



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: County Administration

DATE: June 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Supplemental Materials for the June 7, 2017
Ways & Means meeting agenda

Attached are supplemental materials, received after the print deadline or inadvertently omitted from the printed agenda packet, for the Board of Commissioners consideration at its Ways & Means meeting on June 7, 2017.

Ways & Means

Under: F. Board of Commissioners

a. 2017 BOC Millage

1. Approval of a Resolution Certifying to the County Clerk Ballot Language for a ten-year millage of one (1) mill per year for the following purposes: (1) mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts; (2) public safety efforts to insure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) to provide funding for those entities within the County which maintain their own police force for the November 7, 2017 election.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 222-6655 or email pearte@ewashtenaw.org

Thank you,

Edwin Peart
Deputy Clerk
734-222-6655
pearte@ewashtenaw.org

TO: Felicia Brabec
Chair, Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Andy Labarre, Chair
Board of Commissioners

DATE: June 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Approval of a Resolution Certifying to the County Clerk Ballot Language for a ten-year millage of one (1) mill per year for the following purposes: (1) mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts; (2) public safety efforts to insure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) to provide funding for those entities within the County which maintain their own police force for the November 7, 2017 election.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The County Administrator is requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve a Resolution certifying ballot language to the Washtenaw County Clerk for a ten-year millage of one (1) mill per year for the following purposes: (1) mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts; (2) public safety efforts to insure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) to provide funding for those entities within the County which maintain their own police force for the November 7, 2017 election.

BACKGROUND:

Under Michigan law, the Headlee Amendment to the State Constitution and Proposition A have artificially reduced the amount of property tax income which the County would have ordinarily received. As a result, the County, like all Michigan local governments, is challenged to meet the ever increasing cost of providing critical services to the citizens. Simply put, the County is constantly being charged to do more with less financial resources.

Two areas of the County that have been especially effected are public safety (Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, "WCSO") and Community Mental Health. In the public safety area, the WCSO provides policing services throughout the entire County, except for those jurisdictions which maintain their own police forces (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township). The County/WCSO contract with most of the other jurisdictions within the County to provide police services. Moreover, the WCSO maintains a small general fund road patrol which is deployed throughout the County as needed.

As policing costs increase, the County/WCSO are left with two options to assure sustainable public safety and the benefits it brings to quality of life and economic development: (1) continue to provide more funding from the County's general fund; or (2) charge contracting jurisdictions increasing amounts for their contractual police services. Neither of these options is desirable. For example, every dollar the County commits from its general fund to public safety is

subtracted from other County Departments and programs which also benefit County citizens. Under the current budget over 46% of the County's general fund is already committed to public safety. Likewise, continually increasing the contractual cost of police services is a financial challenge to the jurisdictions paying those costs and reduces the other services they are able to provide to their citizens.

The other major area of the County which is effected by budget issues is in the County's Community Mental Health Department. Under Michigan law, the County is charged with caring for the mental health needs of indigent citizens. While the County's allocation of general fund monies to CMH is relatively low, (approximately \$1.7 million dollars per year or about 7% of the CMH budget), it must be remembered that these funds are, in turn, used to leverage State and Federal funding which comprises a much higher percentage of the CMH budget. State and Federal funding comprise approximately 93% of CMH's budget. As such, any changes which reduce State and/or Federal funding will have a disproportionately negative effect upon CMH. The State General Fund has been decreased by 60% to Washtenaw County over the past three years.

These two major areas (public safety and mental health) overlap most commonly at the County jail where many inmates are treated for mental health issues, but also in the community where the Sheriff's Office deals with calls for service involving the mentally ill on a daily basis. Simply put, many people with mental health needs are being reactively treated once they're incarcerated. As public safety resources decrease and mental health needs increase, the County is reactively spending more funds rather than proactively trying to address some of these issues early on.

DISCUSSION:

Approval of the Resolution certifying ballot language to the County Clerk for a 10-year 1 mill increase will primarily assist the County's Public Safety and Mental Health services areas in addressing issuing proactively rather than the costly and less effective approach of waiting to treat individuals after they're in the criminal justice system.

If approved by Washtenaw County voters on November 7, 2017, the millage funds raised would be divided three ways: (1) 37% would be used to fund mental health crisis stabilization and prevention services; (2) 38% would be allocated to the WCSO to insure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) 25% would be allocated to those communities (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and North field Township) which already maintain their own police forces and thus do not generally rely upon the WCSO for policing services. These funds would be allocated to these entities at a rate proportionate to their respective taxable values.

If the County takes no action in these critical areas, increasing costs will force the County to either expend additional general fund expenditures which will naturally result in decreased general fund spending on other important programs which benefit County citizens or accept cuts in the current services provided in the public safety and mental health areas.

Neither of the above-listed choices is desirable. As such, the proposed one (1) mill tax increase is proposed to properly fund these critical areas of County governmental, along with those jurisdictions which maintain their own police forces.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

Approval of the proposed Resolution will have no impact on the County's Human Resources.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

Approval of the proposed ten-year millage stated in the Resolution would create a funding stream (approximately \$15,400,000.00 in the first year of the levy) which would be expended as follows: (1) 37% would be used to fund mental health crisis stabilization and prevention services; (2) 38% would be used to allocate to the County Sheriff's Office to insure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) 25% would be allocated to those communities within the County that already maintain their own police force (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) at a rate proportionate to their respective taxable values.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

There are no indirect costs associated with this Resolution.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

Approval of the proposed ten-year millage stated in the Resolution will result in 37% of the funds being used by the County's Community Mental Health Department (whether constituted as an agency or an authority), 38% of the funds being used by the Washtenaw County Sheriff and 25% of the funds being used by those entities within the County which maintain their own police force (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township).

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

The proposed Resolution conforms to all County Policies.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE WASHTENAW COUNTY CLERK
BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR A TEN-YEAR MILLAGE OF ONE (1) MILL PER YEAR TO
BE PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2017 ELECTION BALLOT

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 7, 2017

WHEREAS, the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution and Proposition A have artificially reduced the amount of property taxes which all Michigan local governmental entities, including Washtenaw County, receive to pay for their various programs; and

WHEREAS, two critical areas in Washtenaw County which have been especially effected by this lack of funding are public safety which is overseen by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO") and mental health services which is overseen by the County's Community Mental Health Department and Board; and

WHEREAS, as costs increase to provide services in these two critical areas, the County is faced with either directing more of its general fund to these areas which reduces the funding for other critical County programs for County citizens or, in the public safety area, charging more to those jurisdictions which contract for police services throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, these two major areas often overlap as is the case in the County jail where a number of inmates are also being treated for mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, treating inmates in the County jail, while important, is a reactive and expensive way to address these individuals mental health needs; and

WHEREAS, additional funding would permit the WCSO and Community Mental Health to address these issues proactively which would ultimately prove to be much more cost effective; and

WHEREAS, the County is now proposing that a ten-year millage of one (1) mill designed to fund the following purposes: (1) 37% of the amount collected will be used for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts; (2) 38% of the amount collected will be used for public safety efforts to ensure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) 25% of the amount collected will be sent to those entities within the County which maintain their own police force (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) at a rate proportionate to their respective taxable values, be presented to Washtenaw County voters at the November 7, 2017 general election; and

WHEREAS, voter approval of the proposed ten-year millage would create a dedicated funding stream for the following purposes: (1) 37% of the amount collected would be used for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts; (2) 38% of the amount collected will be used for public safety efforts to ensure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) 25% of the amount collected will be sent to those entities within the

County which maintain their own police force (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) at a rate proportionate to their respective taxable values; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator to pay for the administrative costs of the November 7, 2017 special millage election in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 from the County's General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners states as follows:

1. There shall be submitted to the electors of the County of Washtenaw at the special election to be held on the seventh (7th) day of November, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. prevailing time, the following proposition:

A PROPOSITION TO INCREASE THE TAX LIMITATION WITHIN WASHTENAW BY ONE (1) MILL FOR TEN YEARS TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING FUNDING: (1) FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY'S COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, STABILIZATION AND PREVENTION EFFORTS; (2) FOR THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO ENSURE CONTINUED OPERATIONS AND GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY; AND (3) FOR THOSE LOCAL ENTITIES WITHIN WASHTENAW COUNTY WHICH MAINTAIN THEIR OWN POLICE FORCES.

Shall the limitations on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against taxable property within Washtenaw County, Michigan, as provided for by Section 6 of Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, be increased up to the amount of \$1.00 per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (1.0 mills) for a period of ten years, 2018 through 2027 inclusive, which shall raise in the first year an estimated \$15,433,608.00 which shall be used as follows: 37% of the total millage shall be allocated to the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Department (whether constituted as an agency or an authority) to be used for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts and to prevent unnecessary incarceration of individuals with mental health needs; 38% of the total millage shall be allocated to the Washtenaw County Sheriff to ensure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and 25% of the total millage shall be allocated to those jurisdictions within the County which maintain their own police force (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) at a rate proportionate to their respective taxable values?

YES _____

NO _____

2. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies to the County Clerk the following question as the appropriate ballot wording for the November 7, 2017 special election for the above-stated proposition:

A PROPOSITION TO INCREASE THE TAX LIMITATION WITHIN WASHTENAW BY ONE (1) MILL FOR TEN YEARS TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING FUNDING: (1) FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY'S COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, STABILIZATION AND PREVENTION EFFORTS; (2) FOR THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO ENSURE CONTINUED OPERATIONS AND GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY; AND (3) FOR THOSE LOCAL ENTITIES WITHIN WASHTENAW COUNTY WHICH MAINTAIN THEIR OWN POLICE FORCES.

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YES _____

NO _____

3. The election shall be held in accordance with Chapter XXVII of the general election laws of the State of Michigan.
4. The Washtenaw County Clerk is hereby requested to carry out all appropriate statutory duties as set forth in this Resolution and the general election laws of the State of Michigan so that the question of adoption may be submitted to the voters on November 7, 2017.
5. Each city and township clerk shall give appropriate notice of the submission of the aforesaid proposition as provided by law which notice shall contain the statement of the Washtenaw County Treasurer as to previously voted tax limitation increases affecting property within Washtenaw County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator to pay for the administrative costs of the November 7, 2017 special millage election in an amount up to \$130,000 from the County's General Fund.