WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 4, 2024

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Marty Colburn, Chelsea City Manager, provided feedback to the commissioners and highlighted the public safety millage and the improvements that the city has made. He congratulated the board on the passing of the senior millage.

Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Township, spoke about the connected and automated vehicle lane and expressed his displeasure that the public access road was being managed by a private company. He also spoke about the socio-economic impact on the residents of the county.

Cynthia Harrison, Ann Arbor spoke about Sheriff Clayton and Kathy Wyatt and her experiences working with them.

Alyshia Dyer, Scio Twp., spoke about Catherine McClaryand her impact for female politicians around the county. She also talked about her work with Sheriff Clayton.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Hodge stated that he would get more information from Jeremy about his concerns.

Comm. Scott thanked Marty Colburn for attending and thanked Colburn for his work in Chelsea.

Comm. Rabhi stated his concern about the new road. He expressed his anger that the state of Michigan is allowing a private company to profit off public roads. He also expressed his desire for a resolution on the issue.

Comm. Hodge echoed the sentiments of Comm. Rabhi.

Comm. Sanders stated that she would be opposed to the issue and asked what would happen to the revenue that the private company collects and also asked if there would be some sort of money going back to the community. She also inquired if the funds from the roads in the county could be levied and used to help residents.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Councilmember Harrison for coming to the meeting.

Comm. Maciejewski thanked Colburn for coming to the meeting and highlighting their use of the public safety millage. He also Congratulated Amy Reiser on her election to the school board.

Comm. Lyte thanked Jeremy Hailey for his comments and echoed the sentiments of Comm.

Rabhi.

Comm. Rabhi noted that the company would build the road and get to keep all of the money that they made on the road. He also noted that there were 46 out of 110 no votes on the road.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Lyte gave a report on the Road Commission meeting and their budget. She also spoke about the Board of Commissioners providing meals for people on Thanksgiving at the Freighthouse and the Northfield Senior Center.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

Comm. Lyte asked if appointees should be appointed in the current year or in the new year.

Comm. Hodge stated that because members terms expire in the current year, that the process was always done this way. Corp.Counsel confirmed.

Comm. Scott asked about the selection process for appointees.

The commissioners took a brief recess to discuss.

1. Comm.LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that Appointment Packet be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
2. **24-231** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
3. **24-232** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
4. **24-233** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
5. **24-234** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
6. **24-235** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
7. **24-236** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
8. **24-237** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
9. **24-238** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
10. **24-239** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
11. **24-240** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
12. **24-241** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
13. **24-242** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
14. **24-243** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
15. **24-244** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
16. **24-245** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
17. **24-246** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

18. **24-247** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

19. **24-248** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

20. **24-249** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm.Beeman, moved that the minutes of the November 20, 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. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, 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.)

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

4.

5.

A.

6.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1.

A. **24-250** Comm. LaBarre asked what the duration of the proposed amendment was. Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance, stated that it was just for one year.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Jones-Alther for the quick turnaround on the item.

Administrator Dill stated that the expectation is for County Administration to return in subsequent years to renew the item.

Comm. LaBarre stated his belief that this was a wise course of action and that it would enable some important work.

Comm. Scott stated her belief that this item and funding the Washtenaw Health project would be very important due to threats to the ACA and the ending of the physicians' health plan in 2025.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott proposed an amendment by substitution for the 2024 Q3 technical budget adjustments. This item adds $150,000 in one time funding to the Washtenaw Health Project from GF Fund Balance, and rewords the description of the need for additional funding for the Saline Court.

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

2024 3rd Quarter General Fund and Non-General Fund Non-Structural Budget Adjustments be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

B. Comm. Sanders stated that she had concerns about the Space Plan and expressed her thoughts that there has been no public input. She also noted her visit to a court that had safety concerns. She stated her belief that there has been a lack of community/client consideration when addressing the Space Plan.

County Administrator Dill stated that it better for the item to be pulled for thorough input from stakeholders.

Comm. Rabhi agreed with Comm. Sanders.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved to table the resolution. Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

C. **24-251** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution requesting the approval of State of Michigan appropriation and creation of additional 5.0 FTE positions to reduce caseloads from the Prosecutor be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

D. **24-252** Comm. Sanders asked about the 1.3 million to the Saline Court house and she asked for guidance from Corp. Counsel to set the money aside for more urgent needs in the county. She inquired on how to introduce an amendment. Corporation Counsel Michelle Billard provided guidance.

Comm. Sanders, seconded by Comm. Lyte moved to introduce an amendment to set aside the proposed 1.3 million excess allocated for Saline Courthouse renovations to be utilized for emerging needs related to housing, immigration, and other ARPA funded items.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his conflicted feelings about the motion. He asked what the 1.3 million dollars purchased and what it gets the county at the courthouse.

Jason Fee and SiRui Huang, Facilities, explained that the money would go to solar panels, electrification, building the roof and parking lot improvements, and a new court benches.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he could not support the amendment unless it omitted the electrification and the solar panels.

Comm. Lyte asked for clarification which Fee and Huang provided.

Comm. Lyte asked about the parking lot improvements. Fee stated that the main parking lot would remain and if it is not being done, it will be considered at a later date.

Comm. LaBarre asked about the source of the funds and the general fund balance.

Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance, stated that the funds would be pulled from the General Fund Reserves and that they were at 36% of the required reserves.

County Administrator Dill stated that the board will determine if another funding source is used.

Comm. LaBarre asked if the funds were being taking from savings or be included in the structural budget.

Jones-Alther stated that the funds would come from previous surplus and that it would be a one-time cost.

Comm. LaBarre stated his belief that it is worth the cost with the savings that the county will get.

Comm. Sanders asked about savings for utilities and asked why the county would not be seeking grants to cover the costs. She stated that none of the funds house or feed people. The Board kept its promise to provide the 4 mil for the expansion and are being asked to provide additional funds. She stated that she did not know how to explain this to her residents. She highlighted the lack of security in some of the courtrooms that she visited. Comm. Sanders expressed her frustration with the appearance that there has been no effort to find other funding sources.

Comm. Beeman expressed her agreement with the Comm. Rabhi and stated that she had some concerns with not completing the projects at the courthouse. She also highlighted some of her concerns with accessibility and asked for Fee to speak to some of her concerns.

Fee stated that the roof could last another 10 years. He expressed his belief that they would resolve all concerns about the roofing and the parking lot.

Administrator Dill stated that Administration would seek the Board's guidance on how to proceed.

Comm. Beeman and Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on the chart put on the screen which Huang provided.

Huang stated that the utility bills over the estimated 35-year life cycle of the solar panels would be over 1 million dollars.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the budget and the realized savings.

Jones-Alther explained that there would be some savings realized in about 2 years. She also added that the expansion would increase utility costs immediately.

Comm. Lyte asked if there was a possibility to do all of the projects with the original 4.7 million dollars allocated. She stated that they need to figure out how to make the 4.7 million dollars work.

Comm. Sanders stated her belief that they should wait. She also stated that she has been working with Comm. Somerville on purchasing properties for homeless relief efforts. She also asked about the initial commitment made. She stated that she understands concerns about savings but that there were more pressing issues and also noted that there was still not a grant manager that was approved and that money was being left on the table.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the dangerous courtrooms in the county.

Comm. LaBarre asked about the fund balance percentage. Jones-Alther provided some clarification.

Comm. LaBarre suggested that the additional funding not be removed from the amount but that an additional amount be allocated to Human Services as well.

Comm. Beeman echoed Comm. LaBarre's suggestion. She stated her belief that this is a worthwhile investment in Saline because it is the only county presence in Saline. She also expressed her agreement with Comm. Sanders on hiring a grant manager and highlighted the resources available for funding.

Administrator Dill noted that the item was started in 2022 and that there have been some project increases. He stated that there would be cost implications in the future if the improvements were not made.

Comm. Scott expressed her concerns with uncertainty in the future and stated her understanding with the concerns that Comm. Sanders expressed. She also expressed her concerns with climate change and how it relates to the Saline project.

Comm. Sanders stated that she does not always receive a response. She requested a document that contained the commissioner's requests. She also asked for a formal update on improvements to safety concerns at the Saline Courthouse. She requested an ongoing living document with a progress report on the commissioner's requests. Comm. Sanders noted that Saline has a park but does not have a park that is maintained by county funds.

Comm. Sanders stated that she has not received an answer on the delay that would be put on the county if they delayed the plan until 2025. She also expressed to Comm. Beeman that she did not mean any disrespect with her comments.

Administrator Dill stated that they would be certain to respond to all of the issues discussed at the meeting. He also stated that when the project was commissioned, no one could have predicted the circumstances of the last few years.

Comm. Beeman responded the Comm. Sanders point. She noted that revisiting electrification would pause the project.

Comm. Lyte noted that the reserves are for emergencies and stated that others may come and ask for more funds from the reserves. She also echoed her previous statements. She highlighted the fact that the county should be frugal with their funds. She also expressed concerns that their actions would set a precedent for other agencies asking to dip into the reserves.
Comm. Lyte reminded the board of the previous commitment to the Eastside Recreational Center and stated her desire that there be no opposition to cost overrun with the project if the Saline Courthouse overrun was approved.

Comm. Maciejewski asked the chair to restate the amendment and stated that he was favorable to the idea of keeping the solar panels in the equation.

Motion failed via roll call vote. Y3 N5 A1

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, proposed a motion to set aside 1 million dollars from reserves to be set aside for immediate use in 2025 for emergent human services needs.

Comm. Scott that the funds could be taken at any point so a resolution is not necessary and also stated that they should not be rushed.

Comm. Lyte repeated her previous statements on the reserves reiterating her belief that they do not have money to spend.

Comm. LaBarre expressed his agreement with the county's need to be frugal. He also stated that there would be many items that come up in the coming years that pull funds. He stated his desire to earmark these funds for Human Service needs now.

Comm. Rabhi asked for some clarification on the motion proposed and asked for clarification and intent on the language.

Comm. LaBarre provided some clarification on the language.

Comm. Rabhi also asked for clarification on the timeline for the funds which Comm. LaBarre provided.

Comm. Hodge stated that the motion is symbolic.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the structural savings from the courthouse could calculated and be added to the reserves.

Comm. LaBarre asked about cost savings being dedicated to Human Services.

The motion was withdrawn.

Comm. Rabhi moved that the savings accrued from the utility costs, (DTE, gas, electric) at the Saline Court be set aside for Human Service funding for the next 35 years or the life of the solar panels being installed.

Comm. Maciejewski asked about the dollar amounts, and Jones-Alther stated that she would bring something back to the Board.

Administrator Dill also stated that it would be difficult to calculate DTEs future rates.

Comm. Rabhi proposed that they take the current utility bill and adjust it on an annual basis for the rate increases that DTE makes on gas and electric.

Comm. Lyte asked for clarification on the amendment and asked if the commissioners would see a dollar amount. Jones-Alther affirmed and stated that the dollar amount could be updated.

Comm. Lyte asked if the additional funds could be looked at as a loan and paid back to the board. Jones-Alther explained the source of the utility bills.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the county already pays the utility bills, so the cost savings are already coming back to the county.

Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Lyte proposed an amendment to the amendment for finance to come back with a plan on feasibility and strategy to operationalize the amendment.

Comm. Maciejewski stated his appreciation for everyone's work on the issue and stated his desire to achieve this goal a different route. He stated that he would oppose asking Finance to do any more work on the amendments because the commissioners should go a different route.

Comm. Hodge agreed with the statement.

Comm. LaBarre echoed Comm. Maciejewski's sentiments. He stated that he would do whatever needed to be done procedurally to withdraw the amendment.

Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Lyte moved to withdraw the amendment.
Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved to withdraw the amendment.

Administrator Dill noted that the 1.3 million dollar increase came from facility's recommendation, not the court.

Comm. Beeman stated that they could just do solar energy upgrades for $700,000 and designate the funds to whatever area that they wanted.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved to amend the resolution that would increase the grading of several positions within the Office of the County Treasurer, would fund this increased grading through a partial reduction in a $25,000 line item for general Board of Commissioners priorities, and which would specify which of the various policy language options would be utilized.

2.

A. **24-253** Comm. Scott highlighted the Parks plan and how thorough and well-thought-out it was and recognized the work of the parks and recreation commission.

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

B. **24-254** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution appointing Odetalla Odetalla as Magistrate of the 14A District Court be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

C. **24-255** Tina Gavalier, presented a resolution honoring Terry Ballantyne for his service to Washtenaw County in the Finance Department.

County Administrator, Greg Dill thanked Terry for his service.

Ballantyne expressed his gratitude to his colleagues and the Board of Commissioners.

Comm. Rabhi and Comm. Hodge thanked Ballantyne for his work with the county.

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

D. **24-256** Kathy Wyatt, Sheriff's Office, presented a resolution honoring Sheriff Jerry Clayton for his service to Washtenaw County.

The Commissioners thanked Sheriff Clayton for his work in Washtenaw County.

County Administrator Dill thanked the Sheriff for making life better for the residents of Washtenaw County.

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

E. **24-257** The meeting started with a moment of silence for the passing of Catherine McClary. Comm. Scott and Comm. Rabhi presented a resolution to honor Catherine McClary who acted as Washtenaw County Treasurer for 41 years.

The Commissioners spoke about the impact that Catherine McClary had on them, the county, and the future. The commissioners highlighted the path that McClary had paved for female elected officials.

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

F. **24-258** Comm. Hodge presented the resolution honoring Kathy Wyatt for her service to Wastenaw County.

Wyatt spoke about her time working with the county and thanked the Board of Commissioners for the honor. She also gave a special thank you to Sheriff Jerry Clayton for his work.

The Commissioners spoke about Wyatt's impact on their lives and thanked her for the personal role that she played in their lives.

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

G. **24-259** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution in opposition to Gravel Mining Bills HB 6108-6111 in the Michigan legislature be approved . Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

H. **24-260** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution to reclassify $153,549 of American Rescue Plan Act funding as lost revenues and reallocate to Board of Commissioners' Priority Area Initiatives be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

I. **24-261** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution identifying the Appointed Positions in each Countywide Elected Office of Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

J. **24-262** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution in support of one-time funding for Michigan's Runaway and Homeless Youth in the State of Michigan Fall Supplemental Budget be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

3.

A. **24-263** 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 November 25, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Dill stated that they concluded their process in hiring a new racial equity officer, Derrick Jackson.

Jackson thanked the Board of Commissioners for their work.
thanked Chief Judge Frushour for attending the meeting.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Hodge received a letter from Livingston County Dem Party Exec Comm. Resolution passed thanking the Board for resolution #24-194 condemning Livingston County Commissioners' resolution. He also thanked the staff for their work this year.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. LaBarre recognized the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Chair of Working Session for their work throughout the year.

Comm. Scott commented on the gifts that she passed out and wished everyone happy holidays.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the leadership team for their work.

Comm. Beeman echoed the sentiments of her colleagues.

XIII. PENDING

1.

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 PM.

____
Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

____
Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: January 8, 2024