



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 1, 2024

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 May 1, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 07:03 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 & Michael Auten, Corporation Counsel; Crystal Campbell, Public Information Officer; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Toni Kayumi, OCED Director; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Jason Fee, Facilities Management; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Bohling said that MSU Extension administers over 850 programs in which Washtenaw County residents participated over the last year and that over 200 County residents work for Michigan State University. Bohling spoke about several of the MSU Extension's more popular programs.

Katje Armentrout spoke about MSU Extension programs focusing on food security, production, and nutrition.

Cheryl Farmer asked the Board to vote in opposition to any resolution which would award funding to Growing Hope or FedUp Ministries. Farmer detailed challenges associated with an encampment of unsheltered individuals at the Growing Hope site in downtown Ypsilanti last year.

Shannon Seegert spoke about union busting and bullying occurring at the County; Seegert spoke about specific instances of union members being mistreated by non-union employees.

Aaron Cooper spoke in support of the renewal and restoration of the County's Mental Health

and Public Safety Millage.

Ginger Chase spoke in support of a rewritten Mental Health and Public Safety Millage to separate funding for mental health services and public safety.

Andrea Pierce spoke in support of the resolution recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples' Day on tonight's agenda.

Roderick Casey requested that the Board of Commissioners extend the filing deadline for the Countywide elected positions of Water Resources Commissioner and Treasurer.

Jennifer Schlitt spoke in support of the resolution recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples' Day on tonight's agenda.

Abby Allman asked the Board to pass a resolution that addresses the more long-term concerns of its labor groups.

Mary Campbell said that the resolution allocating additional resources to compensation on tonight's agenda is overly vague. Campbell asked the Board further clarify the differences between structural and one-time raises.

Danielle Dix spoke about the challenges faced by CMH employees and stated that there are no incentives to stay employed with the County long-term.

Cynthia Price stated that it is critical that reporting requirements for the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage be more stringent.

Nancy Heine spoke in support of the resolution allocating additional resources to compensation on tonight's agenda. Heine expressed concern that the resolution does not adequately provide funding for an across the Board wage increase for County employees.

Dani Hoover spoke in support of the resolution allocating additional resources to compensation on tonight's agenda.

Erik McCleary spoke in support of the resolution recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples' Day on tonight's agenda.

Nancy Kroll spoke in support of the County's labor groups and asked that the County continue negotiating in good faith. Kroll stated that recent resurfacings of the Courthouse parking lot in downtown Ann Arbor resulted in a reduction in handicap parking spots well past what is required.

Anna Taylor-McCants clarified that FedUp Ministries is not applying for funding from the County. McCants said that providing regular services at the Growing Hope site this Summer should help support the local homeless community.

Lee Ann Smith said that the County needs to incentivize people to work for and stay with the County through wage increases, Cost of Living Adjustments, and prioritizing work-life balance.

Elaine Gordon said that all County employees should be fairly compensated considering the

pay increases recently awarded to executive-level staff and commissioners.

Julius Buzzard spoke in support of the resolution awarding funding to various local organizations through mini-grants on tonight's agenda.

Alyshia Dyer acknowledged the County's recognition of Police Officers and Corrections Week and International Workers' Day. Dyer additionally stated that proposed amendments to the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage Ordinance are a step in the right direction.

Floki Ivey spoke in support of voting on separate Mental Health and Public Safety Millages.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Hodge stated that decoupling the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage is not possible and that the Board would have to vote on an entirely new set of millages funding mental health services and public safety separately.

Comm. Rabhi said that his interpretation of public comment is that many community members would prefer an entirely new millage funding mental health services exclusively.

Comm. Rabhi said that he advocated for the Board to wait to approve new contracts for the Administrator and Corporation Counsel until such time as the County could approve fair contracts with all its labor groups. Comm. Rabhi said that County employees cannot be expected to subsist on such low wages any longer. Comm. Rabhi said that it is sound policy from an organizational perspective to support employee retention and recruitment.

Comm. Rabhi clarified that the Board of Commissioners is unable to extend filing deadlines or terminate elected officials.

Comm. Somerville stated that she has been working with City of Ypsilanti officials and residents to support unsheltered individuals, neighbors, and business owners downtown. Comm. Somerville stated that challenges with unsheltered individuals stem from a variety of systemic issues and require collaborative efforts to address.

Comm. Somerville stated her support for members of County labor groups and said that structural increases to their salaries are essential.

Comm. Somerville said that the Board will present the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage to the voters as a renewal and that she is focusing her efforts on crafting an ordinance which will provide additional support to mental health services and supportive housing.

Comm. Scott spoke about the positive social outcomes associated with union membership and expressed support for the County's union members.

Comm. Scott spoke about the high levels of discrimination and violence faced by indigenous people in the United States.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about the prevalence of violence against indigenous peoples in close proximity to oil pipeline projects across the country.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge said that the Board of Health recently received reports on medical debt as well as the Health Department's equity work.

Comm. Hodge said that Washtenaw County is the largest contributor to Ann Arbor SPARK among community governments.

Comm. Hodge called a recess at 8:40pm.

The Board reconvened at 9:01pm.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **24-092** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution setting a Public Hearing on the Pollution Prevention Regulation for Wednesday, May 15, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
2. **24-093** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution setting a Public Hearing on the proposed 2024 Millage Rate for May 15, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
3. **24-094** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution setting a Public Hearing on the Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage Expenditure Policy Ordinance for May 15, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
4. Comm. Hodge opened (and closed) a a public hearing to receive comment on the Draft 2024 Annual Action Plan at 9:05pm.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the minutes of the April 17, 2024 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-0019 RECEIVED: April 15, 2024. Crawford County Board of Commissioners: Resolution in Support of the Protect MI Kids Bill Package

R-0020 RECEIVED: April 22, 2024. Eaton County Board of Commissioners: Resolution in Opposition to the FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget for Reduction to Michigan Conservation Districts

3. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees - Working Session (April 17, 2024). Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
4. Report of Special Committees - None.
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 April 9, 2024, through April 23, 2024. 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. LaBarre, moved that a resolution approving the final recommendation of award recipients for RFP 8586, "2024 New Human Services Partnership Mini-Grants", from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved.

Comm. Somerville stated that she will abstain from voting on this resolution because she serves on the Board of We The People Opportunity Farm.

Comm. Beeman highlighted the services provided by Aid in Milan.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the process for reviewing these grant applications.

Toni Kayumi, OCED Director, stated that a team of community reviewers scored these applications. Community reviewers are screened for potential conflicts by human services staff prior to scoring applications.

Comm. Sanders stated that she would like for Growing Hope to present before the Board prior to voting on this item for final reading.

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

- B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to approve all formula grants received by the Office of Community and Economic Development with a fiscal year starting during the 2024 Calendar year, from the Office of Community and Economic Development be . Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution ratifying the electronic application submission to the Michigan State Court Administrative Office for the FY2024 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program from the Trial Court be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution ratifying the electronic application submission to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the FY2024 Family

Treatment Court Grant from the Trial Court be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked whether the \$250,000 County match stipulated in this resolution is already budgeted for by the courts.

Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the match will come from the Court's budget and not the County general fund.

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

- E. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the execution of a purchase agreement contract for 1500 Stamford Rd (Cheney Elementary School) be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - F. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign a contract for the abatement and demolition of the former Cheney School upon closing and transfer of the associated property to Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
2. Final Reading
- A. **24-095** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution authorizing approval to exceed the \$10,000 maintenance limit, hire legal counsel, and amend the lake level order on the Portage and Baseline Lake Level District from Water Resources be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - B. **24-096** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution directing the Board of Public Works to undertake a lake improvement project for Pleasant Lake in the Township of Freedom from Public Works be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - C. **24-097** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution directing the Board of Public Works to undertake a lake improvement project for Whitmore Lake in the Townships of Northfield and Green Oak from Public Works be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - D. **24-098** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution accepting the responsibility of materials management planning as the County Approval Agency (CAA) and authorize the creation of a single county Materials Management Plan from Public Works be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - E. **24-099** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution ratifying the electronic grant application for the FY2024 Adult Treatment Court Grant from the Trial Court be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - F. **24-100** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution accepting the Laura and John Arnold Foundation Grant from the Sheriff's Office be approved.

Comm. Rabhi said that the contractor under this resolution (Truleo) appears to sell a system which propagandizes positive police interactions rather than promoting public accountability.

A representative from the Sheriff's Office stated that the Truleo system will, through an

automated process, analyze thousands of hours of footage collected by the Sheriff's Office to identify positive and negative trends in how police interact with citizens.

Comm. Rabhi asked whether the audio transcripts created by the Truleo system are public information.

A representative from the Sheriff's Office said that those transcripts are saved for 60 days and then deleted, but that the videos associated with those transcriptions (which contain audio) remain public record in perpetuity.

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

- G. **24-101** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution updating the Washtenaw County Travel Policy from Finance be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Single Reading

- A. **24-102** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution establishing the planning and reporting expectations of the Board of Commissioners on the use of millage funds be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **24-103** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution proclaiming May 5, 2024 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day in Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. **24-104** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution honoring the life of Bunyan Bryant be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. **24-105** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution honoring May 1, 2024 as International Workers' Day be approved.

Comm. Scott spoke about the origins of International Workers' Day and of the struggle of organized labor more generally.

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

- E. **24-106** Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution proclaiming the week of May 12, 2024 through May 18, 2024 as police and corrections officers week, and May 15, 2024 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- F. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to enter closed session to discuss this item. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

24-107 Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution reallocating resources for additional compensation from Finance be approved.

Comm. Scott, second by Comm. Somerville moved to amend this item so that any

mention of "employee compensation" be replaced with "bargained-for employee compensation." Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote on the resolution, as amended: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Rabhi). Motion carried.

4. Approval of Claims

- A. **24-108** 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 April 22, 2024 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

Comms. Beeman, Scott, Rabhi, and Sanders discussed their desire to bring DTE, Consumers Energy, and Telecommunications before the Board to answer questions.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 PM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: May 15, 2024