



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 6, 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 December 6, 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, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville

Members Absent: None.

Others Present Greg Dill, County Administrator; 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; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Julie Pastorino voiced their concerns over the potential displacement and/or shuttering of Pinball Pete's in Ann Arbor.

Lucas Reno voiced their concerns over the potential displacement and/or shuttering of Pinball Pete's in Ann Arbor, stated that the proposed development on the site does not address Ann Arbor's housing affordability crisis.

Hope Galecki spoke about their concerns regarding negotiations between the County and those unions which represent County Nurses, advocated for an increase in wages and benefits for nurses.

Muhammad Safedin said that County nurses' salary is not commensurate with their expertise and dedication to their patients, advocated for a for an increase in wages and benefits for nurses.

Mary Campbell asked the Board to pass a budget which allocates enough funding to fairly compensate lower-level staff.

Nancy Hine said that County Administration is not bargaining with Local Unit 3052 in good-faith.

Cynthia Price asked the Board to consider repurposing the Learning Resource Center to be used for shelter during the Winter months, Price noted the need for an emergency shelter with no waitlist in the County.

Shannon Seegert noted that inflation has caused a sharp increase in the cost of living, Seegert asked the Board to compensate the lowest level employees in the County fairly.

Shannon Grosshans said that the Courts are unable to fill vacant positions because the County doesn't compensate its employees fairly, said that incumbent employees frequently skip lunch and work long hours due to vacancies.

Samuel Hayes spoke about the Board's decision to purchase an RV to support the Mobile Support Services Initiative, Hayes spoke to the interconnectedness of labor issues and the housing crisis.

Kavon Hamadi voiced their concerns over the potential displacement and/or shuttering of Pinball Pete's in Ann Arbor.

State Representative Felicia Brabec spoke about the benefits of paid parental leave, thanked the Board for considering the paid parental leave policy on tonight's agenda.

Magnus the Entertainer asked the Board to consider repurposing the Learning Resource Center for emergency shelter, asked the Board to provide funding to ensure the County's warming centers are properly staffed.

Bob King implored the Board to stand up for working families.

Agbigail Allman reiterated the words of previous speakers and their fellow union members, said that the lack of fair compensation has dire consequences for the community beyond just County employees.

Dani Cooper asked the Board to consider the County's compensation structure, said that the Commissioners should be interacting with homeless individuals directly.

Brian Geringer advocated for the Board to pass a resolution demanding a ceasefire in Palestine, said that money which is being used to support Israel could be used to fund projects that benefit local communities.

Lindsay Kalka asked the Board to open the Learning Resource Center as an emergency shelter and to dedicate funding to non-winter sheltering.

Ian Robinson said that 2% raises for lower-level County staff are entirely insufficient, said that the County's compensation structure is unfair.

1. Written Public Comment through December 6, 2023.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. LaBarre clarified that the County does not control zoning in local municipalities and that the decision to rezone the Pinball Pete's site is left to Ann Arbor City Council.

Comm. LaBarre said that specific, unified requests from labor units are helpful for the Commissioners to envision fair and equitable agreements between the County and its bargaining units.

Comm. LaBarre said that the Mobile Support Services Initiative was born out of criticism during COVID that County services were inaccessible to many residents.

Comm. Somerville indicated her support for those individuals who spoke about unfair compensation at the County.

Comm. Somerville said that past initiatives have demonstrated that simply throwing money at the housing crisis is not a sustainable or effective strategy, emphasized that capacity-building is critical for the County.

Comm. Somerville said that she personally supports a ceasefire in Palestine and that it is the community's responsibility to ensure Jewish and Arab residents remain safe.

Comm. Beeman said that County workers cannot provide the best services when they aren't compensated fairly.

Comm. Beeman said that she expects that filling the Executive Director position at the Office of Community and Economic Development will have a positive impact on the housing crisis.

Comm. Rabhi voiced concerns regarding gentrification in Washtenaw County.

Comm. Rabhi spoke to the interconnectedness of labor issues and the housing crisis.

Comm. Rabhi said that the County should reopen its pension fund.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his experiences with racism in the wake of September 11th and the most recent attacks in Israel and Palestine.

Comm. Scott noted her concern for the proposed development at the Pinball Pete's site.

Comm. Scott said that the Mobile Support Services Initiative RV will be used to extend services to people who otherwise would not have access to them.

Comm. Scott indicated her support for the parental leave policy on tonight's agenda.

Comm. Scott thanked the individuals who spoke on behalf of their unions and coworkers, Comm. Scott highlighted cost of living increases in recent years.

Comm. Scott said that a 2% wage for lower-level workers is wholly insufficient and that she will advocate for fair compensation for those staff.

Comm. Lyte noted her availability for all County residents.

Comm. Lyte said that the Board is working on long-term solutions to the housing crisis.

Comm. Sanders said that MSSI was born out of a collaborative effort between various organizations throughout the County, said that MSSI will fill a need for residents with limited access to critical services.

Comm. Sanders said that the parental leave policy will be immensely beneficial to the County and its employees.

Comm. Maciejewski said that he will vote yes on the parental leave policy on tonight's agenda.

Comm. Maciejewski said that he has heard from residents in his district, on the western side of the County, that MSSI will be helpful in providing access to County services.

Comm. Somerville noted that MSSI will serve some residents who help fund County resources but have never had the opportunity to access them.

Comm. Rabhi said that he would like to see MSSI staff included within the AFSCME bargaining unit.

Comm. Rabhi spoke in support of the parental leave policy on tonight's agenda.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about the immorality of the American wealth gap.

Comm. Rabhi said that communities require new sources of revenue and suggested extracting that revenue from the ultra-wealthy.

Comm. Scott clarified that the parental leave policy will apply to both parents, not just the primary caregiver.

Comm. Beeman spoke in support of the parental leave policy on tonight's agenda.

Comm. Beeman said that the MSSI will greatly benefit rural residents in her district.

Comm. Sanders thanked the County staff who have worked on MSSI.

Comm. Sanders asked for civility and respect in County workplaces.

Comm. Hodge spoke in support of the parental leave policy on tonight's agenda.

Comm. Hodge said that MSSI was approved years ago and that he is excited that the program is set to launch.

Comm. Hodge said that the BOC has allocated almost \$9 million towards housing and homelessness over the last 16 months.

Comm. Hodge called a recess at 9:00pm.

The Board reconvened at 9:15pm.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge said that Ann Arbor SPARK is set to receive a significant amount of funding from the State.

Comm. Hodge said that CJCC passed a resolution to deliver recommendations to the Board regarding the future of the Community Corrections program.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. **23-205** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
2. **23-206** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Area Agency on Aging 1-B Executive Board be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
3. **23-207** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Board of Health be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
4. **23-208** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Board of Public Works be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
5. **23-209** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
6. **23-210** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Building Authority be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
7. **23-211** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Emergency Communications Millage Project Oversight Committee (800 MHz) be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
8. **23-212** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Emergency Medical Services Commission be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
9. **23-213** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Environmental Council be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
10. **23-214** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
11. **23-215** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Historic District Commission be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9

NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

12. **23-216** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Local Emergency Planning Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
13. **23-217** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
14. **23-218** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Parks and Recreation Commission be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
15. **23-219** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the River Raisin Watershed Council be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
16. **23-220** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Washtenaw County Social Services Board be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
17. **23-221** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Veteran Affairs Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
18. **23-222** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Commission on Aging be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
19. **23-223** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Community Action Board be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the minutes of the November 15, 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. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, 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-0072 RECEIVED: November 27, 2023. Livingston County Planning Commission: Notice of intent to prepare a new Livingston County Master Plan.

3. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
4. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, 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. 5. Other Reports

- A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from November 7, 2023 through November 28, 2023. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
 - B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, 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 November, 2023. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
6. 6. Report of the Treasurer - None.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. Final Reading

- A. **23-224** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution ratifying the application and acceptance of the Connect and Protect Law Enforcement Behavioral Response Grant from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **23-225** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a Resolution to Expand Diversion, Deflection and Violence Intervention Programming within the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and to Authorize the Creation and Modification of Related Program Positions from the Sheriff's Office be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked whether the reclassified positions will be classified as union.

Derrick Jackson, WCSO Director of Community Engagement, said that none of the positions will be classified as union.

Comm. LaBarre asked for details on the programs included under this resolution.

Jackson gave an overview of the WeLIVE and Peer2Peer programs. Jackson said that Peer2Peer is a mentoring program run through Community Corrections for individuals on Probation and the WeLIVE Program is a community violence intervention program, both programs are funded by the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- C. **23-226** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution providing funding for additional senior serving agencies from Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. **23-227** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to adopt the 2024-2027 Recommended Quadrennial Budget from Finance be approved.

Comm. LaBarre asked for status regarding the \$150,000 allocation to youth services which was included in an amendment to the budget at the Board's November 15, 2023

meeting.

Catherine Jones-Alther, Deputy Finance Officer, said that the full \$150,000 is being taken from the non-structural infrastructure budget.

Comm. Somerville said that she supports further increasing structural allocations to HAWC and housing and homelessness.

Comm. Scott asked her fellow Commissioners to consider future adjustments to the budget to ensure County staff are fairly compensated.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

***Comm. Rabhi clarified that he votes YEA on the entire resolution, with the exception of the following items, on which he either votes NAY or ABSTAINS:**

- **NAY on the Humane Society of Huron Valley Line Item**
- **NAY on the reclassification of a union supervisor position in the Parks Department to a non-union supervisor position**
- **ABSTAINS on all elements of the Resolution pertaining to nurses in the Public Health Department**

2. Single Reading

- A. **23-228** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution approving the 2024-2027 collective bargaining agreement with the Assistant Prosecutors Association from Corporation Counsel be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **23-229** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution approving the 2024-2027 collective bargaining agreement with the Public Defenders Association from Corporation Counsel be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. **23-230** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution approving Workforce Stabilization Payments to eligible employees who have not previously received either Premium Pay or Workforce Stabilization Payments be approved.

Administrator Dill acknowledged that the Commissioners may feel frustration at this item returning to the table after the Board passed a resolution addressing workforce stabilization payments in Summer 2023.

Comm. Scott indicated that she is concerned that some County employees have remained temps since 2020, Comm. Scott said that she remains opposed to providing workforce stabilization payments to individuals that make over \$150,000 per year.

Comm. Scott said that the money which would be used to provide stabilization payments to employees making more than \$150,000 per year could be used to support families in serious need.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he will oppose the clause which would qualify individuals making over \$150,000 per year but that he is encouraged to see temporary employees

be included under this resolution.

Comm. Rabhi indicated concerns with the County's distinction between temporary and seasonal employees.

Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator, said that it was Administration's intention to keep the resolution broad to include as many employees as possible.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved to amend the resolution to strike seasonal employees from the list of employees who are not recommended to receive payments and to add seasonal employees to the list of groups that are being recommended by the Administrator to receive payments.

Administrator Dill asked the Commissioners for the opportunity to report back to the Board on the financial implications of the amended resolution should the amendment pass.

Roll Call Vote on the amendment moved by Comm. Rabhi: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion to amend the resolution carried.

Comm. LaBarre said that he is willing to support the resolution as amended, including the clause which would include those individuals making more than \$150,000 per year as eligible for stabilization payments.

Roll Call Vote on the Resolution: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. The resolution, as amended, passed.

***Commissioners Beeman, Rabhi, and Scott clarified that they each vote YEA on the entire resolution, with the exception of the language which would designate those County employees making more than \$150,000 per year as eligible for Workforce Stabilization Payments, on which they each vote NAY.**

- D. **23-231** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution establishing a Parental Leave Policy for Washtenaw County employees be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Claims

- A. **23-232** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of November 27, 2023 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: January 3, 2024