

SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Bridgewater Township Hall January 12, 2005

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,
3. Others present: Austen Smith, Ray Berg, Jesse O' Jack,
4. Introductions waived
5. Draft Agenda approved as amended, adding items 8a, 8b, and 8c
6. Minutes of December 8, 2004 meeting approved as printed.
7. Election of Officers for 2005 – Motion by Ron Ellison to layover until March meeting, Karl Racenis 2nd, all in favor.

8. County Jail and Justice Service Proposal – Jim reviewed the contents of the next letter to be sent from SWWCOG. Key issues: expressing our concerns, stating that we felt that there needed to be more discussion prior to a vote and our agreement that we need a jail but cannot support the present request. Bob stated concerns about the amount of money being asked for when other jails have been built for a fraction of the cost (i.e. Lenawee County spent \$10mil, Washtenaw is asking for \$40mil). Jim expressed concern that by funding operations with a bond, it takes it out of the “public view” and removes it from the “normal” reviews and budgeting processes. Pat questioned just how much money is available in their fund balance for a jail. Karl questioned whether our area could contract with other counties (i.e. Jackson or Lenawee) for police service.

8a. Update Mailing List and Representatives – Jim Fish – current mailing list is approximately 75. He will send a copy of the list to each representative for review and then ask people if they would like to remain on the list. We also need to update the representative list. It would be nice if each area web site listed the meeting info as a minimum. Karl recommended that representative email addresses also be updated.

8b. Emergency Management Division – Continuity of Government – Jim received a letter from Mark Breckenridge. They are focusing on doing business emergency and disaster management plans for communities over 10,000. As a group we could possibly qualify. They are looking at what data should be protected (backed up). Consensus was that the exercise of identifying key areas would be beneficial. They will be scheduled for a presentation at a future meeting.

8c. County Clean Up Site –money from the County in the past has supported local clean up, has been cut. The County is planning on doing 6 annual replacement “clean up days”. They want a paved surface; will hire someone for hazardous material handling; will pay for all expenses but will probably want volunteers. Ron Mann had stated that he will investigate using the old Ford garage.

9. WATS Meetings Report – Bob was at the Meeting. The discussion was about the York Township Ordinance that limits truck routes and how far you can go off of them. This might affect road sharing revenues.

10. Traffic Committee – will meet January 25.
ROW Plan has been submitted. We will receive maps after completion by the Road Commission.

11. Joint Training Topics Review- in March we will have information on “how to keep out of courts with Planning”. Jim to follow up with Ron Mann and Jeff Wallace about scheduling. Ron E. will reserve the board room at the Administration Building (former Middle School).

12. Washtenaw County Road Commission – The annual briefing at the February SWWCOG meeting is confirmed. Jim has asked them to not just provide individual reports but to also provide everyone a comprehensive report for our area, including each of the Township activity reports. The objective is to improve information sharing in preparation for the Capital Improvement Plan process.

13. Future Meeting Planning – Jim questioned whether there are other issues that we should be addressing. Karl suggested follow up on joint services. Ray asked if SWWCOG would like a web site and volunteered to do it later this year. He would use the County format and they would assist in the initial site. We could put the SWWCOG Regional Plan, agendas, and minutes on line. There was interest by those in attendance.

14. Roundtable Discussion:

Manchester Public Schools – Ron Ellison – “it’s a peaceful month at the school”. Things are progressing with Pleasant Lake School. The concert and the play in the auditorium were great. At the last Board Meeting they decided to dedicate money from Pleasant Lake School to capital improvements. They continue to be worried about surprises out of Lansing.

Sharon Twp .- No one present

Freedom Twp .- Bob Little – it was a calm meeting last night. They received quotes from the engineering firm on reclamation, which was extreme. They are buying a new computer for their treasurer. The web site is up (twp-freedom.org). Stan Tschlitz has resigned as Planning Chair as he is going to have triple by-pass surgery. The new Planning Commission chair is Larry Lindemann.

Bridgewater Twp .- Jim Fish – all the grinder pumps are set, lines are in and almost ready to run test batches through the sewer treatment plant. The Planning Commission recommended a zoning map change to reflect the sewer district. They are considering an amendment to make denied special land use appeals to the courts rather than to their ZBA. They have questioned how to allocate future connections. Three members have prepared a draft allocation policy to present to the board.

Manchester Twp .- No one present

Village – Pat Vailliencourt – DDA council education is continuing. Boundaries and ordinance language will probably be discussed at the next meeting. The Historic District Committee is moving forward with establishing a boundary recommendation. Some interest has been shown in the Uniloy building, which is very encouraging. In December Louie Leeson passed away. He had worked for the Village for 35 years. And Planning Commissioner Debra Warrick’s husband died in a tragic accident. Karl reported that Planning has discussed “Walkable Communities” and noted the interruption of the sidewalk on M52 at Dutch Drive. Perhaps we should have publicity on the walking path from Klager to Dutch drive. Ron Ellison stated that he will see about having information in the next School Newsletter and that they are allowing citizens to use the track over the gym early in the mornings in the winter.

Other business – reminder that each township was to bring to the January meeting the number

of land splits in 2004. Progress this to the February meeting.

Next Meeting February 9, 2005, Freedom Township Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Prepared and submitted by: Pat Vaillencourt, Village of Manchester