

# **SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**7:00 pm Wednesday, JANUARY 11, 2006**

**MANCHESTER VILLAGE HALL**

## **MINUTES**

1. Call to Order by Pat Vaillencourt at 7:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Sign In  
Members Present - Pat Vaillencourt, Neel Sheth, Ron Mann, Tom Lavender, Robert Little, Karl Racenis, George Daubner, Peter DeLouf, Ron Ellison, Karl Racenis.  
Others Present - Jim Fish, Steve Solowczuk, Austen Smith, Jesse O'Jack, Jan Godek, Dwayne Vaillencourt, Wesley Prater, Mark Ouimet, Lyle Widmayer, Reno Feldkamp, Chris Fegan, Brian Sharkey, Glenn Burkhardt, Jim Anuzkiewicz, Bob Gunzel, Gordon Burger.
4. Introductions
5. Approval of Agenda- Motion made, supported and approved unanimously.
6. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2005- Motion made, supported & approved unanimously.
7. Washtenaw County Public Safety & Justice Needs Update  
Pat Vaillencourt- Steering Committee meeting results from today.  
Contract signed by Village and Bridgewater Township for 4 years due to confidence in being able to work out details for 3rd and 4th contract year.  
Steering Committee has met 6 times than the original 2 planned meetings.  
2008 proposal cost is \$116,700 per deputy, with 4% increase for 2009.  
Restoration of County-wide road patrol proposed with 12 deputies and command officer countywide.  
No cuts proposed to current core polices services (detectives, SWAT, etc).  
County proposing to increase Public Safety funding from \$4.5 M to \$7M in 2008.  
Steve Solowczuk (County Commissioner)-  
2 public meetings planned to review proposal-  
Feb 9: 7-9 PM at library in Washtenaw County building.  
Feb 16: afternoon meeting in Scio or Lodi Townships (details TBD).  
County switching from Police Service Unit to incremental cost model.  
Union contract issues may also need to be addressed with these proposals.  
Wes Prater (Chairman of Board of Commissioners)-  
Commissioners want to talk to everybody and indicate a willingness to work with smaller Townships; perhaps consider fractional deputy contracts for smaller Townships. Have been getting support from all Commissioners, including those not present tonight.

\$116,700 actual cost of deputy is much more reasonable than previous \$190,000 total accounted cost model.

Jeff Wallace asked questions about contracting details, costing of overtime/fill-in, and core services provided. Commended Administrator and Commissioners on their continuing work with our community on these issues. Also asked about future jail expansion affecting Public Safety costs?

Response by Bob Gunzel (County Administrator)- Proposed to continue Steering Committee working with Sheriff and Commissioners to define these details.

Jim Anuskiewicz asked where jail expansion stands in this proposal.

Response by Bob Gunzel- Recommending going back to drawing board for 6-9 month study about jail space needs. Recommending Bond proposal be withdrawn.

Ron Mann- Positive step in returning Township-County relationship to where it should be.

Mark Ouimet (Commissioner)- Significant improvement from original 10-1 vote to a much more workable proposal.

Bob Little- Good news for Freedom Township. This proposal is the first time non-contracting government units have been addressed. Commended Steering Committee and Commissioners about this positive development.

**8. Steve Solowczuk - County Commissioner introduced presentation on where County tax dollars are spent**

Handout by jurisdiction distributed- Gordon Burger discussed handout.

Question about Manchester Township/Village (total OK, but split questioned by Ron Mann, supported by Racenis based on DDA calculations)

Dwayne Vaillencourt asked about City of Saline Police services. Steve Solowczuk explained County Public Safety 0.5 mil for core services does not benefit jurisdictions with their own Police Departments.

Jeff Wallace commented about subsidy argument relative to benefits from other line items. He can identify many line items in County budget where SWWCOG area does not benefit in proportion to their tax contributions.

Chairperson Vaillencourt thanked the County Commissioners for coming to tonight's meeting and presenting the County's spending details.

Steve Soloczuk and Wes Prater thanked Pat Vaillencourt for her participation in the Steering Committee.

**9. Review of revised 2006 meeting schedule**

New meeting schedule reviewed

Motion and second, approved by acclamation.

**10. Expectations/visions for SWWCOG**

Freedom-

Police

Fire

Roads (efficiencies and costs in brine application on through dirt roads)  
PDR/TDR (any method to save Ag)

Manchester Twp-

Same and consistent ordinances

Where can we cooperate on service (may not save much money, but can improve service)

Consistent cost recovery ordinance for Fire calls (could Fire Department do billing for all entities?)

Consistent zoning

Sharon-

Consistent ordinances

Fire cost recovery

Bridgewater-

Common services, ie. planning, legal.

Schools-

Police protection

Village-

Regional planning (commercial, residential, industrial)

Utilities, parks

425 agreements

Joint education and training

Consistent ordinances for businesses

Discussion about how to set priorities:

Pat Vaillencourt- what method for addressing these 8 major items.

Ron Ellison- set up separate group to address a particular issue.

Peter DeLouf- pick joint services in regional authority.

SWWCOG Priorities Agreed to:

- 1) Police Services (Pat Vaillencourt / Township supervisor group will continue meeting)
- 2) Fire cost recovery (Ron Mann-Chair / Tom Lavender / Bob Little / Neel Sheth)  
Considered most doable by the group. Neel thinks this is best first step for success. Jan Godek will provide a copy of an ordinance from the Saline area as a sample.
- 3) Mineral extraction ordinance commonality (Township Planning Commissions)  
Freedom Township (Peter DeLouf) working on extraction ordinance and aquifer presentation by Hydro-geologist Robert Hayes to joint Board Planning Meeting on January 18.
- 4) Regional planning (Jeff Wallace/Pat Vaillencourt/Ron Mann/Gary Blades)  
Stan Tschiltz- can knit together by commonizing Planners; having them work as a unit.  
Peter DeLouf- get Len Harvey from MSU to come in and share his experiences from other communities planning together.  
Racenis urged higher priority be given to this issue due to seams between the 12 Zoning and Future Land Use maps in effect in the SWWCOG area which could be exploited

to substantially change the character of the greater Manchester Community. With 35+ Planning Commissioners involved among the Townships and the Village it would seem that there is enough manpower to promptly work on this topic.  
Mann seconded this thought with the concern that all it would take is a single, large scale development filed with the Township to realized this concern..

**11. Wireless Project Report – Ray Berg**

Emphasized that he is volunteer, not manager at Wireless Washtenaw, contrary to comments made at some meetings.

Request For Proposal responses due Jan. 30 from vendors.

Ray has made significant efforts to get rural areas addressed as primary ISP, rather than mobile convenience.

Pilot programs did not define areas for pilot programs.

Intend to select programs by March 1; pilot April 1 through June 30.

Master Participation Agreement; County will have a board or other entity to oversee the private vendor system.

SWWCOG website usage averaged 25 visits per day and 6-7 navigations per visit, particularly Building Authority site.

**12. Roundtable Discussion;**

**Manchester Schools-**

Ron Ellison concerned about Manchester Enterprise letters harshly commenting about schools and Village Police services.

Letter to editor from School Board about State actions dictating local curriculum emphasizing college prep.

Bus garage waiting for state approval.

Working on Greenhouse almost complete.

**Sharon Township-**

Received grant to repair porch at Township Hall.

February public hearing on Zoning Ordinance.

M-52/Pleasant Lake project was going, but abruptly interrupted.

M-52 Gravel Pit project going forward, with Mineral Extraction Board meeting Jan. 12.

**Freedom Township-**

Water Quality meeting next Wednesday night (1/18) 7:30 PM with Hydrologist.

**Bridgewater Township-**

Re-affirmation of Master Plan; special meeting setup for end of month.

Sewer system working well; thanks to help from Village. Not operational yet because enough people are not hooked up yet.

Irvin Park lands coming up for public hearing for County Parks.

**Manchester Township-**

New contract for Fire Dispatch signed at lower cost than 2005. Ypsilanti Township may join, so costs may further decrease.

Sand Lake contracts for coverage of SW corner of Twp.

Planning Commission looking at Conditional Zoning. (George Daubner)

Manchester Village-

Dan's River Grill closed to public; catering only.

Residential developer interest in Village continuing.

**13. Other Business- none**

**14. Adjournment- Motion made, supported and approved unanimously at 9:03 PM**

The next regular meeting will be March 8, 2006, at Manchester Township Hall.