



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 6, 2023

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working Session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on September 6, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 05:30 PM by Comm. Somerville, Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	None.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Interim Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity Officer; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Aaron Kraft, Tara Cohen, & Heidi Johnson, OCED; Jason Fee, Facilities Management; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

None.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Catherine Jones-Alther, Deputy Finance Officer, gave the Quarter 2 County Budget Report. Finance projects a net shortfall of \$2,452,810 for 2023. Jones-Alther said that revenues grew by approximately \$1.9 million more than initially projected from Q1 to Q2 and expenditures grew by approximately \$2.7 million more than initially projected from Q1 to Q2. Projected 2023 General Fund expenditures total \$146.1 million; finance is projecting a 2023 General Fund expenditure surplus of just under \$7 million. Non-general fund projections remain consistent with those presented during the Quarter 1

County Budget Report. Alther-Jones noted that there are no Q2 budget adjustments to report.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the Trial Court, District Court, and Sheriff's office, which are projecting revenue shortfalls offset by expenditure surpluses. Comm. Rabhi requested to see the language which dictates how surplus funds in those offices are handled.

Jones-Alther gave a brief overview of the upcoming 2024-2027 budget development process.

- B. Aaron Kraft, OCED Housing Program Supervisor, and Heidi Johnson, OCED Housing Program Supervisor, gave a report on the Washtenaw County Weatherization Assistance Program. Kraft said that newly allocated funding has allowed the Weatherization team to expand from 2 to 4 staff members. The Weatherization Program has received baseline funding from the US Department of Energy and US Department of Health for many years; recent ARPA allocations have allowed the program to expand its capacity and effectiveness. The weatherization team reported that the increase in funding will allow the program to complete approximately 180 projects annually, as compared to 45 projects in recent years. Kraft said that the program has recently increased the income threshold for qualification, allowing a greater number of families access to County-administred weatherization services.

Johnson said that the program has become more complicated to administer as the new funding has also introduced additional rules and regulations. Services offered by the Weatherization Program include energy audits, air sealing, insulation, heating upgrades, ASHRAE ventilation, and quality control inspection.

Comm. Hodge asked about the Weatherization team's challenges with finding individuals who are equipped to do the work the program requires.

Kraft said that it is challenging to both find private contractors and hire staff with the relevant skills. Johnson asked the Board to refer to OCED contractors who are experienced with air sealing should they make contact with any.

Comm. Hodge asked how the Board can support the program as ARPA funds begin to diminish.

Johnson said that additional staff would help support the program.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the Weatherization team's efforts to track the climate-related impact of their work.

Johnson said the team isn't currently quantifying impact on climate; noted the potential to track that moving forward.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the program's relationship with local building trades unions.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the process for renters to receive services.

Kraft said that the tenant is considered the applicant, the landlord must enter a separate agreement. Johnson said that landlords generally welcome assistance from the Weatherization Program.

Comm. Maciejewski asked about the program's quality control efforts.

Johnson said that promoting quality control is emphasized at every level of the program.

Comm. Maciejewski asked about the program's applicant pool.

The weatherization team has a staff person dedicated to outreach and application intake, marketing reaches the entire County.

Comm. Beeman asked about homes occupied by multiple families with different incomes.

Johnson said that only one family living in the home needs to qualify in order to receive services.

Comm. Somerville asked if the program offers climate control services, specifically air conditioning.

Johnson said that the program can provide air conditioning if the funding allows it and the family is able to demonstrate a medical need. Kraft noted that until the funding increases, the program is not currently equipped to offer air conditioning as a base service.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 06:35 PM.

Annie Somerville, Chair of the Working Session
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: September 20, 2023