



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 1, 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 November 1, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 07:13 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; Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity Officer; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Camellia Khorram & Akintunde Oluwadare, Racial Equity Office; Terrence Williams, Administration; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Colin Spry spoke about their personal experience with homelessness and traveling the country; Spry credited the community's support for homeless individuals.

Noah Daller spoke in support of the resolution to direct funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda, noted that the County has work ahead of it to find a long-term solution to the housing crisis.

Luna spoke in support of the resolution to direct funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda. Luna asked the Board to consider the relationship between low wages and housing insecurity.

Caleb spoke in support of the resolution to direct funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda; spoke about the County's homelessness intake and assessment system. Advocated for a reallocation from direct cash assistance to rapid rehousing

Brandon Williams requested that the allocation towards housing and homelessness be a structural modification to the County's budget.

Tim Oates spoke in opposition to the creation of a County land bank, spoke generally about a County land trust and living wage exemptions.

Travis Bowen said that community members are in need of additional support.

Catherine Gallaga spoke in support of the resolution to direct funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda and a structural allocation to fully staff a Washtenaw Resilience Office.

Wellby Seelly spoke in support of the resolution to direct funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda, asked the Board to seriously consider the requests of CMH employees.

Rich Fine spoke in support of a structural allocation to fund a fully staffed Washtenaw Resilience Office.

Sarah Swider spoke about MDOT's plans to build a fence through various County jurisdictions and asked the Board to support efforts to prevent construction of this fence.

Kelly Rutledge spoke about challenges facing homeless and at-risk youth in Washtenaw County; Rutledge spoke about Ozone House's efforts to fill in gaps in the community's homeless response system.

Monica Prince spoke about the County's commitment to research a senior services millage; Prince asked the Board to recommit to finding a long-term solution to funding older adult services.

Andrew Comai spoke in support of a structural allocation to fund a Washtenaw Resilience Office; Comai spoke in opposition to the hiring of a labor relations attorney.

Tess Brauster thanked the Board for its support on housing and homelessness, advocated for modifications to the resolution on housing on tonight's agenda. Brauster spoke in support of CMH employees at the County.

Esther Murphy said that they were wrongfully denied housing by the Ann Arbor Housing Commission; Murphy said that AAHC required their signature to match that of their deadname.

Sydney Bo-Davis advocated for additional support services for homeless individuals in Ypsilanti. Bo-Davis advocated for a reworking of the public safety millage to allocate more funding to mental health professional and less to law enforcement.

Brian Geringer said that Prosecutor Eli Savit should drop charges against Shihab Jackson in accordance with Savit's campaign promise to demonstrate leniency to non-violent offenders and to cease prosecuting cases which use evidence gathered via a pretext stop.

Skihhab Jackson spoke about their experience with homelessness; advocated for the

Board to pressure State officials for additional resources.

Amber Fellows criticized the Board's decision to allocate funding to the Community Corrections program through the Sheriff's Office, said that the Board should pass a resolution to urge federal legislators to sign on to demands for a ceasefire in Palestine.

Cynthia Price thanked the Board for their support of housing and homelessness programs, asked the Board for continued support for Winter sheltering programs.

Kris Olsson spoke in support of a structural allocation to fully staff a Washtenaw Resilience Office.

Jan Wright spoke in support of a structural allocation to fully staff a Washtenaw Resilience Office.

Jenny Rogers spoke in support of a structural allocation to fully staff a Washtenaw Resilience Office.

Anna Wysocki spoke in support of the resolution to allocate funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda.

Shannon Seegert spoke in support of increasing funding to HAWC and in opposition to the hiring of a labor relations attorney.

Jeffery Harold spoke in support of the resolution to allocate funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda.

Stephanie Krause thanked the Board for its willingness to weigh community input in its decision, noted that changes in weather necessitate additional resources for the shelter system.

Amanda Carlisle spoke in support of the resolution to allocate funding towards housing and homelessness on tonight's agenda, advocated for modifications to the resolution to contribute funding towards research and permanent housing solutions.

Samuel Hayes spoke in opposition to the hiring of a labor relations attorney.

1. Written Public Comment through 11/1/23

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. LaBarre clarified that the living wage exemption on tonight's agenda does not apply to CMH employees at the County, but rather to outside organizations with whom the County contracts.

Comm. Rabhi said that the resolution funding housing and homeless services on tonight's agenda was motivated in part by the community's advocacy at the Board's recent meetings. Rabhi noted that he plans to introduce an amendment that would ensure that recipients of direct cash assistance receive a larger lump sum up front followed by a series of smaller payments.

Comm. Rabhi said that he plans to vote no on tonight's resolution to approve a living wage

exemption to several contractors, said that the County needs to pay everyone a living wage regardless of where they are employed.

Comm. Rabhi spoke in opposition to the recommendation to hire a labor relations attorney through the quadrennial budget process.

Comm. Somerville spoke in support of a structural allocation to HAWC and a larger structural allocation to housing and homeless services generally.

Comm. Somerville indicated a desire to continue working on long-term solutions to older adult services in the County.

Comm. Beeman said that it is not within the County's purview to increase Medicaid reimbursements for mental health professionals; asked the public for support in pressuring legislators at the State and Federal level to increase those reimbursements.

Comm. Lyte said that the Board should consider measures to help insured individuals from outside the County source mental health services in their communities so as to limit workloads for County employees.

Comm. Hodge stated that the Board can pressure legislators at the Federal and State level for Medicaid reform, asked for additional public support in that process.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge said that the CJCC recently reviewed the Community Corrections budget and had discussions regarding the appropriate department to administer the program in the future.

Comm. Hodge said that the Advisory Council on Reparations met to discuss the approval of bylaws.

Comm. Somerville informed the Board that the CMH Board recently voted to receive funding back from when CMH covered their budget deficit in 2019.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Comm. Hodge opened (and closed) a public hearing to receive comment on the 2024-2027 Quadrennial Budget at 9:00pm.

Tim Oates spoke about systemic issues with budgeting in the public sector

Luna said that the budget should be made more accessible to the public.

Mary Campbell said that lower and mid-level County employees should be hired in towards the top of their payscales if high-level employees are going to continue to be hired above midpoint.

2. Comm. Hodge opened (and closed) a public hearing to receive comment on the Brownfield plan amendment for 303 N. Fifth Ave & 312/314 Detroit St in the City of Ann

Arbor at 9:07pm (with no public comment).

Comm. Hodge called a recess at 9:08pm.

The Board reconvened at 9:26pm.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. **23-185** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Washtenaw County Criminal Justice Collaborative Council be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners be approved. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
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-0059 RECEIVED, BUT NOT ACKNOWLEDGED: October 13, 2023. Livingston County Board of Commissioners: Resolution establishing the Livingston County Health Advisory Committee.

R-0060 RECEIVED, BUT NOT ACKNOWLEDGED: October 13, 2023. Ottawa County Board of Commissioners: Resolution making various recommendations regarding the promotion and distribution of vaccines in Ottawa County.

R-0061 RECEIVED: October 16, 2023. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission: Resolution supporting the renewal of the 2024 Road Millage ballot question.

R-0062 RECEIVED: October 19, 2023. Lenawee County Board of Commissioners: Resolution expressing support for maintaining local control over land use.

R-0063 RECEIVED: October 20, 2023. Washtenaw County Commission on Aging: Letter clarifying the body's request for information on County funds spent on senior programs and services.

R-0064 RECEIVED: October 24, 2023. Montcalm County Board of Commissioners: Resolution opposing legislation which would preempt local control of solar and wind development projects.

R-0065 RECEIVED: October 24, 2023. Washtenaw County Environmental Council: Resolution urging the Board of Commissioners to establish and staff a County Office of Sustainability and Resilience to implement *Resilient Washtenaw*.

R-0066 RECEIVED: October 25, 2023. Livingston County Board of Commissioners: Resolution opposing legislation which would preempt local control of solar and wind

development projects.

3. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees (Working Session: October 18, 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 October 10, 2023 through October 24, 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 to adopt the Brownfield Plan amendment for the 303 N. Fifth Ave and the 312/314 Detroit Street Brownfield Plan, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution to adopt the 2024-2027 Recommended Quadrennial Budget from Finance be approved.

Administrator Dill told the Commissioners that the recommendation to hire a full-time labor relations attorney had been removed from the budget.

Comm. Somerville asked the Board to consider amending this resolution to include her request to provide additional structural funding to housing and homelessness.

Comm. LaBarre indicated a desire for the Board to take additional time to fully consider the quadrennial budget.

Comm. Rabhi said that he would like to vote on a budget complete with the Commissioners' requests included as amendments.

Administrator Dill said that Administration will provide versions of the budget including each of the Commissioners' requests at the next BOC meeting.

Comm. Beeman, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved to postpone this motion to the November 15, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried - item postponed.

2. Single Reading

- A. **23-186** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution granting exemptions for CMH providers from the Living Wage Ordinance be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Rabhi, Sanders) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **23-187** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution authorizing the above midpoint hire of Toni Kayumi as Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development from Administration be approved.

Administrator Dill introduced Toni Kayumi as the Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development.

Kayumi introduced herself to the Board.

Comm. Somerville indicated that she will vote no on this resolution because she disagrees with the County's recent trend of hiring at above midpoint for high-level employees.

Comm. Maciejewski asked Administrator Dill for detail on the hiring process, asked why the position was vacant for such a long period of time.

Administrator Dill said that the previously selected candidate withdrew from the position, which led to delays in hiring.

Comm. Sanders said that the OCED Director fills a difficult role and that the compensation should reflect that.

Comm. Rabhi asked about Kayumi's ability to effectively pivot from the non-profit to public sector.

Kayumi noted that her work at the YMCA was centered on social justice which will inform her work with OCED.

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

- C. **23-188** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution authorizing the 2024 Remonumentation Grant from the Water Resources Commissioner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. **23-189** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution approving the receipt of grant funds from the Michigan State Court Administrative Office for the FY2024 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program (MDCGP) from the Washtenaw County Trial Court be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- E. **23-190** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to allocate \$2,180,000 of the APRA Financial Equity Center allocation to respond to the housing and homelessness system to support winter sheltering be approved.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to make the following amendments to the resolution:

- Increase the total allocation from \$2,180,000 to \$2,430,000

- Obligate \$750,000 of the total allocation to direct cash assistance, \$500,000 of which to be used for lump sum payments to aid with immediate housing needs such as security deposits
- Direct \$500,000 of the total allocation to rapid rehousing efforts
- Create a deadline of September 30th, 2024 for a Washtenaw County Housing Commission feasibility report

Comm. LaBarre asked the Board to consider the requests of various housing professionals with whom the County partners.

Comm. Sanders said that there is not enough time for her to properly consider Comm. Rabhi's amendment.

Comm. Rabhi said that this amendment was drafted in direct response to public comment from tonight's meeting.

Administrator Dill said that Finance will have to identify the source of the additional \$250,000 being allocated through Comm. Rabhi's amendment, stated that it is possible that this money comes from ARPA funding.

Comm. Somerville expressed a desire to maintain flexibility in how the County distributes direct cash assistance so as to accommodate individuals in different circumstances.

Comm. Scott said she will support Comm. Rabhi's amendment based upon input from community partners indicating that up-front lump sums in combination with direct cash assistance over time is highly effective in helping individuals to secure housing.

Comm. Lyte expressed concern that the County might distribute cash assistance inequitably or to individuals that may have their federal benefits disrupted as a result of the County's assistance.

Comm. Somerville proposed a friendly amendment to Comm. Rabhi's amendment to obligate an equal amount (\$375,000) to direct cash assistance and lump sum payments. This friendly amendment was accepted by Comms. Rabhi and Scott.

Comm. Sanders reiterated her desire to take additional time to consider this amendment, said that the Board should hear from the public and community partners.

Comm. Maciejewski indicated concern that the additional \$250,000 allocation has not yet been sourced and said that he is in favor of the increased allocation to rapid rehousing.

Comm. LaBarre asked for a complete version of this amendment with all necessary language included.

Comm. Scott noted the urgency of the housing and homelessness crisis and the Board's efforts to allocate the appropriate resources.

Comm. Somerville indicated support for the amendment and expressed appreciation for

the Board's deliberative process.

Administrator Dill asked whether the Board would be amenable to passing the original resolution with the expectation that Administration will deliver a comprehensive proposal for the additional \$250,000 being allocated through Comm. Rabhi's amendment at the November 15th BOC Meeting.

Comm. Lyte asked whether the additional \$250,000 could be included in the resolution contingent upon staff identifying a suitable source.

Comm. Rabhi proposed a friendly amendment to Comm. Rabhi's amendment to return the total allocation to \$2,180,000, reduce the rapid rehousing allocation to \$250,000, and add an additional clause directing the County Administrator to identify an additional \$250,000 in County funds to be directed towards rapid rehousing. This friendly amendment was accepted by Comms. Rabhi and Scott.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried - the amendment, as amended, was approved.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried - the resolution, as amended, was approved.

- F. **23-191** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Firehouse Museum be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Final Reading

- A. **23-192** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to approve the Office of Michigan Attorney General Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Memorandum of Understanding for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 from the Prosecuting Attorney be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **23-193** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to approve the State of Michigan FY24 Enhancement Grant for the East Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center from Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. **23-194** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution approving the final recommendation of award recipients for RFP 8419, "Human Services Partnership 2023 High Impact Grants Program" from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. **23-195** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to establish criteria for providing qualifying Veterans Enhanced Assistance with the payment of burial expenses be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Claims

- A. **23-196** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of October 23, 2023 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9

NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Molly Luempert-Coy and Michael Witkowski, DTE, gave a presentation on DTE's efforts to build a more resilient electrical grid in Washtenaw County.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the CEO of DTE would be willing to attend a future Board meeting.

Luempert-Coy and Witkowski indicated a willingness to bring Comm. Rabhi's request before the appropriate individuals.

Comm. Rabhi asked about moving electrical lines underground.

Witkowski said there is support at upper levels of the organization for under-grounding lines.

Comm. Rabhi said the community needs to expeditiously prepare its grid for increasingly frequent extreme weather.

Comms. Somerville and Scott thanked Luempert-Coy for her work to assist their constituents.

Comm. Scott expressed frustration on behalf of working families over increased energy costs.

Comm. Sanders asked whether DTE had representation at the Michigan Public Service Commission meeting in October.

Comm. Sanders encouraged the public to contact their State Senators and Representatives if they are dissatisfied with the response for their requests for utility service.

Comm. Sanders said that the DTE employees that she interacts with are not representative of the community.

Comm. Sanders asked about DTE's philanthropic activities in Washtenaw County.

Luempert-Coy listed various organizations and programs to which DTE provides support.

Comm. Sanders suggested that DTE offer assistance with the County's warming centers.

Comm. Rabhi shared excerpts from a Pro Publica article detailing DTE's sale of consumer debts which resulted in DTE customers having wages garnished by collections agencies; Comm. Rabhi expressed doubt that DTE is considerate of its low-income customers.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

1. Commissioner LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss communications from Corporation Counsel regarding pending litigation and the County's Risk Management Fund.

The Board reconvened at 12:58am.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 AM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: November 15, 2023