WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 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 November 20, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Comm. Somerville, Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi (5:44p), Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	None.
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

None.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

Board of Commissioners Liaison, Ashley Hall, spoke about the December 4th Working Session and the BOC Holiday Party happening during.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Comm. Sanders asked for clarification on the $1.3 million for the Saline Courthouse which Jones-Alther provided.

County Administrator Dill stated that the administration pushed the budget forward with the understanding that the board would still have to make a decision on if it is approved or not.

Comm. Sanders stated that she thought that the board had already had conversations about the courthouse.

Comm. Somerville asked if the proposal regarding the Saline Courthouse would still have to be approved, which Dill affirmed.

Comm. Rabhi asked for more clarification on the overages and costs of the Pole Barn coverage and MSSI storage. Jones-Alther provided more information about the costs and overages in the pole barn funding.

Comm. Lyte asked about office space in the Pole Barn and what else was included in the space.

Jason Fee, Director of Facilities shared the early floor plan for the pole barn.

Comm. Lyte asked for a list of the special projects for the Sheriff's Department.

Jones-Alther stated that the fund was just called Sheriff's Dept. Special Projects but that the fund was for the Sheriff's office Family Day.

Comm. Scott asked for more information about the costs and overruns at the jails when there is a low population at the jail.

Comm. Somerville stated that they had just received an email that the inmate numbers have increased in the jails.

Comm. Rabhi asked the process of obtaining contracted services (RFP, Bidding Process,etc.) and stated that the board should explore providing some services in-house.

Comm. Sanders asked if RFPs had been done to address the Sheriff's Office services.

Adminsitrator Dill stated that administration would get the answers to the commissioners.

Jones-Alther stated that it may feel shocking but some of the small costs had been adding up over time and that the jails were used.

Comm. Scott asked about expenditures and government expenditures and asked about the increase in expenditures.

Jones-Alther explained Finance's process and stated that there was an increase in order to highlight the board's ongoing priorities.

Comm. Scott asked about the Clerk's Office and the county rates and if they could be changed.

Administrator Dill stated that it would take action by the board, but it could be changed.

Jones-Alther stated that the county rate may be set by state action.

Comm. Scott asked if the rate could be changed by the board.

Administrator Dill stated his belief that this could be changed but that it would take action by the board.

Jones-Alther noted that the rate may be codified in state law.

Comm. Scott stated that an increase may make up some of the losses that the County may face in the coming years.

Comm. Somerville asked for the rate in other surrounding counties.

Jones-Alther stated that she would find out this information.

B. Comm. Sanders asked about county employee participation in county surveys.

Deputy Administrator DeLeeuw stated that all were invited to participate in the planning survey, but not all participated.

Comm. Sanders asked if the courts participated in the space plan survey. DeLeeuw stated that they did.

Comm. Scott asked about the space plan and asked for clarification about the process of approval. DeLeeuw stated that the space plan would be approved by a committee before it comes back to the board and explained the process.

Comm. Scott thanked DeLeeuw for his presentation and stated that if she voted no, it is not becuse she doesn't appreciate the job that DeLeeuw is doing.

Comm.LaBarre asked what how the absence of a space plan committee, connects the work that Facilities is conducting and the Board.

DeLeeuw stated that a space plan committee would be helpful especially when it comes to larger projects in order to bring the best recommendations to the board.

Comm. LaBarre expressed his agreement and stated that he did not have any expertise in the areas. He also stated that he wanted to give DeLeeuw permission to move forward, but did not want to lock the board into any decisions with the vote happening at the BOC meeting.

Comm. LaBarre asked about CMH and stated that he wanted to receive input from CMH stakeholders, but that he wanted to hear more from the people. Comm. LaBarre also stated that he was open to hear what the team needed and how he could accommodate them.

Admin. Dill stated that every space plan decision will be brought before the Board. He also stated his desire to make the right decisions regarding space that will last.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that he was supportive of the flexibility language that had been written into the resolution and felt that it is mandatory to be able to explore options. He also said that looking through the space planning documents, he did not see anything about access to public transportation for potential sites and stated that it was a criterion for him.
Comm. Maciejewski also asked about court records and the digitization process and

what the potential for delay would be.

Fee explained that there has been some discussion with the courts and stated that he does not think that it will slow the process down.
Jeff Rose stated that they would use a service to digitize the documents and that it would accelerate their process.

Comm. Somerville added that regarding CMH she is less interested in centralizing CMH but more interested in insuring that residents from all over the county have access to the services. She also stated her belief that public transportation will not improve in the next 10 years. She also expressed her excitement with using the space plan to enhance Ypsilanti.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the steering committee and the makeup.

Deputy Admin. DeLeeuw provided an explanation of the steering committee members, and expressed his discomfort in there being a steering committee.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he does not support the sale of any county properties.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION
None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION
Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

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

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: December 4, 2024