

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2010 WORK SESSION

Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo, Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe, Treasurer Larry Doe, Trustees Stan Eldridge and Mike Martin

Members Absent: Trustees Jean Hall Currie and Dee Sizemore

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

Supervisor Stumbo introduced County Commissioner Rolland Sizemore who introduced the new Washtenaw County Administrator, Verna McDaniels and Washtenaw County Deputy Administrator, Bill Reynolds.

Ms. McDaniels and Mr. Reynolds thanked the Board for allowing them to be a part of the work session.

Supervisor Stumbo asked Commissioner Sizemore and the County Administrative staff to request the County Board of Commissioners to reconsider the 4% increase in the police services contract for 2011.

Ms. McDaniels explained the Washtenaw County 2011 budget included the 4% increase but she would check with the Board of Commissioners to see if there was interest in reconsidering the increase.

Supervisor Stumbo said she would send Ms. McDaniels a copy of the email requesting the elimination of the 4% increase in 2011 that she sent to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

Treasurer Doe asked Ms. McDaniels to provide the Township with a breakdown of the \$7.3 million in taxes that Township residents pay to the county.

Ms. McDaniels stated she would provide the breakdown.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe applauded the County for the employment support provided by the new ECTS center in Ypsilanti and asked to be provided marketing information.

Ms. McDaniels stated the marketing plan was underway and she would make sure the Township received a copy.

REVIEW WORK SESSION AGENDA

1. DISCUSS DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 2010-13, POLICE SERVICE MILLAGE

Supervisor Stumbo indicated a November election would allow the greatest number of residents to participate in the decision for increasing taxes for Police Services. She explained the last millage failed by 168 votes at a special election held in November 2009 and a millage increase was necessary because of the drop property values and tax revenues.

Michael Radzik, Office of Community Standards Director gave a brief history of Police Services contract costs. He stated from 2004 to 2010 the contract price per deputy had risen over 84% and the cost per deputy would increase an additional 4% in 2011, bringing the total compounded increase to 92% since 2004. Mr. Radzik explained the Township currently received an average of 1,520 hours per deputy compared to 1,880 in 2004. He indicated this was a 17% reduction in the average number of hours worked per deputy since 2008. He reported Township deputies were consistently out of Ypsilanti Township, responding to calls mainly in Augusta and Superior Townships. Mr. Radzik also reviewed two handouts presented to the Board covering the use of general fund patrol services. He indicated in all areas of police services with the exception of detective log hours, Ypsilanti Township was using fewer hours than our percentage of the population, in comparison to other communities.

Supervisor Stumbo provide a summary of the events leading up to the shooting in West Willow. She said the residents had requested the dispatch tapes and videos regarding the incident through a formal Freedom of Information Act request but had not yet received the information.

Supervisor Stumbo stated direction from the Board was needed regarding the police services millage proposal. She suggested 1.5 mils instead of 2 mils because of the economic hard times and she felt it might pass if it was less. Supervisor Stumbo also wanted to make sure the millage language reflected that it was not necessarily for Washtenaw County contract services and that the millage could be used for some type of police unit or authority with the City of Ypsilanti. She felt it was time because of the increased costs and the diminished service levels, to decide if it was the desire of the Township Board to seek alternative services.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated she supported the millage proposal and pointed out the Board needed to be careful in the wording because the funding would be for police officers regardless of whether they were Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti or our own officers.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she wanted to make sure the Township could purchase cars with the millage.

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Clerk Lovejoy Roe indicated the Township had ability to purchase equipment related to police services with the millage revenues with the currently millage and with the proposal in the Board packet. She indicated the ballot language in the draft proposal was the exact the same language the Township has used for many years.

Treasurer Doe said he supported the millage proposal and he felt it was irresponsible not to move forward for the safety of the residents.

Trustees Eldridge and Martin also indicated their support for the millage proposal.

Arloa Kaiser, Township Resident asked for clarification regarding the number of hours the deputies worked and the cost of starting up our own police department. She expressed that she wanted police protection but did not know if residents would support spending dollars on police cars.

Treasurer Doe estimated the cost at approximately 6.5 to 7 mills.

Trustee Eldridge questioned the 17 % reduction in the average number of hours worked by the deputies.

Mr. Radzik explained that prior to 2008 the Police Services contract guaranteed a minimum number of hours but that is no longer the case. Mr. Radzik said there were currently 13 deputies off on some type of leave and most of them were in contracted positions. Countywide deputies backfilled the open positions but it had left the county with only one patrol officer for the general funded patrol for the entire county.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said past practice was to cover the leave positions with overtime but currently it was not being done and this would account for the reduced number of hours allocated per contract deputy. (Voices faded – tape inaudible)

Michael Radzik said the Township budgeted for overtime to cover vacancies. He said the contract required the Township to cover the first two weeks of a vacant deputies position. (Voices faded – tape inaudible)

Trustee Eldridge stated the actions of the deputies regarding the West Willow incident were absolutely unacceptable and shocking.

Supervisor Stumbo said a decision need to be made on the millage proposal. She thought 1.5 mills might encourage more residents to vote for a lower millage.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated she did not believe .5 mills would not make a difference in how one would vote. She stressed the Township desperately needed more officers and would support the 2 mills but would also support whatever the majority of the Board wanted.

Trustee Eldridge asked how much revenue would be generated by the 1.5 and 2 mills and what would be the average cost to a homeowner.

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Clerk Lovejoy Roe indicated the difference 1.5 and 2 mills were approximately \$600,000, which would equate to about three officers. (Tape was inaudible)

Trustee Martin, after reviewing the handouts, asked how the Sheriff's department calculated the allotment because it appeared the Township received much less.

Mr. Radzik said that was a question for the Sheriff but he indicated that most of it was event driven. He explained that Ypsilanti Township made up about 40% of the population of the contract communities and received about 32% of the general fund services.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she would schedule a working session to discuss the details of police services and asked the board to decide on the amount for the millage.

Trustee Martin said he felt ballot language requesting 2 mills again would be self-defeating and asked what was the minimum amount needed.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that even 2 mills was less than what was needed because the 4% increase for 2011 will result in one less deputy. (Tape inaudible)

Trustee Eldridge said if he calculated correctly, 1.5 mills would be enough to pay for the 13 deputies the Township had reduced.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe explained that due to projected reductions in the 2012 revenues and need to balance the current budget with fund balance, 1.5 mills would not generate enough revenue for 13 deputies.

Mike Radzik agreed that with projected budget deficit and the other costs paid out of the police services budget, it would not be possible to contract for all the deputies reduced even with 2 mills.

Trustee Eldridge stated he would support 1.5 mills.

Treasurer Doe explained that bringing seven officers back to the Township would cost approximately \$1.2 million. He stated 1.5 mills would not allow the Township to return to 38 deputies.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated with the current increase of 4% for 2011 and the projected cuts in property values for 2011, the loss of revenues could very likely mean the reduction of an additional two deputies under the current millage before voters were asked to approve any additional millage.

Supervisor Stumbo stated we could bring something back to the board for the next meeting. Supervisor Stumbo adjourned the meeting for a break before the regular board meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Stumbo, Supervisor
Charter Township of Ypsilanti

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti