WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 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 September 18, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 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:	
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; 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; Ashlyn Poole, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mary Campbell, Washtenaw County Employee, President of Local AFSCME 2733, thanked the BOC for their support during contract negotiations. She also talked about retiree benefits negotiation and stated that she hoped for the Board's continued support.

   Parkridge Summer Fest Committee members, Ricky Lee Jefferson, Ypsilanti Twp., Anthony Williamson, Ypsilanti Twp., Angela Johnson, Pittsfield Twp., Walter Walker, Ypsilanti Twp. Spoke about their work in Ypsilanti and their community day, held in August. The speaker thanked the Board for their partnership and stated that he is looking forward to continuing their annual event.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Somerville expressed that it was nice to hear people say thank you.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about the Historic District and expressed his appreciation for the work that they do. He stressed the importance of the historical buildings and the people who help to preserve them. Comm. Rabhi also stated that he has been talking to te County Administrator about what more the Board can do to support the efforts of the Historic District committee.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Maciejewski reported on the Board of Public Works and spoke about the cleanup days at EMU. Nov. 2nd - The Conservation district and Water Resource Commissioner's Office will hold the Annual Agricultural Tire and Tractor Tire clean up day in Freedom Twp., and he wished his son a happy birthday.

Comm. Scott gave a report about the Parks Commission meeting and their work on the Eastside Rec Center and the works in the parks. Comm. Scott also provided updates on Independence Lakes and Mary Lou Murray.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his previous work in natural area preservation and provided a report on the Parks Commission, and he thanked the staff for all of their work. He also spoke about purchasing the Grossman preserve, which is the first preserve in Saline Twp. The the county parks system will be managing.

Comm. LaBarre gave a report on Continuum of Care meeting and spoke about an amendment coming before the Board. He also stated that new proposed numbers being presented to the Board.

Comm. Hodge thanked Comm. Rabhi and Scott for inviting him to the Park Commission meeting. The Urban County Executive meeting

Comm. Rabhi gave a report about the Drain Commission and Mary Beth Doyle park which the drain commission owns. He provided an update on the ongoing development and trails near the Argo Dam.

Comm. Hodge reported about the advisory council on reparations and gave an update on their progress and their leadership change. He spoke about the film screening organized by Ashley Hall and thanked her for her work.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1.

A.

B.

C.

D.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that the minutes of the September 4, 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. **R-0039 RECEIVED**: September 12, 2024, Department of Health and Human Services Social Services Board Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2024

   R-0040 RECEIVED: September 11, 2024, Washtenaw County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes July, 10, 2024

3.

4.

5.

A.

B.

6.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1.

A. Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **24-181 Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.**

B. 24-182 Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to amend by substitution.

Toni Kayumi, Director of OCED, stated that the changes made by the COC were moving funds from diversion stipends to Ozone House youth services as they had not been included in the original resolution.

Comm. LaBarre spoke about Youth Services and how this budget assists with their needs.

Director Kayumi added that the resolution may cover an expansion of services.

Comm. Rabhi asked what was being cut in the budget to fund Ozone House.

Director Kayumi clarified that the cuts were coming from diversion programs which had received alternate funding this fiscal year.

Comm. Rabhi asked what the alternate funding would come from.

Deputy Administrator Andrew DeLeeuw provided an answer.

Comm. Rabhi asked what REO stood for.

Director Kayumi stated that it stood for Racial Equity Office where the funds originated from.

Comm. Rabhi asked for further clarification which Kayumi provided.

Comm. Rabhi asked about direct cash assistance going to the Barrier Busters program. He asked if the Board had voted on providing those funds.

Toni assured Comm. Rabhi that the Board had voted on whether to provide the funds or not.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he wanted to see the resolution where the Board voted to approve the funds.

Administration looked for the resolution in question.

Deputy Administrator DeLeeuw stated that he believed that the Resolution was voted on in November of 2023.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the $750,000 allocated for direct cash assistance and if a portion of the funds were going to barrier busters all along.

Director Kayumi stated that her recollection was that the funds allocated were not being distributed as fast as the office would have liked them to go and that there were also some challenges with the way REO had proposed setting up direct cash assistance. She also stated that she believed that the issue had come back to the board, but she was not sure. She stated that the money could be distributed immediately if it was distributed through Barrier Busters.

Comm. Rabhi asked for further clarification on Barrier Busters and diversionary funds which Kayumi provided.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he wanted to see the resolution, preferably at the current meeting. He expressed his concerns that the line item was excluded from the budget that was provided. He stated that he would like to see the changes reflected in future budgets.

Comm. Rabhi asked who made the recommendation and asked about COC Board members and how they were selected.

Director Kayumi explained the member selection for the COC Board.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the Board of Commissioners created the board. Kayumi stated that it was created locally and by bylaw.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the COC Board had the authority to determine how county funds were spent.

Kayumi explained that the COC Board could make recommendations, but the Board of Commissioners made the ultimate decision.

Comm. Rabhi asked for more explanation, which Comm. Hodge provided for him and also stated that Comm. LaBarre could provide more information.

Comm. LaBarre explained how the Board made their recommendation.

Comm. Rabhi expressed some discomfort with the recommendation from the COC when there is a department (OCED) who should be making the recommendations to the Board.

Director Kayumi stated that OCED was in support of the recommendation provided by the COC.

Comm. Rabhi also expressed his discomfort with who wrote the resolution and stated his thoughts that the recommendation should be written by Toni Kayumi and OCED instead of Brady Peck or an outside entity.

Comm. Hodge stated that this was the reason for the resolution that was recently passed that stated that the Board was supportive of the COC structure.

Comm. LaBarre stated that the Board made the funding decision and praised the COC Board. He expressed his belief that this recommendation would better serve the Board in Winter Sheltering.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about previous instances where he felt COC bypassed OCED and presented the Board with a recommendation, and wanted to make sure this was not one of those instances. He stated that operationally, this is not how things should go.

Director Kayumi assured Comm. Rabhi that she vetted the recommendation and fully supported it. She stated that Administration (Brady) wrote the resolution to expedite the process so it could be heard at the current meeting. She also said that she made the recommendation for funds to be moved to Ozone House and Youth Services and Administration added it into the resolution.

County Administrator Dill stated that he had confidence in Toni Kayumi's leadership and asked for clarification on the issue.

Comm. Sanders stated that she was happy that funds are being spent for Youth Services. She requested a report from the Non-Profit County partners on why people get turned away for services. She also asked about the county's pay structure to non-profits. She stated that she wanted greater accountability for our non-profit partners. She also stated that she wanted an number of people who were being turned away for sheltering and a reason.

Comm. Somerville echoed Comm. Sander's comments and spoke about needing feedback from people who are utilizing services. She spoke about the need for the Board to be strategic in its spending. She also expressed her gratitude for the program supporting young people. She expressed her appreciation of the collaborative work being done by the administration and stated her feelings that they have been able to get more done. Comm. Somerville also urged her colleagues to make a resolution if they wanted to change the way the Board operated.

Director Kayumi stated that she regularly communicated with Winter Warming taskforce and other homeless service organizations. She stated they also were given the opportunity to review the resolution.

Administrator Dill expressed that Toni and OCED were not excluded from drafting the Winter Warming resolution and that there was no disconnect between OCED and Administration.

Comm. LaBarre thanked OCED staff and administration. He urged other Board members to appreciate the level of partnership that the county and its partners have. He also stated that he wanted to make where taxpayer dollars were being spent more explicit to taxpayers so that they know that their money is being used to help someone in need.

Comm. Hodge explained the makeup of the membership of the COC Board.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he would like a follow-up as to why Toni did not have the time to create this memo as he would like OCED to create memos. He stated that it was beneficial to the Democratic process to ask questions. Asked what has been done to ensure that the county is recognized for its contributions.

Toni stated that county acknowledgments have been added to recent contracts and also stated that they have been exploring adding a sticker to debit cards and Washtenaw County has been added to certain community partner websites.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he would like to see the county recognized closer to the point of service. He also stated that the conversation could continue later. He asked if people receiving funds would accept after hours calls because they are being funded.

County Administrator Dill stated that the administration would act as a safety net for people who needed help after hours.

Director Kayumi stated that the County could require afterhours work be mandated to our partners.

Comm. Rabhi asked more about hosteling and Director Kayumi answered questions about point of entry and other hoteling dollars.

Comm. Somerville cleared up questions about point of entry and staff at the call center. She stated that it was the Board's responsibility and spoke about amendments she called for last year and how it received no support. She spoke about the need for case management. Reminded her colleagues that they could make motions if they wanted action taken.

Comm. Somerville seconded by Comm. Sanders moved to call to question. - Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

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

C. 24-183 Comm. LaBarre asked for the status of the changes to the Maintenance of Effort line in the budget.

Comm. Hodge stated that the item would come up in a separate resolution at a meeting in October.

County Administrator Dill stated that they were still trying to finalize some points in the budget.

Comm. LaBarre asked what impact the separate resolution would have on the vote happening today and asked for more information ahead of the vote.

Comm. Scott made a point of order that the amendment that she proposed stated that MOE would come to the Commissioners at the first meeting in October.

Jimena Loveluck, Health Officer, referred the Commissioners to the memo provided by the Health Department and stated that there have been discussions on increasing the maintenance effort to about 6 million dollars and an annual increase based on cost of living adjustments.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Dir. Loveluck and stated that he would vote for the budget and stated he was interested in addressing issues structurally as these discussions were always time-constrained and rushed.

Dill stated that the amended item would be added as an agenda item in an upcoming Board Leadership meeting and then followed up with communication to the board, then presented as a first reading agenda item in October.

A representative from the Health Department stated that if additional funding was awarded to the Health Department, they would have to bring a budget amendment and provide next steps to the Board. She also stated that if a budget was not approved at the September 18, 2024, meeting, doors would have to be closed on October 1, 2024.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he would vote yes on the budget but asked for clarification on an increase in fees and how they were calculated.

The representative from the Health Department provided some insight into the type of fees that affect consumers and stated that they wanted to reduce those fees because high fees create issues in the community.

Jimena Loveluck stated that the fees were calculated carefully based on administration of the program but that they could explore a gradual fee increase model if administration costs were to increase.

Comm. Rabhi stated his opinion that some of the extra funds being provided should not go to decreasing fees, but rather go to expanding services. He also asked if there was a way to show people receiving services how their fees are calculated so that people know how much is being subsidized by the county.

Loveluck also wanted to specify that the MOE was the main funding source that helped to support essential services and that every year the Health Department has a deficit because the MOE is not sufficient, so it would not necessarily equal an expansion of services.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he did not want it all to go to decreasing fees.

Comm. Hodge stated his opinion that some of the funds should go to the healthy neighborhoods program.

A representative from the Health Department stated that these issues were separate from MOE.

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

D. 24-184 Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

E. 24-185 Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

F. 24-186 Roll Call Vote: YEAS 0 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3.

A. 24-187 Comm. Hodge expressed his gratitude for the Tethering program that the Sheriff's Department handles that keeps people out of jail. He also expressed his thoughts that the services provided are essential.

Comm. Rahbi asked if the budget was an increase from the previous year's budget.

Renee Casey, Manager of Community Corrections confirmed and stated that it was an increase of about $500,000 dollars.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the increase would be an increase in the fee that is being charged for tethering.

Casey stated that the department needed guidance from the Board. She stated that costs have increased across the board regarding electronic monitoring for all devices and drug testing supplies, tethering. She stated that there has been an increase in use of the program with about 5000 more drug tests being administered. She stated that vendor costs have increased. She stated that with the increase in costs, the department needed either an increase in fees charged to program participants, an increase in the budget from the General Fund or a cap on the number of participants.

Comm, Rabhi asked if the increase could be attributed to judges allowing more people to participate in the program.

Casey affirmed that it was.

Comm. Rabhi asked for more clarification on the fees paid.

Casey stated that participants are charged. However, fees were not aggressively collected.

Comm. Rabhi asked for the percentage of individuals that do not pay.

Casey stated that she could get that information. She also spoke about the ways that fees were collected on the route and spoke about the financial impact on participants in the program.

Comm. Rabhi expressed the opinion that if people had the ability to pay, they should pay, but also expressed some reluctance about taking action about enforcing payments because of the negative affects that this might have on people who could not pay. He also proposed implementing sliding scale payments and enforcing them.

Comm. Rabhi asked the amount of money coming from millage funds and the amount coming from the general fund.

Casey stated that it was the same amount of money that was requested in the previous year but that the Sheriff's Department wanted to work more closely with the Board of Commissioners to come up with a long term solution for the large increase in costs.

Comm. Rabhi stated that if we require payment, we should enforce it, and we need to work with judges to come up with a structural solution.

Comm. Hodge stated that some of those structural conversations have already been happening behind the scenes with the County Administrator, Sheriff Clayton, Renee Casey and some of the judges on a more collaborative relationship. He stated that the program was valued and that costs should not be passed off to the users of the program.

Comm. Rabhi stated that some people are able to pay and stated his opinion that judges do not have a problem with enforcing fees that they are able to keep for their budget and expressed his frustration with the judges' lack of financial contributions to assist with the program.

Comm. Hodge assured Rabhi that this was part of their early conversation and that these conversations would continue.

Renee Casey reemphasized the importance of conversations because of the funds that are available. 450–460 individuals on tether without adequate staff supervision. Cases being referred are becoming more violent in nature and stated that it is a public safety issue.

Comm. Sanders stated that the courts are separate and that partnership would be difficult. She also stated that she wanted to know what the percentage of people in default is. She also asked for an inquiry to be made to the court whether judges are asking if defendants have outstanding amounts due when individuals come before them. She stated her hope that there was across-the-board due diligence from the court. Comm. Sanders stated that she would be interested in a sliding scale. She asked about suspending payments or creating payment plans.

Comm. Somerville asked the Board to take into consideration that jail costs 3 times as much as tether monitoring and that restricting would mean that more money would be spent on jailing the person. She also expressed her desire for different sliding scale parameters to be considered because of the cost of living in Ann Arbor and how everyone may not be on the same level. She also stated that the county should investigate operating the services within the county instead of using outside agencies. Comm. Somerville asked to be involved in some of the conversations as she is the

Chair of Community Corrections as she feels that she has not been included. She stated that she has perspectives on the situation.

Comm. Hodge talked about the fact that the jail population is fairly low relative to the population.

Comm. Scott talked about her perspectives on sliding scale payment affordability. She echoed Comm. Somerville's comments about payments and jail. She also stated her thoughts on payments from people who can and cannot pay. She also stated that courts and millage funds could help pay the costs associated with this program, and she stated that she would like to revisit the topic in the future but that she will be voting yes.

Comm. Rabhi agreed with Comm. Scott's comments about millage. He asked if the funding from the millage had been used in the past to contribute to the program.

Casey stated that funds from millage as well as funds from FTEs had been used in the past.

Comm. Rabhi asked how the amount had changed compared to previous years and Casey provided approximate numbers.

Comm. Rabhi stated his disappointment with the amount of funds being drawn from the millage and the amount being drawn from the General Fund and stated his belief that more of the millage dollars should be put into the program. Asked for an update from Finance on where the county was on the fund balance. Comm. Rabhi also expressed his hope that in the future, funding sources will be more balanced.

Comm. Rabhi made a comment about the costs of jail vs. the tethering program. He asked about the financial liability of a person in jail.

Casey guessed that they only paid a booking fee, but was not knowledgeable of the numbers.

Comm. Rabhi wanted to know the financial impact on the individual.

Renee Casey provided a breakdown of the costs of jailing vs. tethering.

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

B. 24-188 Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on how Item B. (Single Reading) A resolution approving the Washtenaw County Health Department's 2023/2024 final budget was different from Item C (Final Reading) A resolution authorizing the County Administrator's signature on the Washtenaw County Health Department's Comprehensive Agreement for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, from Washtenaw County Health Department.

A representative from the health department clarified and stated that Item A was from the current fiscal year and provided a final budget amendment in order to be within auditing standards because of staffing changes and additional state funding.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the Health Department for the clarification.

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

4.

A. 24-189 Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Andrew Deleeuw provided updates on their work on a housing report proposal.

   Comm. Rabhi thanked Andrew and Toni for their work on the proposal.

   Comm. Hodge stated that he looked forward to hearing their proposal.

2. County Administrator Dill spoke about the process and timeline of the county's search for a Racial Equity Officer.

   Comm. Somerville spoke about an award she received from Avalon Housing.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Comm. Hodge gave a report about the Commission on Community Action Agency and the praise they gave Director Toni Kayumi.

Comm. Hodge highlighted that there were only 5 Community Action Agencies in the state and that Washtenaw County was one of the five agencies.

He talked about meeting President Joe Biden on his visit to Michigan.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Scott requested a report on election security from the clerk's office in an October meeting.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM

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Justin Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: October 2, 2024