



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 2, 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 October 2, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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: Comms.

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

Cat Layton, Ypsilanti City, spoke about her participation in 4-H and thanked the Board for recognizing 4H. She also expressed her appreciation to Comm. Sanders and the other commissioners for their comments in the Working Session regarding Homelessness and the Saline courthouse. Cat spoke about 750 Towner. She spoke about how it is not functioning as a crisis intervention space and stated that the city of Ypsilanti needs resources for crime diversion, drug treatment and crisis stabilization. She asked for a response from the Commissioners.

Connelius W., Ypsilanti Twp. echoed Cat Layton's public comment and thanked Comm. Sanders for her thoughts on the Saline Courthouse renovations. He stated that he has tried to address the city and the city directed him to ask the county for funds for overdose prevention support and emergency housing in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti township.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Sanders thanked Mary Bolling for having 4-H come to the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Comm. Lyte thanked 4-H and stated that she would like to incorporate 4-H's pledge into future meetings.

Comm. Beeman thanked 4-H for the agricultural work that they do as she is the commissioner of the largest agricultural district.

Comm. Lyte thanked everyone for public comments and stated her desire for Commissioners to provide context when they make comments about fund allocation. She also spoke about the generator failure at the jail and how that could be a safety issue. She said that this issue should be discussed with the incoming sheriff. She also highlighted the struggles in her district and urged the commissioners to come up with new solutions in more of the county. Encouraged the residents who provided public comment to reach out to her.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Lyte reported on her meeting with the Youth Commission at the future home of the Eastside Rec Center. She also spoke about MSSI and thanked Comm. Sanders for the idea.

Comm Rabhi reported on the Environmental Council and their reception with EGLE. He also reported on SEMCOG and spoke about his desire to honor Mandy Grewal who serves as the Pittsfield Twp. Supervisor until the end of the year.

Comm. Sanders echoed the sentiments of Comm. Rabhi and invited Grewal to speak with her on her work in Pittsfield Twp. and stated that she would be happy to work on a resolution to honor her.

Comm. Hodge reported on Public Health and their annual presentation from the Medical Examiner.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that CONSENT AGENDA be approved.

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the minutes of the September 18, 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. None.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None.
- 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 September 10, 2024, through September 24, 2024. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
6. None.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1.

- A. Comm. Rabhi stated that he was pleased that the Board was moving this resolution because it allowed bargaining units to bargain with their local governments. Stated his hope that the Board would continue this in the future.
- B. Comm. Rabhi expressed his support for the resolution and thanked the Health Department and Finance for coming together and finding a solution.

Comm Scott spoke about her happiness to be moving forward. However, she stated her opinion that the funding was not enough. Scott expressed her disappointment that there was not an elevator in place for future funds.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the continuing threat of COVID and added her support to the sentiments expressed by Comm. Scott. She also added that the resolution was not final yet and that there was still room to adjust the funding that the Health Department could receive.

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on vaccine costs and how insurance affects those costs. He asked if it costs more to vaccinate someone with Medicaid or private insurance. He stated that he asked this series of questions to explore alternate ways to generate money for the county.

Jennifer Brassow, Finance Manager, and Jimena Loveluck, Health Officer, provided some clarification on the costs associated with administering vaccines and vaccine waivers. Brassow and Loveluck explained that the Health Department was operating at a loss when administering vaccines to people with private insurance and that Medicaid reimbursed them more for vaccine services. Brassow also stated that the encounter rate could be as high as \$800-1000 depending on the service provided. She added that the only services that the Health Department bills for are Immunizations and Sexual Health Services which does not generate much money per year.

Comm. Scott asked representatives to speak about services that the Health Department provides that are in jeopardy when the Board does not keep up with the Maintenance of Effort budget.

Brassow and Loveluck explained that priority services like WIC that are not mandated would suffer.

Comm. Scott spoke about the WIC program as it relates to infant mortality. She also talked about funding public health and how it could be a long-term investment.

Loveluck spoke about COVID funding and the way in which its absence affects the budget. She also echoed Comm. Scott's sentiments.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the importance of WIC and that maternal and infant health is important to her. She spoke about a positive experience that she had with a Health Department staff member. She spoke about the failures that she experienced with the Friend of the Court and her utilization of WIC benefits.

Comm. Beeman spoke about the shortage of obstetricians and how it would be a major problem in the future.

Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. 24-190

3.

A. 24-191

B. 24-192 Comm. Rabhi stated that he would love to see more Civil War veterans buried in Washtenaw County be honored.

C. 24-193

D. **24-194** Comm. Hodge requested that the County of Washtenaw write a communication to Livingston County opposing the resolution. He voiced his thoughts that Livingston County's resolution was offensive and politically motivated. He also expressed his belief that the resolution stoked fear and created distrust in the immigrant community. Comm. Hodge highlighted the differences between Washtenaw and Livingston Counties and how they did not have the data to support their claims made in their resolution.

Comm. LaBarre expressed his appreciation for Comm. Hodge's preparing this resolution and spoke about a resolution passed previously naming Washtenaw as a sanctuary county. Comm. LaBarre also voiced his thoughts on how wrong and dangerous anti-immigrant sentiments are. He spoke about his time in college in Springfield, Ohio and how shared humanity should be focused on.

Comm. Hodge reiterated his opinion that the data source for Livingston County's resolution claims were.

Comm. Beeman voiced her support for Comm. LaBarre's comments. She also spoke about the issues that are currently happening in Springfield, Ohio because of the rhetoric.

Comm. Somerville talked about her travels through Livingston County and her experience with colleagues and spoke about xenophobia broadly. She expressed her gratitude that she lived in Washtenaw County and her concern that a county so close is prioritizing the dangerous rhetoric.

Comm. Lyte thanked Comm. Hodge for the resolution. She urged Livingston County to refrain from mentioning Washtenaw County. She also stated that Washtenaw County has been and will continue to be a safe haven for immigrants.

Comm. Scott spoke about her personal experiences in Spartan Village and her experience of going to school with a majority of international students. She stated her belief that immigrants enrich the community. She also talked about how the County ID program could set Washtenaw apart from other counties and signal that immigrants were welcome.

Comm. Rabhi talked about the County ID program and thanked Comm. Hodge for putting it together. He provided his support for a county ID position being created in the Clerk's office. Comm. Rabhi condemned Livingston county's resolution. He spoke about

Livingston's history with the KKK and cross burnings and a recent rally that was held.

Comm. Maciejewski thanked Comm. Hodge for the resolution and stated that there are many people who live in Livingston County who do not support the resolution. He talked about the Civil War and said that the Source document from Livingston County will not be looked on favorably in the future.

Comm. Scott expressed her opinion that the document was not referring to white people but to non-white people and that it was racist.

Comm. Sanders agreed with her colleagues and spoke about her ancestor's history. She also spoke about her fears of traveling through Livingston County. Sanders spoke about the conditions that immigrants escape from and how fears about immigrants are unfounded. She also highlighted the fact that the country was built on immigration and that the makeup of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners.

Comm. Hodge encouraged other counties to join Washtenaw in condemning Livingston County.

4.

A. 24-195 Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Dill provided a report on the following:

- Racial Equity Officer Search Update
- Travel Policy is being worked on
- Eastside Rec Center
 - Demolition Kickoff Week of Oct. 14
 - Scheduled Maintenance
- Dec 11, Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center Employee Recognition Event.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Beeman wished everyone a happy Rosh Hashanah.
Comm. Scott also wished everyone a happy Rosh Hashanah.
Comm. Rabhi wished Comm. Hodge a happy birthday.

XIII. PENDING

None.

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: October 16, 2024