



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 4, 2023

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

A session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 4, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 07:00 PM by Comm. Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Members Present: Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville

Members Absent: Comm. Yousef Rabhi

Others Present Greg Dill, County Administrator (attending virtually); Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Crystal Campbell, Public Information Officer; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Lawrence Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County Clerk; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Benjamin Hourani, Marie Pfeifer, Alex Waterhouse, & Rachel Rosenberg, Finance; Jason Fee, Facilities Management; Jeff Rose, ITS; Camellia Khorrami & Akintunde Oluwadare, Racial Equity Office; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Marie Gress asked the Board to un-table and vote in favor of the resolution to fund older adult services which was tabled at the September 20, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting and is on the October 4th agenda.

Rebecca Yachick spoke on behalf of Foenix Mobility Rising and detailed the group's work to fill transportation gaps in the communities in which the group works; spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Jim Carson spoke about the challenges the Dexter Senior Center is facing in securing a permanent location; spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Bill O'Reily spoke about the urgency of the requests made by older adult services

agencies.

Ryan Hunter spoke about the work of Jewish Family Services in Washtenaw County and in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Chris Rollet spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Dee Korth spoke about the rising costs of living in Ann Arbor.

Brian Coburn advocated for the County purchase of 10 S Prospect in Ypsilanti for the purpose of developing a homeless shelter on the property.

Noah Daller advocated for the County purchase of 10 S Prospect in Ypsilanti for the purpose of developing a homeless shelter on the property; spoke about challenges with data collection regarding homelessness.

Dena Smith spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Allison Foreman spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Monica Prince spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Eileen Spring spoke in support of the resolution to fund older adult services on tonight's agenda.

Claudia Grace spoke about the urgency of the housing crisis in Washtenaw County.

Cynthia Price advocated for both emergency shelter and long-term solutions to the housing crisis in Washtenaw County.

Ian Robinson requested that the County hire additional staff to properly implement the Resiliency Plan.

Comm. Rabhi, commenting virtually as a member of the public, stated that the Board tabled the resolution funding older adult services to properly evaluate each request.

1. Written Public Comment through October 4, 2023

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Hodge thanked the individuals who gave public comment.

Comm. LaBarre spoke about the Board's motivations for tabling the resolution to fund older adult services during the September 20th, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting; stated that the Board had specific concerns about geographic equity among the grantees.

Comm. LaBarre encouraged further public participation in housing and homelessness in the County.

Comm. Somerville spoke about her motivations to vote to table the resolution to fund older adult services; stated that she still has concerns about the RFP process which yielded these recommendations.

Comm. Beeman said that the Board is charged with evaluating proposals through a lens of equity and stated that the resulting recommendations for funding older adult services were not completely equitable.

Comm. Scott stated that she has concerns with the process used to guide the County's second round of ARPA allocations; spoke to broader concerns regarding County procurement policies and transparency.

Comm. Scott said that the County urgently needs additional capacity to serve homeless populations.

Comm. Maciejewski noted that the County only provides pass-through funding from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B to the Chelsea Senior Center.

Comm. Sanders said that the Board is charged with serving as the County's fiduciary and has a responsibility to thoroughly scrutinize proposals involving County funds.

Comm. Lyte noted that she had no intent to oppose a resolution to fund older adult services, just to gather more information on the proposal.

Comm. Hodge stated that he is hopeful the tabled resolution will be passed at tonight's meeting and that the Board addresses long-term concerns regarding funding for older adult services.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge noted that fellow County Commissioners on Area Agency on Aging 1-B Executive Board are in conversations regarding how to best support the agency.

Comm. Lyte spoke about her visit to the new Home Toxin Center at GFL Environmental in Northfield Township.

Comm. Scott spoke about the racial justice impact study being conducted by the Washtenaw County Health Department in collaboration with the University of Michigan.

Comm. Somerville noted that the previous Community Action Board meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum.

Comm. Sanders spoke about her recent tour of the recycling facility off of Elsworth Rd.

Comm. Maciejewski said that SEMCOG's Executive Committee met last week and heard a presentation from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (September 20, 2023). Voice vote - motion carried.
2. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, 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-0046 RECEIVED: September 18, 2023. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners: Resolution opposing legislation which would preempt local control over wind and solar development projects.

R-0047 RECEIVED: September 22, 2023. St. Clair County Board of Commissioners: Resolution opposing legislation which would preempt local control over wind and solar development projects.

R-0048 RECEIVED: September 22, 2023. Washtenaw County Road Commission: Resolution designating Warren Road as a Natural Beauty Road.

R-0049 RECEIVED: September 27, 2023. Clinton County Board of Commissioners: Resolution opposing legislation which would preempt local control over wind and solar development projects.

R-0050 RECEIVED: September 28, 2023. Beckett & Raeder Inc: Notice of intent to update Sylvan Township Master Plan.

R-0051 RECEIVED: September 28, 2023. Washtenaw County Commission on Aging: Letter urging Board approval of the resolution which was tabled on September 20, 2023, and which would approve a distribution of ARPA funds towards senior services

3. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees: Working Session (September 20, 2023). Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
4. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, 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. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from September 12, 2023 through September 26, 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. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution establishing a new discretionary fee for passport photos administered by the Clerk/Register of Deeds office be approved.

Comm. Sanders asked for clarification regarding the use of the term "discretionary."

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County Clerk, said that the fee is only considered discretionary because it is not a mandated service; the fee will be assessed equally to all customers.

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

- B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution approving acceptance of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B funding to the Senior Nutrition Program from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

2. Single Reading

- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution to approve the Substantial Amendment to the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.
- B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution recognizing October 9, 2023 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

3. Final Reading

- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, 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. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

4. Approval of Claims

- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of September 25, 2023 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Tyler LaTendresse gave a report on ongoing efforts to bolster cybersecurity at the County.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Scott spoke about community concerns regarding the Michigan Department of Transportation's proposal to build a fence along the Huron river in Ann Arbor. Scott noted her desire for the Board to pass a formal resolution in opposition to the project.

Comm. LaBarre said that he believes the Board should assess the structure of OCED in the immediate future.

Administrator Dill said that there are plans for such an assessment in the near future.

1. 2024-2027 Recommended Quadrennial Budget
2. 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 taken from the table. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

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. Maciejewski said that it is the Board's responsibility to ask questions regarding proposals made to them.

Comm. Maciejewski said that he was impressed with Feonix Mobility Rising's proposal and list of partners after inquiring for more information.

Comm. Somerville expressed appreciation for Comm. Hodge and Administrator Dill's efforts to increase support for the Ypsilanti Senior Center.

Comm. Beeman stated that she would prefer to fund well-established organizations with longevity as opposed to organizations without an extensive body of work.

Comm. Scott stated that she prefers funding local organizations.

Comm. Hodge reiterated his commitment to finding a long-term solution to funding older adult services.

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

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 08:56 PM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: October 18, 2023