

SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Manchester Village Offices
May 11, 2005

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Pat Vaillencourt
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Representatives present: Gary Blades/Sharon, Ron Ellison/Manchester Schools, Tania Kersey/Bridgewater, Bob Little/Freedom, Tom Lavendar/Sharon, Ron Mann/Manchester Twp, Karl Racenis/Manchester Village, Pat Vaillencourt/Manchester Village.
Commissioners present: Martha Kern/District 2, Stephen Solowczuk/District 3.
Others present: 106 guests (sign in sheet circulated).
3. Election of Secretary
Pat opened floor for nominations. Moved by Bob Little to nominate Tania Kersey as Secretary, second by Tom Lavender. Ron Mann closed nominations, Bob Little seconded. Passed to elect Tania Kersey as Secretary.
4. Sign in sheet circulated
5. Introductions
Waived at this time, except to introduce SWWCOG members and Commissioner Solowczuk.
6. Draft agenda approved with suggestion to suspend items 11, 12 or others given the attendance and importance of topic of police services. Motion Ron Ellison, second by Ron Mann, passed.
7. Minutes of April 13, 2005 approved.
8. Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners - Public Safety & Justice Needs
Chair Pat Vaillencourt set ground rules for meeting and further asked Administrator Guenzel to explain the process and who has input in to the process. Commissioner Solowczuk introduced Administrator Guenzel.

Administrator Guenzel thanked SWWCOG for hosting the County Administration for the forum. Mr. Guenzel introduced himself and his responsibilities to provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on policy matters. He explained that recommendations have been received by the Board but not acted on. Mr. Guenzel explained the reasoning for the community forums.

Administrator Guenzel gave a brief presentation of the history leading to his recommendation regarding public safety and justice needs and explained the various colored handouts (as follows):

- * Correspondence from Mr. Guenzel to BOC dated April 21, 2005:
"Public Safety & Justice Funding Alternatives and Recommendation"
- * Correspondence from Mr. Guenzel to BOC dated April 6, 2005:
"Public Safety & Justice Recommendation"
- * Correspondence from Mr. Guenzel to BOC dated April 21, 2005:
"Response to Public Safety & Justice Proposal Questions"
- * Worksheet "Contribution by Jurisdiction" (revised as of May 4, 2005)
- * Correspondence from Mr. Guenzel to BOC dated May 5, 2005:
"Explanation of Washtenaw County 2006 Projected Cost per PSU"
- * Correspondence from Plante Moran to Mr. Guenzel dated May 4, 2005:
"Sheriff's Department PSU Cost Analysis"
- * Worksheet "Oakland and Macomb Comparison", "Projected Township Costs at 2006 Oakland County Rates"
- * Correspondence from Plante Moran to Mr. Guenzel dated May 5, 2005:
"Jail Inmate Cost Comparison"

Administrator Guenzel concluded with comment that police protection is needed in Washtenaw County. The issue is who is going to pay for the police services. Administrator Guenzel is pushing for the Board of Commissioners to take action on his recommendation in June. All comments from community forums will be available on the website. Lastly, Mr. Guenzel introduced other administration staff in attendance.

Sheriff Minzey addressed the crowd. He explained that he participated with the group that presented the package that was turned down at the polls and that he felt a separation between County Administration and his office occurred following the rejection of the voters. Sheriff Minzey disagrees with the scaled down version of the same proposal. He proposes that the Board of Commissioners return to the public, explain the situation, and ask what is important to them, which he expects will be public safety first and jail second. Sheriff Minzey is concerned about the fast track time line of Administrator Guenzel's recommendation to the BOC. Sheriff staff have been working to prepare and present a "bare bones" proposal to the BOC on May 19. Sheriff Minzey recognized Undersheriff Mahoney. He further noted that only Commissioner Solowczuk and Commissioner Kern were in attendance at the meeting..

Public comment. Various comments were made by several participants - in summary:

Attendance at the community forums by only a select few Commissioners,
Comments from forums being provided to all Commissioners,
Safety and well being is the responsibility of the elected officials,
Concerns regarding "police free zone" and an increase in gun sales,

Questions comparison with Oakland/Macomb and not Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, etc.,
Population of the jail not supported with out-County residences,
Discussion regarding full cost recovery vs. incremental cost recovery psu,
Attempt to clarify costs per psu, allocation of tax dollars for subsidy,
Unfair allocation of services received from the County between urban and rural areas,
Discussion of Sheriff staff assistance to non-contracting Townships for non-emergency,
Concern re: taxable value, % of annual increases, County's priority with tax dollars.,
BOC is not relatable to rural areas service needs, continue to threaten eliminating police,
Full cost recovery not fair if still includes mandated costs,
Concern that the County will shift money saved by elimination of subsidy elsewhere,
Suggestion to establish a separate entity with the Sheriff similar to the Road Commission,
Concern regarding inability to maintain or increase business base without police services,
Inequity of all non-mandated services, including police, provided throughout County,
Encourage BOC to conduct themselves as "County govt." , not "district govt." ,
Property owners are not informed, not educated, regarding police protection,
Discussion regarding grassroots support of separate, specific, millage proposal(s),
Consider "not-to-exceed" subsidy, providing for rural areas while limiting urban areas,
Distrust with the County, needs to be rebuilt,
Dissatisfaction with inclusion of administration costs in psu cost, question formula,
Public has impression that the County does not care about public safety,
Concern regarding fast track of the Administrator for BOC to eliminate subsidy,
Suggestion to reallocate funds, reassess budget to maintain police protection and jail,
Suggestion to eliminate other non-mandated services,
Concern with elimination of other non-mandated services,
Concern regarding County spending on homeless shelter, Zeeb Rd, no spending on jail,
Concern with number of inmates, transfer to Jackson,
Mutual aid response (motor vehicle accidents),
Suggestion to rebate Townships who do not utilize jail (urban vs rural),
Concern that entire Sheriff budget needs assessment,
Encourage County to hear concerns, ask for support for requested services,

Concern regarding expense to operate the expanded jail,
Concern about County guided principles, reducing costs of conducting County business,
Prompt response with Sheriff is an attraction for business and property owners,
Suggestion to levy the subsidy to create fairness for use of service,
Built annex/service center without millage, failure in redirection of funding for jail,
Suggest separate millage requests (jail, court, road patrol) and allow people to decide,
Concern with forcing development to afford public safety,
Without police patrol, businesses likely to close, forcing inconvenient travel,

Commissioner Solowczuk thanked the audience for attending. Stated he would support constituents. He further thanked SWWCOG, Administrator Guenzel, Sheriff and Undersheriff, etc. Chair Pat Vaillencourt thanked Commissioner Solowczuk, Administrator Guenzel, Sheriff, Undersheriff, etc. for attending. Stated SWWCOG will look forward to additional meetings before any final decisions are made.

Crowd disbanded

9. Ron Mann motion to dispense with remaining agenda (items 9 thru 13) and adjourn, Ron Ellison seconded. Passed.
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting: June 8, 2005 at Manchester Township Hall, 275 S. Macomb Street, 7:00 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by: Tania Kersey, Bridgewater Township