

# SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

7:00 pm Wednesday, JANUARY 10, 2007

## VILLAGE OF MANCHESTER

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Pat Vaillencourt at 7:01 PM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Sign In:** Pat Vaillencourt, John Hinkley, Jeff Wallace, Karl Racenis (Manchester Village), Jolea Mull (Bridgewater Twp), Ron Mann, George Daubner (Manchester Twp), Bob Little, Larry Lindemann, Peter DeLoof, Bill DeGroot, Ray Berg (Freedom Twp), Mark Roby, Tony VanDerworp, Brett Lenart (County Planning & Environment), Steve Puuri, Val Cooper, Brian Sharkey (County Road Commission), Ken Unterbrink (Lima Twp), John Kingsley (Wbster Twp), Jessica Ping-Mills, Mark Ouimet (County Commissioners), Ed Freundl (Manchester Enterprise), Reno Feldkamp, Jim Fish.
4. **Introductions**
5. **Approval of Agenda:** motion to approve by Mull, second by Mann, approved by acclamation.
6. **Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2006 meeting:** motion to approve by Little, second by Mann, approved by acclamation.

#### 7. **Washtenaw County Road Funding – Steve Puuri, Managing Director**

Presentation on functions, responsibilities, and funding of the Road Commission. Particular issue is inadequate funding compared to growth in vehicle miles travelled and miles of county roads. “Drive Michigan” campaign is program to persuaded legislators to increase funding for roads, which is supported by WCRC and WATS. (passed out literature about this program; website is [www.drivemi.org](http://www.drivemi.org) ).

Vaillencourt asked about reduction in snowplowing services.

Puuri response:

- Service on next regular work day except if over 3” snow, drifting, or icy conditions are identified by Road Commission.
- Eliminated free private road sign maintenance.
- Require 50% participation from Townships for bridge projects.
- Re-assign tree crew qualified to snow removal if qualified.
- Reduce equipment purchases by 50%. No short-term impact, but inadequate maintenance
- Reduced pavement resurfacing program by \$400,000. (no asphalt overlays, was \$1M/year)
- Reduced engineering and consulting contracts.
- Utilized Federal aid for engineering costs. Will result in fewer miles constructed.
- Impose hiring freeze, except for critical positions and then only with Commissioners approval.
- Imposed co-pays for employee health insurance programs.

Mull inquired about funds diverted by State to other purposes. Puuri passed out information in presentation on this topic. Mull wants to provide this information to citizens via website.

Vaillencourt indicated that our priorities on roads and jails need to be considered by the County.

Ping-Mills:

- Discussed expanding Road Commission from 3 to 5 members.
- Indicated that other Counties in State are also dealing with road and jail crowding issues.

#### **8. Regional Plan – Mark Roby:** Work schedule and time line for 2007

Reviewed LIAA goals and progress to date.

Presented “Road Map” for next steps.

Mann: Time to move ahead and start implementation. Wants to go forward to consolidate zoning nomenclature among SWWCOG entities.

Vaillencourt: increasing development pressures make this our last opportunity to control regional development. “We need to get it done”.

Little: nomenclature is easy to do and should be done.

Mull: asked if other areas in State have consolidated zoning nomenclature. Are there State recognized designation.

Roby: Midland has done Urban Growth Area planning as well as Frankenmuth and Saugatuck presented by Mark Wyckoff in December.

Village and Freedom Twp will be updating Master Plans in next year, so this is good opportunity to implement nomenclature changes.

Consensus is that SWWCOG should implement Urban Limit Line concept.

#### **9. Discussion – Recent court ruling Anspaugh vs Imlay City**

VanDerworp:

- Discussed case as recognized “expert” planning witness with comments and recommendations, including emphasis on taking a regional approach.
- Distributed “white paper” on Population Projections and Legal Defensibility.

Vaillencourt: brought up concerns from CEO meeting about this case.

VanDerworp strongly disagrees with concept of administratively rezoning rather than providing appropriate Master Plan, based on his experience. His review of the case was that Imlay Twp did not adequately document their case to the court. “Doing your homework” is very important in litigation.

Vaillencourt: read letter by O’Jack that effectively supported VanDerworp position.

Mann: inquired if road inadequacy can be used by Master Plan to control where particular uses are appropriate. VanDerworp responded that this is reasonable.

Wallace: inquired about 425 agreement framework relative to Urban Limit Line planning.

Mann: 425 may be component of that planning, but there may also be other concepts.

Lenart: Joint Planning Agreements are gift from State Legislature to groups like SWWCOG.

Mull: thanked VanDerworp for his comments and analysis.

**10. Wireless Project Report – Ray Berg:** Pilot half-way through; approximately 20 installations in place; generally works well with several technical glitches resolved. Planning for public meeting in late January/early February.

**11. Roundtable Discussion –**

- **Bridgewater Township** - Mull: held 5 hr. Board Meeting last month, sent 3 applications to State for Land Preservation, PDR board appointed, reduced Planning Commission to 7 members.
- **Freedom Township** - Little: Planner and Attorney tweaking extraction ordinance; Lindemann: Planning approved new development and Barrett gravel pit expansion, annual meeting with gravel pits scheduled for Feb. 6; Building Dept. gave out average of 5 building permits/year for the last several years.
- **Manchester Schools** - no report.
- **Manchester Township** - Mann: looking at DEQ ordinance for outdoor open burning, issue with false alarms from industrial facilities in Village, 2006 was lowest year for land divisions (only 19); 4 Board members or Planning Commissioners going to MTA convention.
- **Manchester Village** - Vaillencourt: Hibbard St. will be upgraded this Spring, Planning Commission recommended Regional Commercial Zoning classification to Village Council; will be shared with SWWCOG after Council review; Planning Commission considering changes to Sign Ordinance; delay in development of Mitchell property for housing development; great to see activity at Martinrea (formerly Uniloy) building; Amcor expanding parking for 40 new employees; Dura building and SGF building sold; Wallace: elevator in Village Hall to be complete next week; Racenis: DDA working on TEA grant application with Village Administration and MDOT.
- **Sharon Township** - no report.

**12. Other Business:** none.

**13. Adjourned** at 9:00 PM.

**The next regular meeting will be February 14, 2007, Manchester Township Hall**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karl Racenis-Secretary