WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 5, 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 June 5, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 07:32 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; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Jason Fee, Facilities Management; Toni Kayumi, OCED Director; 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. Elizabeth Thompson spoke in support of the resolution to place an Older Persons Services Millage before the Washtenaw County electorate on behalf of the Commission on Aging.

   Courtney Vanderlong spoke in support of the resolution to place an Older Persons Services Millage before the Washtenaw County electorate on behalf of Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels.

   Cindy Bo-Davis said that the murder of George Floyd and the COVID-19 pandemic have reshaped the landscape of public safety and mental health services in the United States. Bo-Davis asked the Board to consider a shorter levying timeline for the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage and the addition of language to the millage's ordinance to ensure dollars allocated to the Sheriff's Office and earmarked for mental health services are administered by licensed mental health professionals.

   Mira Sussman thanked the Board for their consideration of the resolution to recognize

World Refugee Day. Sussman provided an overview of the geographic diversity of clients served by Jewish Family Services as well as the efficacy of the organization's economic and social programs.

Dirk Mayhew advocated for additional social workers to be present among responding officers from the Sheriff's Office and asked that Commissioners vote down the Mental Health and Public Safety millage so that it may be reworded to better serve the interests of County voters.

Maria Melitzer thanked the Board for their consideration of the resolution to recognize World Refugee Day and said that immigrants and refugees add immeasurable value to our community. Maria asked that the Board take tangible steps to support individuals with limited English proficiency in Washtenaw County.

Dina Smith spoke in support of the resolution to place an Older Persons Services Millage before the Washtenaw County electorate.

Christopher Lemon thanked the Board for considering an Older Persons Services Millage and asked that the Commissioners take steps to properly implement funding generated by a potential millage.

Kat Slocum spoke in support of the resolution to create a Historic District Study Committee for Groves Farm.

Rita Turner Sharon echoed the comments of individuals who advocated for a reworking of the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage.

Barbara Niece-May spoke in support of the resolution to place an Older Persons Services Millage before the Washtenaw County electorate on behalf of Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.

Aaron asked the Board of Commissioners to vote down the resolution to place the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage before the Washtenaw County electorate. Aaron said that conflating mental health services and policing is dangerous to individuals with mental illnesses.

Grace Bartley advocated for increased funding to affordable housing.

Karen Holman shared a Walt Whitman passage.

Francine Alexander said that the County has resources to lead the nation in its approach to criminal justice and mental health services, and that the Board has an opportunity to advance that goal by authorizing a millage that more effectively addresses mental health and public safety.

Jim Clark asked the Commissioners to check their email for information on a Kalamazoo City Ordinance which authorizes emergency housing needs to be filled by tiny-home communities.

Kathy Wyatt thanked Jewish Family Services for their work in the community. Wyatt asked the Board to approve the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage for placement before the electorate.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. LaBarre asked for continued engagement on the Older Persons Services Millage should it be placed before the voters.

Comm. Sanders stated her concern that some seniors who are property owners might be unable to afford an additional millage. Comm. Sanders stated that she would prefer a millage which funds general human services, youth services, and services for older persons.

Comm. Beeman stated that a recent townhall in her district was attended exclusively by individuals who support the restoration and renewal of the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage as it is currently written.

Comm. Scott said that a special election would cost the County $500,000 and is far from an insignificant expense.

Comm. Somerville said that her district includes residents who support the millage as it is written as well as individuals who support a rewritten millage.

Comm. Rabhi said that it is the Board's responsibility to place the best possible millage before the electorate. Comm. Rabhi said that the millage should reflect the will of the community as it exists today, not as it was 8 years ago. Comm. Rabhi clarified that the Board could place the millage before the voters in a 2026 election at no additional expense.

Comm. Hodge called a recess at 8:44pm.

The Board reconvened at 9:03pm.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Comm. Hodge opened (and closed) a Public Hearing on Amendment #1 to the Brownfield Plan at 220 N. Park, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198 at 9:05pm (with no public comment).

VII. APPOINTMENTS

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the minutes of the May 15, 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.) 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.) Voice vote - motion carried.

R-0021 RECEIVED: May 16, 2024. Branch County Board of Commissioners: Resolution in Opposition to the FY25 Governor’s Recommended Budget for the Reduction of Operational Funding to the Michigan Conservation Districts

R-022 RECEIVED: May 23, 2024. Lake County Board of Commissioners: Resolution in Opposition to the FY25 Governor’s Recommended Budget for the Reduction of Operational Funding to the Michigan Conservation Districts.

R-023 RECEIVED: May 23, 2024. Lake County Board of Commissioners: Resolution Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Week.

R-024 RECEIVED: May 28, 2024. City of Chelsea: Notice of Intent to Update Master Plan.

3. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees - Working Session (May 15, 2024). Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register’s Office.) Voice vote - motion carried.

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.) Voice vote - motion carried.

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 May, 7, 2024, through May 28, 2024. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register’s Office.) Voice vote - motion carried.

6. Report of the Treasurer - None.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. First Reading

A. Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to submit to the electorate a millage question authorizing funding for Older Persons Services on the November 5, 2024, Ballot and Certifying Ballot Language be approved.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that over 76,000 County residents are over the age of 60 according to the 2020 US Census and that the County needs to account for its rapidly changing demographics. Comm. Maciejewski said that nearly 90% of older Americans have an insufficient understanding of the resources available to them as seniors and that it should be the County's goal to eliminate barriers to those services. Comm. Maciejewski stated that funding for Older Americans Act services continues to decline and that it is incumbent upon the County to fill the gap left by federal funding decreases.

Comm. Maciejewski said that an Older Adult Services Millage could provide resources for the creation of an Office on Aging, an aging and stability resource hub, and a minor home repair program. Comm. Maciejewski spoke about challenges facing older persons relating to transportation. Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the importance of enhancing nutrition and legal aid programs available to older persons and encouraging interactions across generations. Comm. Maciejewski stated that it is critical that the County offer support to the community's network of senior centers. Comm. Maciejewski said that caregivers of older adults face constant challenges, including increased rates of depression and anxiety. Comm. Maciejewski stated that Washtenaw County is one of 9 counties in the State of Michigan that does not have a senior millage.

Comm. LaBarre expressed his support for an Older Persons Services Millage.

Comm. Somerville expressed her support for an Older Persons Services Millage and thanked Comm. Maciejewski for his work on this item.

Comm. Rabhi suggested adding a definition for 'Senior' in the Millage language to provide certainty as to who would be served by this Millage.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to amend the Millage language to add "60 years and older" after "older persons" in the millage language. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 (Sanders) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Lyte expressed her support for an Older Persons Services Millage.

Comm. Rabhi voiced his concerns about relying exclusively on taxes to generate revenue for the County, stating that it contributes to rising unaffordability. Comm. Rabhi suggested a future resolution to guide implementation of millage funding.

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

2. Final Reading

A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution updating the Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage Policy Ordinance be approved.

Comm. Somerville, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved to amend the resolution to ensures a minimum of 10% of millage dollars allocated to the Sheriff's office are spent towards each of the 3 categories of Mental and Behavioral Health Services, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing, and Community Violence Interruption. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Sanders, Lyte) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to amend the resolution according to a comprehensive set of changes provided to the Board in-person.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to amend the amendment so that the final sentence in the fourth paragraph under Section 2 of the ordinance reads "as a highly detailed line item component of the annual CMH budget (operating on the State's Fiscal Calendar) for final approval."

Roll Call Vote on the amendment to Comm. LaBarre amendment: YEAS 5 NAYS 4 (LaBarre, Lyte, Maciejewski, Sanders) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

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

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to amend the resolution to include the following language under the final paragraph of Section 5 of the ordinance: "The millage funds shall not be used for the purchase or maintenance of firearms or other weapons of any kind, including chemical weapons used for crowd dispersal."

Roll Call Vote on Comm. Rabhi's amendment: YEAS 5 NAYS 4 (Hodge, Lyte, Maciejewski, Sanders) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Somerville, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to amend Section 5 of the ordinance according to a comprehensive set of changes provided to the Board in-person.

Roll Call Vote on Comm. Somerville's amendment: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 (Sanders) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott moved to amend the resolution so that item 2 under Section 6 of the ordinance reads as follows: "The Advisory Committee members shall be recommended by the Chair of the Board and approved by the Board of Commissioners, including future vacancies."

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

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to amend the resolution to include the words: "and the Board of Commissioners" at the end of the first sentence in item 3 under Section 6 of the ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Sanders, Lyte) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to amend the resolution so that the second sentence of item 5 under Section 6 of the ordinance reads as follows: "The Sheriff will take this plan under advisement and include it as part of the annual millage investment plan to be submitted as a line-item budget to the Board of commissioners for consideration and adoption as a component of the Board's annual budget process."

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Sanders, Lyte) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to amend the resolution so that the Sheriff would be classified as an ex-officio member of the Public Safety Millage Advisory Committee.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 5 NAYS 4 (Hodge, LaBarre, Lyte, Sanders) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to amend the resolution so that item 3 of Section 5 of the ordinance read as follows: "Funds will be used to continue and/or expand existing internal programs and to increase new external programs to reduce community violence. All external programs must be allocated through a Request

For Proposal (RFP) process to be reviewed by the Public Safety Millage Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

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

Comm. Rabhi moved to amend the ordinance to remove the 'jail services' program under Section 3 of the ordinance. The motion was not seconded.

Comm. Beeman, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to amend the ordinance to add language stipulating that certain funds will be administered by outside partner organizations. The motion was withdrawn by Comms. Somerville and Beeman.

Roll Call Vote on the resolution, as amended: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Sanders, Lyte) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution placing the restoration and renewal of the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage on the November 5, 2024, General Election Ballot be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 (Rabhi) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

C. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution creating (1.0) FTE Director of Elections position within the County Clerk/Register's Office be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

D. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution ratifying the electronic application submission to the Michigan State Court Administrative Office for the FY25 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program (MDCGP) be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

E. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution accepting the City of Ann Arbor Weatherization Assistance Program Grant from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

F. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution approving the amended Washtenaw County Pollution Prevention Regulation from the Health Department be approved.

Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to amend this item by substituting the Pollution Prevention Regulation with an updated version.

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

Roll Call Vote on the item, as amended: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Single Reading

A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution approving the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan and authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Washtenaw Urban County 2024 Action Plan for HUD, from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved.

Tara Cohen, Housing and Infrastructure Manager, stated that Washtenaw Urban County receives 3 major grants (CSG, HOME, CSBG) annually and that this resolution authorizes the method by which those funds are distributed throughout the County.

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

B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution to approve amendments to the Washtenaw Urban County's Annual Action plans for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved.

Comm. Sanders asked whether funding provided to Avalon will be used to convert public assets to property owned privately by Avalon.

Tara Cohen stated that Avalon will use a portion of its funding to transfer 206 N Washington St in Ypsilanti to its portfolio.

Comm. Sanders asked about the safeguards in place to ensure that Avalon uses this funding to promote the public interest.

Comm. Rabhi echoed Comm. Sanders' concerns.

Cohen clarified that the 206 N Washington property only came into the City's possession after it was destroyed by a fire.

Comm. Somerville said that Avalon was selected as a developer for the site through an RFP process and that revenue generated from the sale of the property will be returned to the City of Ypsilanti's affordable housing trust fund.

Cohen stated that Avalon applied for these dollars directly and that as federal HUD funds they must first pass through approval by the Urban County and the Board of Commissioners.

Comm. Maciejewski asked whether VASH vouchers would be attached to any of the units at 206 N Washington St.

Cohen stated that she is unaware of any VASH vouchers involved with the project.

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

C. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution to adopt the Amendment #1 for the Brownfield plan for the renovare Ypsilanti homes redevelopment project, 220 N. Park St, Ypsilanti MI 48198, from the Office of Community and Economic Development be . Roll Call Vote: YEAS 0 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

D. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution approving the appointment of a Historic District Study Committee for the purpose of evaluating the Groves Farm for the Historic District designation be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

E.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution authorizing the

Chair of the Board of Commissioners to sign a lease agreement for indoor vehicle storage from Administration be approved.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the monthly rent listed in this contract is strangely high.

Brady Peck, Director of Operations, stated that there are plans for a County-owned, long-term storage solution for the MSSI RV. Peck stated that storage costs will be funded through ARPA allocations. Peck said that the lease term is longer than the anticipated construction timeline for the long-term storage solution to account for any possible delays in construction.

Rabhi said that ARPA funds should be used for purposes that have greater community benefit.

Comm. Hodge pulled this item from the agenda.

F. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that aresolution to accept a grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation in the amount of $5,000 from Administration be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the direct cash assistance program being funded by this grant.

Crystal Campbell, Public Information Officer, stated that using philanthropic dollars to fund this program allows for beneficiaries to continue accessing other publicly funded services without interruption.

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

G. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution amending the Travel Policy from Administration be approved.

Greg Dill, County Administrator, gave a brief presentation on the proposed changes to the County's travel policy.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to amend the Travel Policy so that travel requests are approved by the whole Board rather than the Cha.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman moved to postpone a vote on this item until the July 10th Board of Commissioners meeting.

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

H. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution proclaiming July as Parks and Recreation Month be . Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

I. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution recognizing World Refugee Day be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

J. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution proclaiming June 19 as Juneteenth be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

K. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution declaring the first Friday in June as National Gun Violence Awareness Day be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

L. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

M. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution accepting the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program grant from the Prosecuting Attorney be approved.

Eli Savit, Washtenaw County Prosecutor, said that this grant will be used to further efforts to prevent domestic gun violence in collaboration with Safe House Center.

Comm. Sanders asked about plans following grant expiration.

Savit stated that there are no existing plans to continue funding this program after expiration of the grant but that the goals of the program could continue to be advanced after expiration.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. 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 May 27, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. The Board received a paper version of the Q1 Budget Report.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. Beeman moved that the resolution updating the Mental Health and Public Safety ordinance have an effective date of January 1, 2025.

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

Comms. Scott, Sanders, Lyte, and Rabhi expressed concern that the Courts are neglecting to participate in the County's employee engagement programs.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 AM.

____

Justin Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

____

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: July 10, 2024