

SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Manchester Township Hall December 8, 2004

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Jim Fish
2. Representatives present: Jim Fish, Pat Vaillencourt, Ron Ellison, Robert Little, Karl Racenis, Sybil Kolon, Jan Godek, Tom Lavender, and Gary Blades.
3. Others present: Scott Patton, Ray Berg, Jesse O'Jack, Cindy Carver, Steve Solowczak, Lyle Widmayer, Barb Fuller, George Daubner, Herb Mahony, Paul Bunten, Don Limpert
4. Introductions
5. Draft Agenda approved as printed.
6. Minutes of November 10, 2004 meeting approved as printed.
7. The County Jail and Justice Service Proposal, Scott Patton reviewed questions from SWWCOG mtg.

1. Current operating cost for jail, for mental health, \$13,492,242. Other areas (i.e. District Court) not included in this proposal.
2. This proposal affect current operating costs of \$14.5M will increase over time. The increase in operation costs, due to expansion, will be funded by the millage along with the increase cost of programming (i.e. GED program, abuse treatments).
3. Shift in cost from general fund, what happens to "freed funds", .75 mills is the proposal and if passed could be lowered if cost are less than predicted.
4. Yes operating costs are included in all three capacities.
5. Road patrol cost calculations do not include jail operations.
6. Allocating back to an area using services is not an option available.
7. A copy of the mandate was provided.
8. "Jail Millage" is a mis-representation since jail is only one portion of the millage request.

Undersheriff, Herb Mahoney stated: 1. To just deal with jail crowed situation and staffing, the facility would have to be built to accommodate 600-800 beds, which is very expensive. The proposal is to deal with people that violate the law, if any component is removed we would need a larger jail. They don't want to just build space because if we do not address other components it will be over filled for sure.

Paul Bunten, Chief of Police City of Saline - Group of Chiefs are sending a letter to Commissioners supporting this proposal. Prisoners are being released because there is no room. They do not go after people with warrants because there is no place to put them.

Barb Fuller stated that this has a component that gives prisoners a chance to become productive member of society and not go back to jail. Community support and treatment services are a large, necessary component. This is a community investment. We cannot just warehouse human beings.

Questions/comments:

1. We feel that it is too large a proposal. Just a jail it would probably pass without a problem in our area. Undersheriff is meeting on Friday to discuss this misrepresentation of a "jail proposal".

2. Our community has a severe lack of trust of the County. As we pay more and more they give us less and less services. County Board of Commissioners does not fairly represent the whole county.
 3. We need a jail and programs but it all comes back to credibility and trust. When police service was taken away, it was promised that the County would take care of the jail.
 4. We don't have Washtenaw County Police why should we support a Washtenaw County Jail.
 5. Site prep cost includes rebuilding existing jail to bring up to code.
 6. Another county is just finishing a 256 bed jail for \$10.5 mil. Why is our cost \$35 mil.? Answer: our process of upgrading the entire complex up to over 500 bed. They did look at cost to build completely new and this is designed for infrastructure to handle expansion.
 7. Other past jail/court millage failed – what was it and how did it differ from this? Answer: court failed 5 years ago & jail millage failed about 7 years ago. Population growth and overcrowding is worse. It is time to readdress.
 8. Why can't this jail be built out of operating funds like other county buildings have been? Answer: because they could only do part of it. Question: why should they get to keep what they have and take more of ours?
 9. You should have the Board of Commissioners here to take the heat because they are the ones that we distrust. We are concerned with the current allocation of funds, lack of service to the community.
 10. The priorities of Washtenaw County seem to be completely out of line. We are more interested in “green space” than fire stations.
 11. Why not put together a whole package that includes police, jail and the programs and have the county commit to a portion of the cost and ask for millage for the rest.
 12. Why a special election? The cost is probably over \$90K.
 Discussion: SWWCOG should send a letter thanking for those that responded, stating we support the jail issue but distrust the Commissioners. We should have it read during the meeting, recorded on TV. We do not trust County Board to act as a COUNTY BOARD instead of individuals. Disadvantages of making it confrontational. Should letter ask for election to be postponed and get all 20 township involved. Our letter should acknowledge the need but state we need a global resolution on allocation of funds, police services are a large impact, and invite the Commissioners to attend our meeting. We are to have sent by next commissioners meeting 1st Wednesday in January.
8. Freedom Township Web Site – The Experience
 Ray Berg, distributed information on web page development. Freedom is using the Chelsea site as a model. The County has changed their content management system, much simpler. Dream is to have a one-stop-shop site where forms, permits, ordinances, newsletter, history project, business promotion etc. are available. County provides assistance for free. New format is extremely easy to use. Word documents easily converted to PDF format.
9. WATS Meetings Report – Ron Mann sent information that he was invited to attend a meeting to work together on transportation issues. We will put this on the agenda for the January meeting.

A copy of a memo from Amy Golke and copies of the final SWW Regional Plan were distributed. Gary Blades stated that some grant money is available and we should get together to write a joint grant for emergency generators and perhaps have Amy Golke assist us.

10. Joint Training topics neither Ron Mann or Jeff Wallace present to update. However, last year in February we had a joint meeting with Road Commission. The question was raised whether we should schedule it for February '05. Consensus that we would still need to have individual meetings with townships but we should ask to attend our meeting for general presentation. It maybe good timing since there will be new people. Training idea is a supporting schedule for fees, common worksheet.

11. Washtenaw County Road Commission - Membership Opportunities, follow up discussion on appointments and positive nature of enhancements.

12. Traffic Committee – met and reviewed ROW plan, submitted final draft info to road commission. It will come back after the road commission has completed.

13. Other Business - MTA Web site had articles on a pending new bill concerning joint planning and conditional rezoning. In January we may want to consider re-election of officers. Ron Mann has some 3 year old computers or 21 inch monitors available for FREE.

14. Round Table Discussion by members:

Manchester Public Schools – Ron Ellison – Steve & Ron Milkey wants to buy Pleasant Lake School. Tomorrow night the band has the first concert, Friday & Saturday night 1st play.

Sharon Twp. - Tom Lavender – they had the same discussion about the jail as tonight, Bill Lewis, from Sharon Township Planning, is working for County Planning Advisory Board position. Planning commission is working on zoning ordinance.

Freedom Twp. - Bob Little - their meeting is next week. Stan reported planning commission looked at Levy Company material mining and reclamation and couldn't reach an agreement. Engineering firm has completed inspection of 4 existing gravel pits and gave a preliminary report, will follow up in Jan.

Bridgewater Twp. – Jim Fish – no planning commission meeting this month. Sewer plant moving forward.

Manchester Twp. - Sybil Kolon – their meeting is next week. She went to MTA dinner meeting last week. Distributed information on county recycle/clean up date. Tipping fees are gone.

Village – Pat Vaillencourt – DDA specialist will be at our next meeting. First occupancy permit issued to Wexford. The Uniloy Building auction was extended to January 19th.

Other business – each township to bring to the January meeting the number of land splits in 2004. Next Meeting January 14, 2005, Bridgewater Township Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

Prepared and submitted by: Pat Vaillencourt, Village of Manchester