



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2024

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working 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 5:34 PM by Comm. Somerville, Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	Comms.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Ashlyn Poole, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gary Muncee, Washtenaw County, expressed his gratitude to the Board for all their work on the Older Persons Service Millage.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

None.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator, gave a presentation on the Older Persons Service Millage. He proposed utilizing the funds from the millage to create an Aging Services Department.

DeLeeuw spoke about his desire to tailor services to primarily benefit residents aged 60 and older. He provided a proposal summary that included budgets and staffing, organizational structure, and implementation priorities.

Comm. Hodge expressed his gratitude to DeLeeuw for developing the proposal.

Comm. LaBarre echoed the sentiments of Comm. Hodge, but expressed his reluctance to fund a department based on a millage because of its limited time funding. He also expressed some of his other worries about creating the office. He stated that the Board has the opportunity to add some of these positions to existing departments now.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the Deputy Administrator and spoke about his opinion that the grant number is too high, he stated that he wanted to see a bigger department and a bigger investment into county staff and internal development. He stated that he agreed with Comm. LaBarre and suggested adding in a "cushion" to the budget in case it is not renewed. Comm. Rabhi stated that he would like to see an aging outreach program.

Comm. Scott asked for clarification on the budget and asked for specific percentages for each item on the budget. She expressed her agreement with her fellow commissioners about adding in a buffer in case the millage is not renewed.

Andrew provided some clarification.

Comm. Scott asked about Legal Aid and what services they would provide seniors.

DeLeeuw explained the legal needs that seniors may have.

Comm. Scott asked if they would include services like estate planning and power of attorney.

DeLeeuw stated it could possibly be that type of service but did not want to be too specific .

Comm. Scott asked what designates something as a Senior Center.

DeLeeuw explained generally the parameters for a senior center.

Comm. Maciejewski further explained how a place would be designated a Senior Center.

Comm. Sanders asked about transportation and stated that transportation would be her priority. She also stated that she wanted meaningful safeguards against elderly abuse. Comm. Sanders expressed her concerns about duplication of services and diverting funds from outside agencies.

Administrator Dill stated that this presentation is just the beginning of the conversation and that work still needed to be done.

Comm. Maciejewski thanked the board for their thoughtful discussion and provided some thoughts on creating the Office on Aging. He also spoke about caregivers and supporting the people who are caring for older adults. Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the importance of outreach and partnership. Maciejewski thanked Andrew for his work.

Comm. Somerville agreed with Comm. Maciejewski and gave her opinion on the proposal. She also stated her agreement with Comm. Sanders and highlighted what Comm. Maciejewski said about partnership. She spoke about talking to Atty. General

about the cases regarding older people that they see.

Comm. Hodge suggested hiring social workers who deal specifically with elder abuse.

Comm. Rabhi talked about ways to create stability and maintain funds in the future. He also talked about the Washtenaw County ID program and partnering with the Clerk's office to hire someone to head the program. He stated his desire to narrow the services that a potential office would provide and focus on doing a few things well. He stated his belief that the county gives money externally instead of using funds internally. He stated that he wanted the county to know what their tax dollars are funding.

Comm. LaBarre asked Comm. Maciejewski more about Age Ways.

Comm. Maciejewski provided more information on AgeWays and how creating this office would put the County in a better standing with AgeWays.

Comm. Hodge spoke about his work on the AgeWays committee and stated that he would relay this conversation at the next meeting.

Comm. Scott stated her desire to consult with Public Health and work together. She gave a number of services that she wanted to look into.

Deputy Administrator DeLeeuw provided further figures.

Comm. Maciejewski thanked Comm. Scott for her comments.

Comm. Somerville spoke about senior evictions and foreclosures.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Annie Somerville, Chair of the Working Session
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

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

