



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 20, 2023

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on September 20, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 07:30 PM by Comm. Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

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 & Michael Auten, Corporation Counsel; Crystal Campbell, Public Information Officer; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Jason Fee, Facilities Management, Jerry Clayton, Washtenaw County Sheriff; Renee Casey, Community Corrections; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mary Hall-Thiam thanked the Board for her appointment to the Board of Canvassers.

Kat Slocum, Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Specialist, spoke in support of tonight's resolution which would designate Wild-Frey Farm as a Historic District.

Allison Foreman spoke in support of a Washtenaw County senior services millage.

Cheryl Farmer spoke about the growing homeless population at Growing Hope in Ypsilanti.

Brian Coburn spoke in support of a community shelter at 10 S. Prospect in Ypsilanti.

Peggy Lynch thanked the Board for their past work on housing and homelessness and

highlighted the need for additional solutions for homeless families and youth.

1. Written public comment through September 20, 2023.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Rabhi thanked public commenters who spoke on housing and homelessness at tonight's meeting.

Comm. LaBarre noted that the Continuum of Care recently approved the prioritization of how and who the support system houses in the County; stated that children and others dealing with various challenges in their lives are being highly prioritized by the CoC.

Comm. Somerville thanked public commenters and noted that CMH staff have been working in the City of Ypsilanti to offer services to those who wish to receive them.

Comm. Scott thanked public commenters and said that she is hopeful for short-term and long-term solutions to housing and homelessness.

Comm. Maciejewski recognized Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and encouraged the organization to submit budget items to the Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Scott said that the Parks and Recreation Commission met at Staebler Farm for their most recent meeting; highlighted the WCPARC's preserve challenge.

Comm. Maciejewski said that the County clean-up days were very successful.

Comm. LaBarre reported on a grant applied for by SOS Community Services which would support additional call center and intake staff.

Comm. LaBarre stated that Ann Arbor SPARK recently received funding from the Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Comm. Hodge reported that the CJCC recently reconvened.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. **23-154** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Washtenaw County Board of Canvassers be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

2. **23-155** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Washtenaw County Historic District Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (September 6, 2023). Voice vote - motion carried.
2. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the communications be received and dealt with as recommended. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

R-0044 RECEIVED: August 31, 2023. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners: Resolution opposing proposed changes to the septic provisions of the Michigan Public Health Code.

R-0045 RECEIVED: September 13, 2023. Jeremy Lapedis, Executive Director, Washtenaw Health Project: Letter detailing projects that have been funded by the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage.

3. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees: Working Session (September 6, 2023). Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
4. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Special Committees. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
5. Other Reports
 - A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from August 29, 2023 through September 12, 2023. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
 - B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: A report from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the month of August, 2023. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
6. Report of the Treasurer - None.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. First Reading
 - A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Maciejewski, moved that a Resolution Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funding from Ypsilanti Charter Township for Barrier Busters from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Voice vote - motion carried. Item moved to 10/4 meeting for final approval.
2. Single Reading
 - A. Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a Resolution Recommending Funding for Older Adult Services with Previously Allocated American Rescue Plan Act Funds be approved.

Comm. Sanders asked about the grantees recommended by this resolution and whether

the terms of the grant stipulate that the funds be used towards direct services rather than staffing.

Comm. Sanders noted that she would prefer funding organizations which both serve and employ seniors.

Comm. LaBarre asked whether in the process of authorizing this grant that input was received by County departments which work directly with seniors.

Deputy Administrator DeLeeuw noted that departmental input has been an important part of ARPA grant authorizations, but that the process has been led primarily by administration and the Racial Equity Office so as to expedite the disbursement of these funds.

Comm. Rabhi expressed uncertainty about how grantees will use these funds and about efforts to reach smaller community agencies.

Deputy Administrator DeLeeuw indicated that awareness of the Request For Proposal (RFP) among organizations serving Washtenaw County seniors was high.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the geographical distribution of dollars awarded by this grant.

Comm. Somerville noted that she would have preferred to have voted on a previous version of this resolution and distribute the remaining dollars through a separate RFP.

Comm. Scott said that she was dissatisfied with the geographical distribution of dollars throughout the County.

Comm. Maciejewski said that when County dollars become available he notifies organizations in his district. Comm. Maciejewski said that the Dexter Senior Center will use these funds to help operate their Meals on Wheels program and to secure a physical space for future operations.

Comm. Beeman said that she'd like to see more inclusion of her district in the distribution of these dollars.

Comm. Lyte said that she'd like to see a breakdown of how these funds will be used by each organization.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to table this resolution. Roll Call Vote to table this item: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Hodge, Maciejewski) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- B. **23-156** Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. LaBarre , moved that a Resolution Authorizing the Signature of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners on the Emergency Management Work Agreement and authorizing the Signature of the County Administrator on the Local Budget for Emergency Management Performance Grant with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division for the Period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 in the Amount of \$88,346 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. **23-157** Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. LaBarre , moved that a Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to Sign the 2022 Homeland Security Grant

Program Interlocal Fiduciary Agreement with Macomb County for the Period of September 1, 2022, through May 31, 2025, in the Amount of \$351,678 to Reimburse Washtenaw County for Approved Homeland Security Planning, Training, Equipment and Personnel Expenses be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Final Reading

- A. **23-158** Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to adopt an ordinance designating the Wild-Frey Farm as a Washtenaw County local Historic District under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **23-159** Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the County Administrator's signature on the Washtenaw County Health Department's Comprehensive Agreement in the amount of \$18,199,604 for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi abstained). Motion carried.
- C. **23-160** Comm. Maciejewski , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the subrecipient agreement from the Michigan Public Health Institute to provide support to the Health Department for the ongoing operations of the Health Equity Council Backbone Organization Grant in the amount of \$341,846 for the period of October 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024; amending the budget; authorizing the Administrator to sign and delegate contracts be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. **23-161** Comm. Maciejewski , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution approving the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health 2023/2024 annual operating budget in the amount of \$124,199,595 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- E. **23-162** Comm. Maciejewski , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a Resolution Ratifying the Signature of the County Administrator on the Application to the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Corrections/ Office of Community Corrections, and the Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Board for the FY 2023/24 Washtenaw County/ City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan in the Amount of \$2,434,970 for the Period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the WCSO's approximately \$6 million surplus fund.

Sheriff Clayton clarified that the \$6 million fund is made up of leftover Mental Health and Public Safety Millage funds. WCSO maintains a separate agreement with the county which allows it to retain surplus revenues generated by WCSO net of expenditures since 2014.

Sheriff Clayton indicated that the expansion of the Community Corrections program necessitates additional funding from the County.

Comm. Rabhi said that the MOU which allows WCSO to retain the surplus revenues it generates was agreed to in exchange for budgetary concessions from the Sheriff's

Office which were necessary to pass a balanced County budget in 2014.

Comm. Rabhi asked why WCSO was requesting \$500,000 in County general funds instead of using some of the \$6 million in millage funds.

Sheriff Clayton said that some of those dollars are already dedicated to other programs and that there are leftover millage funds due to interruptions in programming caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comm. Scott asked about WCSO's plan for employing the \$6 million in millage funds.

Sheriff Clayton said that WCSO plans to continue to build out existing programs with those funds, especially those in the Office of Community Engagement.

Comm. Somerville indicated her support for the Community Corrections Program and spoke to the urgency of providing funding today.

Comm. Rabhi reiterated his belief that this funding should come from WCSO's leftover millage funds so that general fund dollars may be used for other priorities.

Comm. Sanders asked if the County has ever reversed an MOU.

Administrator Dill said that he is unaware of any such instance.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 (Rabhi) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- F. **23-163** Comm. Maciejewski , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to create 2.0 FTE American Rescue Plan Act Supported Positions to Support the Mobile Support Services Initiative through December 31, 2024 from Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- G. **23-164** Comm. Maciejewski , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the recategorization of Community Priority Fund resources and the creation of a Grants Manager position from Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of Claims
- A. **23-165** Comm. Maciejewski , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of September 11, 2023 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- 1. Administrator Dill gave a report on the County's efforts to alleviate the effects of the housing crisis in the community.

Administrator Dill said that the County is currently working with 8 unhoused families in downtown Ypsilanti; noted that the County is exploring installing public restrooms in the Washington St. corridor.

Administrator Dill said that the County's primary responsibility in housing and homelessness is as a funder to various community organizations.

Morghan Boydston, OCED, gave an overview of the different categories of homelessness and how service providers offer resources to individuals in each category.

Boydston noted that the Point-In-Time (PIT) count rarely documents families experiencing literal homelessness during the Winter months.

Brady Peck, Director of Operations, gave an overview of housing and homelessness funding over time; noted significant increases in funding in response to the 2008 recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent reductions in funding in the years following those crises.

Tara Cohen, OCED, spoke about increases in rental costs and the slow growth of the County's housing stock. Cohen noted that the affordable housing stock has decreased in recent years.

Boydston gave an overview of the County's Coordinated Entry System.

Cohen reported on non-County efforts to address the housing crisis throughout the community.

Administrator Dill said that the State of Michigan needs to contribute more resources to housing.

Comm. Somerville spoke in support of leveraging the County's lobbying firm to advocate for more resources at the state level.

Comm. Rabhi asked if HAWC is adequately resourced.

Boydston said that the call center is staffed by full-time employees.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the reduction in affordable units.

Cohen said that the reduction can be primarily attributed to previously affordable developments reaching the end of their mandated period of affordability under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.

Comm. Lyte asked about the waiting period for the intake process.

Boydston said that HAWC is conducting shelter assessments within 48 hours of receiving requests.

Comm. Sanders asked about donations to housing-focused non-profits, and whether individuals are aware that their dollars are not always immediately leveraged to provide services to families in need.

Boydston said that the County responds to requests for service according to their stipulated community standards and that Comm. Sanders is correct that donations are

not always leveraged immediately.

Comm. Beeman highlighted the availability of USDA funding for affordable housing and reiterated other Commissioners' comments regarding the need for partnership between community organizations and multiple levels of government.

Comm. Somerville highlighted the Community Benefits Ordinance in Ypsilanti which helped ensure the 220 N. Park St. development will remain affordable in perpetuity.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Scott noted that on Tuesday, October 3rd there will be a meeting at Washtenaw County Community College regarding MDOT's plans for a fence along the Huron River.

Comm. Beeman spoke to ongoing challenges with broadband funding awarded to a private entity in the County.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: October 4, 2023