WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 22, 2025

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Gretchen Driskell, Water Resources Commissioner, wanted to introduce herself as the new Water Resource Commissioner and share her contact information. Phone Number: 734.395.7329 Email Address: driskellg@washtenaw.org

   Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Twp. suggested for the senior millage that the Board conducts a townhall to ask seniors what they would like to see done in the county. He also spoke about an incident that occured on Ypsilanti Township property, October 8, 2024, that involved a firearm. He requested that the commissioners look into the charges filed in this case and others.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Hodge thanked Jeremy for making them aware of the concerns and stated that he would follow up about the issue.

Chair Scott thanked the speakers for coming out for public participation.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. LaBarre reported on the Continuum of Care retreat. Thanked OCED for hosting.

Comm. Somerville highlighted the work of the Path Team for going to find people in the cold weather and also thanked Ashley Hall and County Administration for her work. She also talked about the work being done in her district in regard to nutrition access and older adults gathering. Comm. Somerville highlighted Lisa Barfield and her work.

Comm. Rabhi echoed Comm. Somerville's sentiments about Path Team. Reported on the proposed increase in dues for the Huron Watershed Council.

Comm. Hodge reported on FPC meeting and the progress that the FPC Executive Committee has made in policy proposals. He also mentioned that the Food Policy Council would like to come and speak to the Board.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. **25-006** Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved to approve a resolution appointing Commissioners to various Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Agencies for various terms
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

2. **25-007** Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved to approve a resolution appointing a member to the Material Management Planning Committee.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

3. **25-008** Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved to approve a resolution appointing three members to the Emergency Communications Millage Project Oversight Committee for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2027.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the minutes of the January 8, 2025 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. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, 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.

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

5.

A. Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: A report from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the months of November and December, 2024. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register’s Office.)

6.

7. Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of $25,000 and under from November 12, 2024 through January 14, 2025. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register’s Office.)

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1.

A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge moved to approve a resolution ratifying the application to the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant from IT.
Voice vote - motion carried.

B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge moved to approve a resolution ratifying the application and acceptance of the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY24

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Site-Based Program grant, from the Sheriff's Office. Voice vote - motion carried.

C. Comm. Somerville expressed her appreciation for the role being created.

Comm. Rabhi advocated for Board Liaison position in 2013. Highlighted the importance of staff. Thanked Ashley Hall for her work in the previous role.

County Administrator Dill stated that there would be more regarding this role and resolution in the future.

Comm. Scott spoke about the Board and the role that the Board Operations and Communications Manager has played and expressed that this position is well deserved for Ashley Hall.

Comm. Hodge echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and stated that the position would improve all of the operations.

Comm. Somerville echoed the sentiments of her colleagues and stated that supporting the team does matter. She also highlighted the other people who had the position before.

Comm. LaBarre stated that the position would be important in meeting the overlapping service needs.

Comm. Beeman echoed her colleagues and expressed her excitement in the expansion of the team.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that he looks forward to the work that they Board will do in the future. He expressed his appreciation for the work that the current Board Operations and Communications Manager has done.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved to approve a resolution reclassifying the Board of Commissioners Communications and Operations Manager.

Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **25-009** Comm. Rabhi asked about the travel allowance and the changing of the language regarding that. Subsection 4 of Item 10.A.4. He asked how payments for travel accounts were processed. Stated his belief that the county should not be allowing commissioners to overrun the budget.

Comm. Scott stated that because Brady Peck is doing the reports consistently, are helping with travel costs being processed so the matter would rarely come up.

County Administrator Dill stated that Ashley Hall's credit card was being used.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the credit card should not be being used passed the stated amount.

Comm. Scott stated that there were previous issues with travel going from various accounts the problem should not happen.

Comm. Somerville stated that they should add something at the current meeting.

Comm. Hodge stated that there is already current policy so in his opinion they would not need anything additional.

Comm. Scott stated that she was fine with adding language that specified that all travel should go through the Director of Board Operations.

County Administrator Dill stated that the motion was possible, but that he was not anticipating an issue moving forward as Administration had checks and balances in place.

Comm. Rabhi reiterated his belief that they should never go over on the county card. He requested stronger language in the rules.

Administrator Dill

Comm. Somerville stated that she would support a motion made by Comm. Rabhi.

Comm. Somerville stated that in the future, the board should evaluate Social Media accounts that they should be paying for.

Comm. Scott agreed that it would be important to reconsider the issue but stated that the board did need to reach everyone.

Comm. Scott highlighted the changes that were made in the board rules.

Comm. Somerville also suggested revisiting the time of the Board of Commissioners meeting as she did not feel comfortable making decisions so late in the day with the perception that the Board is making decisions at an inconvenient time for residents.

County Administrator Dill stated that the arrangement of the agenda is something that Administration has been discussing so that policy was not being crafted at such a late hour.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved to approve an amendment to Section X, part A, number 4: "Commissioners shall not exceed their yearly CTA. All Commissioner travel shall be booked by County Staff. County funds shall not be expended past each commissioner's individual CTA. In the event that funds are inadvertently spent past the Commissioner CTA, Commissioners who exceed their yearly CTA will be responsible for paying their own overruns. County Administration will invoice for the amount and payment plans may be agreed upon. **"**
– Approved via roll call vote. 7 Supporting, 0 Opposed, 2 Absent

Comm. Scott asked if Commissioners could book their own travel. Administration stated that they could not.

Comm. Somerville expressed her appreciation for the commissioners working on the amendment.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the Materials Management Planning Committee and if it should be included in the Board rules as a committee that a commissioner sits on and stated that he wanted to be sure that Comm. Maciejewski was receiving credit for attending the meetings.

Comm. Maciejewski stated his belief that the Materials Management Planning Committee used to be referred to as the Solid Waste Management Consortium. Administration could not find anything stating that this was the case.

Comm. LaBarre inquired if the Continuum of Care Board was included which Comm. Rabhi stated was not.

Comm. Hodge stated that there were certain committees that had specific designees that is why some of the boards did not appear in the board rules.

Comm. Scott stated that if the Materials Management Planning Committee has been renamed, they should make that clear in the Board Rules. Comm. Rabhi echoed those comments.

Andrew Deleeuw stated that they were not able to find the information on the Solid Waste committee and stated that it would make sense to add the MMPC.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved to add Materials Management Planning Committee to the list of Boards, Committees, and Commissions that Board Members are appointed to. **– Approved via roll call vote. 6 Supporting, 0 Opposed, 3 Absent**

Comm. Rabhi stated that he served on the Solid Waste Management Consortium and stated his belief that the group stopped meeting.

Deputy Administrator DeLeeuw stated that the Plan Implementation Advisory Committee fit closer with the MMPC.

Comm. Scott stated that she would not take out any other committee to be safe.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution adopting updated Board Rules be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked a question about the inclusion of Continuum of Care board and Ann Arbor SPARK which Comm. Scott and Comm. Hodge clarified.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

B. **25-010** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution appointing Allecia M. Wilson, M.D., as Medical Examiner from the Health Department be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

C. **25-011** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution amending the 2025 Board of Commissioners calendar be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

D. **25-012** Comm. Rabhi asked for more information which Andrew Kramer provided stating that the goal of the grant was to receive input from people with lived experience of youth homelessness.

Comm. Beeman asked about Washtenaw Community College and if they were included in the Youth Homeless Committee. Kramer stated that they have spoken with representatives from the universities but that he was not sure about WCC.

Comm. Scott stated that the community college was an important part of the conversation because it helps to improve the lives of many people.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution accepting the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Planning Grant, from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

E. **25-013** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution approving the Materials Management Planning Committee Bylaws be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

F. Comm. Scott pulled this item from the agenda.

3.

A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that A resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of January 13, 2025 be approved.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. County Administrator Dill thanked the Board for approving the trip and thanked the members who attended the trip. Ahmad Chabbni, founder and chair of the Arab American Chamber of Commerce. The delegation represents MI through all levels of Government.

Washtenaw County stood out in meetings with companies and agencies that presented and there was even some follow up with these companies. Thanked Ashley Hall for making the connection.

Andrew and Toni presented on their trip to the MENA region, highlighting several key meetings and relationships that they made. They also spoke about their trip to Washington D.C. regarding

Comm. Rabhi thanked the speakers and emphasized the importance of the international relationships and relationships between Washtenaw and Wayne County. He also stated that he was available for the next trip.

Comm. Beeman echoed the sentiments of Comm. Rabhi and thanked them for attending.

Comm. Hodge thanked the attenders, the organizers and Ashley Hall for arranging the trip.

Comm. Scott. expressed her excitement for recommendations following the trip. She agreed with Comm. Rabhi's sentiments about the connections with the other counties in the area.

Administrator Dill thanked the AACC and expressed his desire to work together in the future. He thanked the board for authorizing the trip.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Scott expressed her frustration with the actions of the current presidential administration. She also expressed her appreciation for her colleagues and their dedication to their work.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Hodge spoke about the Human Trafficking briefing that he attended with Genessee county and the Sheriff's desire to conduct the operations in the county.

Administrator Dill stated his desire for his office to be engaged in the discussion and to ensure that they are doing all that they can to manage risks.

Comm. Somerville thanked the mobile support unit operators for their work in her district. Also shared more information about an issue in her district regarding affordable housing units.

Comm. Scott thanked Comm. Somerville for her work.

Comm. LaBarre spoke about the new presidential term and what it means for Washtenaw County and immigration services.

Comm. Rabhi commented spoke about his tenure in government and his disappointment with members of his own party for supporting some of the president's agenda.

Comm. Beeman wished a happy Lunar New Year to all who celebrate.

The commissioners wished Comm. Somerville a happy birthday.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.

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Katie Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: February 5, 2025