



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 15, 2021

WAYS & MEANS

I. Roll Call

A session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Ways and Means Committee was held virtually (due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic) using Zoom videoconferencing on September 15, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 06:31 PM by Comm. Hodge, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

Members Present: Comms. **Shannon Beeman** (Village of Manchester, Washtenaw County, MI), **Ricky Jefferson** (Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI), **Andy LaBarre** (Ann Arbor City, Washtenaw County, MI), **Jason Maciejewski** (Dexter Township, Washtenaw County, MI), **Jason Morgan** (Ann Arbor City, Washtenaw County, MI), **Katie Scott** (Ann Arbor City, Washtenaw County, MI), **Sue Shink** (Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, MI), **Caroline Sanders** (Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, MI), **Justin Hodge** (Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI).

Members Absent: None.

Others Present County Administrator, Greg Dill; Diane Heidt, Deputy County Administrator; Curt Hedger, Interim Corporation Counsel; Kelly Belknap, Tina Gavalier, Nicole Phelps, and Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Alize Asberry Payne and Crystal Campbell, Racial Equity Office; Heather Linky and Mike Harding, CMH; Delphia Simpson, Public Defender; Jimena Loveluck, Health Department; Judy Kramer, Risk Management; Teresa Gillotti, OCED; Monica Boote, Human Resources; Jason Fee, Facilities; Jeff Rose and Branden O'Grady, ITS; Andrew DeLeeuw, Peter Lindeman, and Candy Reum, County Administration; Ed Golembiewski and Robert Mulcihy, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

II. Citizen Participation

Trische Duckworth expressed disappointment regarding the allocation of American Rescue Plan funds. Jo Ann McCollum from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County spoke in favor of every child in the county having an opportunity to further their education.

Margaret Schankler from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County expressed concern regarding the process through which the Board of Commissioners selected items to receive American Rescue Plan funds.

Peter Psarouthakis from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County discussed struggles in the community with broadband access during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Julie Helquist from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County discussed struggles in the community with broadband access during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ben Fineman from Lyndon Township, Washtenaw County thanked the Board of Commissioners for funding countywide broadband equity and shared letters from residents about the struggles in the community with broadband access during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jayme Kunnath from Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County acknowledged a personal need for broadband but suggested funding should be given first or simultaneously to communities that were the most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Leslie Blackburn from Lodi Township, Washtenaw County asked the Board of Commissioners to pause countywide broadband equity during this meeting to address the needs of communities in more need of American Rescue Plan funds.

Jon Barkham from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County spoke about the need for countywide broadband equity from the perspective of a physician providing healthcare to patients.

Barbara Schmid from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County spoke in favor of countywide broadband equity.

Liz Lin from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County thanked the Board of Commissioners for funding child care and spoke about allocating American Rescue Plan funds to residents in the county with the greatest need.

Annie Somerville from Ypsilanti City, Washtenaw County voiced concerns about not prioritizing portions of the county most negatively impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chris Holden from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County spoke about the need for countywide broadband equity.

Alyshia Dyer from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County spoke in favor of allocating American Rescue Plan funds to the communities most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lisa Querijero asked the Board of Commissioners to reconsider using American Rescue Plan funds for populations most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Devin Meyrer from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County voiced concern the American Rescue Plan funds resolution does not address the needs of those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chelsea Mikel from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County spoke about the need for countywide broadband equity and the struggles of not having broadband during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Barb Fuller stated the American Rescue Plan funds voted on this evening are only a portion of the total funds, stated broadband equity is a countywide issue, and urged the Board of Commissioners to vote yes on the American Rescue Plan funds resolution.

Mary Campbell spoke against the CMH living wage waiver and asked the Board of Commissioners to further analyze the situation.

Nic Ciccone from Plymouth Charter Township, Wayne County spoke against the American Rescue Plan funds resolution and requested funds be spent on those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lena Kauffman from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County thanked the Board of Commissioners for funding child care and discussed the women's workforce participation rate dropping during the pandemic.

Gail Summerhill spoke about systemic racism in Washtenaw County.

Linh Song, Ann Arbor City Council Member, thanked the Board of Commissioners for their efforts with American Rescue Plan funds and encouraged the Board of Commissioners to vote in favor of the resolution.

Courtenay Hall from Van Buren Township, Wayne County encouraged the Board of Commissioners to use American Rescue Plan funds for communities most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lisa Moutinho acknowledged the work of the Board of Commissioners and spoke about the

need for countywide broadband equity.

Jessica Roberts from Freedom Township, Washtenaw County spoke about the need for countywide broadband equity.

Ron Milkey from Manchester Township, Washtenaw County spoke about the need for countywide broadband equity.

Dirk Mayhew from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County spoke in favor of American Rescue Plan funds being spent on communities most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, asked the Board of Commissioners to delay their vote, and voiced support of getting community input regarding the American Rescue Plan funds into the public record.

Hallie Fox spoke in favor of American Rescue Plan funds being spent on communities most in need of assistance and asked the Board of Commissioners to wait on allocating funds.

Lisa Jackson urged the Board of Commissioners to postpone their vote on American Rescue Plan funds to ensure everyone is represented.

Patrick Boeheim from Scio Township, Washtenaw County asked the Board of Commissioners to vote no on the American Rescue Plan Funds resolution tonight to show compassion to Washtenaw County residents in zip codes 48197 and 48198.

III. Commissioner Follow-Up To Citizen Participation

Commissioner Beeman thanked everyone who participated in public comment.

Commissioner Beeman clarified that the American Rescue Plan funds resolution touches every part of Washtenaw County, including zip codes 48197 and 48198. Commissioner Beeman further discussed broadband access as a health and equity issue.

Commissioner LaBarre asked elected officials in western Washtenaw County to do a better job advocating with their state legislature and leadership. Commissioner LaBarre clarified these comments were not directed at citizens living in those areas.

Commissioner Shink thanked everyone who participated in public comment tonight.

Commissioner Shink noted the verdict of public comment was split approximately 50/50 with those who approve and do not approve of the American Rescue Plan funds package.

Commissioner Shink noted there has been a lot of work done by the Board of Commissioners, staff, and the public and tonight's package will address some of the needs of the county. Commissioner Shink clarified that residents can expect more listening sessions and initiatives to address items residents are seeking. Commissioner Shink noted that the eviction moratorium has ended but Washtenaw County has received \$20 million through American Rescue Plan funds and the county is supporting renters with eviction prevention. Commissioner Shink clarified the resolution is 1/3 of total American Rescue Plan funds and the Board of Commissioners is working on criminal justice reform.

Commissioner Scott thanked participants for speaking tonight and spoke about the difficulties in having civil discussions pertaining to difficult political issues. Commissioner Scott reiterated that after tonight, the Board of Commissioners will still have 73% of American Rescue Plan funds left to allocate. Commissioner Scott spoke about the need to handle allocating funds as an iterative process and hearing constituents' voices in a different way to make sure all county residents are heard and real, structural change is made.

Commissioner Maciejewski thanked participants in public comment. Commissioner Maciejewski shared that some valuable input he has received comes from informal settings outside of formal town halls. Commissioner Maciejewski emphasized the five major components to the American Rescue Plan funds resolution.

Commissioner Sanders asked the County Administrator to explain any potential downside to delaying the American Rescue Plan resolution package. Commissioner Sanders stated approximately one percent of county residents responded to the countywide survey. Commissioner Sanders asked for constituents to send respectful emails to sandersc@washtenaw.org to tell the Board of Commissioners what the public needs that the Board of Commissioners is not addressing.

In response to Commissioner Sanders, County Administrator Dill and Interim Corporation Counsel Hedger procedurally advised that a vote to delay would be a motion to delay for a time certain, which would delay the opportunity to discuss and approve the next round of funding.

Commissioner Morgan expressed appreciation for Dirk Mayhew's comments during public comment. Commissioner Morgan hoped everyone who shared thoughts tonight will follow the Board of Commissioners as American Rescue Plan funds continue to be spent throughout the community. Commissioner Morgan clarified that American Rescue Plan funds are officially based off of the population. Lastly, Commissioner Morgan mentioned Commissioner Shink discussing housing and shelter support for the county, which goes directly to residents in need.

Commissioner Jefferson stated public comment has shown the importance of reaching constituents. Commissioner Jefferson spoke about the challenges of not having countywide broadband equity in his district. Commissioner Jefferson noted the Board of Commissioners heard issues during public comment they did not hear during their town halls. Commissioner Jefferson offered that postponing the American Rescue Plan funds resolution tonight could be a viable option to let more residents engage with the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Maciejewski addressed the CMH budget timeline, stating the budget is being approved by the State of Michigan in six days. Commissioner Maciejewski encouraged the public to contact their State Senator and State Representative because funding in this budget is a state-level issue.

Commissioner Beeman argued that a delay in the American Rescue Plan funds resolution could result in difficulty accessing fiber due to nationwide shortages. Commissioner Beeman also stated that delaying the American Rescue Plan funds resolution would delay the funds allocated to child care.

Commissioner Hodge thanked everyone for participating in public comment. Commissioner Hodge addressed objections that the American Rescue Plan funds resolution does not invest in the Ypsilanti area, discussing child savings, child care, and weatherization as examples that invest heavily in the Ypsilanti area. Commissioner Hodge ended by asking for members of the public to reach out to their local cities and townships who also received American Rescue Plan funds.

IV. New Business

A. Sheriff

1. Comm. Jason Morgan, seconded by Comm. Andy LaBarre, moved that the 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0 Motion carried.

B. Office of Community and Economic Development

1. Teresa Gillotti provided an overview of the grant. Commissioner Shink and Commissioner Maciejewski spoke positively about Gordon Hall and the Dexter Historical Society.

Comm. Jason Morgan, seconded by Comm. Andy LaBarre, moved that the Installation of geothermal HVAC system at Gordon Hall be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0 Motion carried.

C. Administration

1. Andrew DeLeeuw provided an overview of the Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan. BOC members voiced approval of the plan.

Comm. Jason Morgan, seconded by Comm. Andy LaBarre, moved that the Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0 Motion carried.

V. Report of the County Administrator

Deputy County Administrator Diane Heidt provided a detailed update on the CMH waiver process.

County Administrator Dill thanked the Board of Commissioners for their leadership and healthy dialogue in dealing with difficult issues. Administrator Dill thanked Commissioner Shink for attending a tour of Safe House.

VI. Report of the Chair of the Board

Commissioner Shink asked commissioners in favor of Michigan Drive Forward to let their legislators know the BOC supports it. Commissioner Shink gathered with community activists and Lt. Governor Gilchrist last Friday on the Thriving Cities tour.

VII. Report of the Chair of Ways and Means

Commissioner Hodge shared he was appointed by the National Association of Counties to the Community & Economic Development Workforce Steering Committee and will use this appointment to advocate for the county at the federal level.

VIII. Items for Current/Future Discussion

None.

IX. Pending

- A. Commissioner Scott provided an update on the M-14 over Huron River safety efforts.

X. Adjournment

Comm. Katie Scott, seconded by Comm. Andy LaBarre, moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 09:32 PM.

Justin Hodge, Chair

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register
By: Robert Mulcihy, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: October 6, 2021