Jim Fish nominated Pat Vaillencourt as Chair, Ron Ellison 2<sup>nd</sup>, nominations closed. Pat accepted nominations with the understanding that she will accept only if a secretary is found. All in favor. Ron stressed that everyone needs to work on getting a secretary and he is willing to work with Pat to fill the position.

#### 15. Roundtable Discussion

Schools – Ron Ellison – the Board has decided to look at the food service program since they are loosing money. They are looking to break even by privatizing the management and not make money, in spite of the rumors. The \$175 from the State will mostly be eaten up by pension and cost increases and the school will benefit very little. They are trying to determine the cause of the power surges that caused a \$15k problem. They have not paid for the cost yet.

Sharon – Tom Lavendar - trying to determine what to do with the township hall. He and Bill Chizmar are looking at remodeling, getting an administrator and having regular hours. Zoning ordinance is a continuing thing. It should be completed within 6 months.

Freedom – Bob Little – last night meeting was one of the fastest – only 50 minutes. Renewed the contract on lawn service, had a good report from the Library and Planning Commission. Planning is looking at old conditional uses to see if everyone is still compliant.

Bridgewater – Cindy Carver, looking at a few developments, continuing dealing with sewer and major installation problems. They expect a very heavily attended meeting on Wednesday. Jim – they are considering a public hearing in May on changes to zoning ordinance dealing with wireless plan. Also, a few months ago adopted a new classification for hamlet residential and doing a couple of updates to it.

Manchester Twp – Ron – planning is sending a recommendation for the former gravel pit at northeast side of town to be rezoned for a 27 unit development. Plans look very nice. Have a 475 acre farm that is being broken up and sold. They have had engineering firms in talking about other developments and are back in court with the Huron Valley Nighthawks. They pleaded no contest. George – planning recommended granting permission for an addition to the Sharon Valley Church, discussion on the public access to the Leonard property. Apparently the Nature Conservancy has a buyer for the 40 acre parcel adjacent to the Leonard property.

Village – Pat Vaillencourt – will be appointing the DDA Commission at the next meeting. It's budget time and there is a lot of concern over the cost of the Sheriff. Uniloy auction extended to the end of May, both buildings will be empty this weekend. Apparently the Scully property has been sold to a developer and others are asking questions. It appears that home sales are picking up, we currently have about 100 homes on the market. The Village and Manchester Twp are planning a joint meeting in May.

13. Other: Ron said that personal property value dropped by 7.2%. School election is May 3<sup>rd</sup> and we need to vote at our township halls.

14. Adjourned 9:00 pm

Next Meeting: May 11, 2005 at Manchester Village Community Building  
Prepared and submitted by: Pat Vaillencourt, Village of Manchester