WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2025

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 February 5, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Comm. Scott, 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 (Departed at 8:36PM)

Members Absent: None.

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

1. Shannon Seegert, Washtenaw County, Vice President of AFSCME 2733, came to speak about her frustration with the reclassification process for positions that have not been updated since 2015. She spoke about conversations that she has had with HR that seemed to be fruitless and expressed her frustration that an administration position is being reclassified, but her positions have not been. She explained that it had been a 2-year battle.

   Mary Campbell, President of AFSCME 2733 echoed the sentiments of her colleague and spoke about the history of the unified pay plan and previous negotiations. She also expressed her frustration with the pay grade process.

   Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Township, spoke about the Summer Jazz Festival, coordinated by Johnny Lawrence and asked for financial support from the Board. He also wanted to highlight Thomas Sowell and Judge Joe Brown for Black History Month.

   Marta Larson, Northfield Twp, requested that more data collected includes more information about services divided by age in order to maintain equity. She requested that the Board of Commissioners demand that data about age be required in reporting.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Hodge highlighted the fact that Washtenaw had traditionally sponsored the Jazz Festival at some level and that the conversation about sponsorship in the future would certainly happen.

Comm. Somerville commented that she had requested additional information at a working session at the end of 2024 regarding the Senior Mapping information. She also echoed Comm. Hodge's comments and stated that there were some concerns in the past about paid parking at a free event creating a barrier to entry for some of the residents of Washtenaw.

Comm. Sanders thanked Haley for his comments and spoke about her support for the Jazz event that the county helped sponsor. She expressed her concerns about some costs of the free event. She also expressed her frustration with cash donations being collected despite her objections. She stated that he did not receive any information that she requested about sponsorship info and info on paid parking when the Board asked for transparency.

County Adminsitrator Dill stated that Administration did not receive the information requested about the Festival.

Comm. Somerville stated that she would speak with the chair on how to respond to concerns from AFSCME.

County Administrator Dill stated that Admiinsitration will look into the issue and get back to the Board.

Comm. Scott thanked everyone for making public comment and stated that she looked forward to hearing more about the staff.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge reported on Food Policy Council and their interest in engaging MSU extension with the new staff member that they are hiring. He stated that they are looking for more support in pursuing grant opportunities. He also reported on Community Action Board and the risk that the federal freeze put on the agency and the work that they are doing to mitigate the risks. He stated that Food Gatherers need more funding for the food safety net. HAWC gave a presentation.

Comm. Scott requested more information from Comm. Hodge.

Comm. Beeman reported on Food Gatherers and their concerns with avian flu and increases and other costs. She also spoke about the stark number of options that veterans, family with children, and single adults have.

Comm. Rabhi made comments on food costs.

VI. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. County Adminsitrator Dill gave a presentation on workplans and how administrative resources would be applied.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Scott spoke about the communication that the Board received from Food Gatherers. She spoke about the food crisis that the country is facing. She also stated that she needed commissioners on several different boards and committees.

Chair Scott wished Ashley Hall and her dad a Happy Birthday.

VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarity on the resolutions today.
Setting a hearing
Hearing Public Comment
Final Reading

Comm. Rabhi stated that in the future, the Board should hear from the public before they hear First Reading.
Comm. Scott noted the comm

1. **25-015** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution setting a Public Hearing on the amended Historic District Ordinances be approved.

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

   Comm. Rabhi asked for some clarification on this item and stated his belief that the board should hear from the public before they do First Reading. Comm. Scott agreed and asked if there were time restrictions that forced the agenda to be arranged the way that it was. A representative from the Historic District stated that there was no time restraint.

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. **25-016** Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that A resolution appointing members to the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council be approved.
   Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that the minutes of the January 22, 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.
   R-0006 RECEIVED: January 23, 2025: Canton Township Planning Commission: Public Notice of Distribution and Public Comment For New Master Plan
   R-0007 RECEIVED: January 23, 2025: Northfield Township Planning Commission: Notice of Intent to Update Master Plan
   R-0008 RECEIVED: January 27, 2025: City of Ypsilanti: Resolution Requesting the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Commit Funding for an Unarmed Crisis Response Program
   R-0009 RECEIVED: January 27, 2025: City of Ypsilanti: Resolution to Request Washtenaw County Allocate Funds Toward the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Shelter in Ypsilanti for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
   R-0010 RECEIVED: January 29, 2025: Office of Community and Economic Development: Barrier Busters December 2024 BOC Additional Allocation Report
   R-0011 RECEIVED: January 31, 2025: Washtenaw County Commission on Aging,

December 6, 2024 Resolution Recognizing and Adopting of a Washtenaw County Older Persons Millage Work Group
R-0012 RECEIVED: January 31, 2025: Office of Community and Economic Development, October -December 2024 Washtenaw Continuum of Care Data Review
R-0013 RECEIVED: January 31, 2025: Office of Community and Economic Development, HAWC Call Center Data Year End 2024

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.)

Comm. Scott asked that the commissioners pay attention to the communication received from Barrier Busters. She also stated that all of the communications were acknowledged, however, the two communications received from Ypsilanti were acknowledged with reservations. She noted that the Board's response to these communications will be data-driven and researched.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his concerns with responding to communications with reservations because of his belief that the response to internal Washtenaw communities should be something that the entire board talks about.

Comm. Scott stated that she understood the previous way that the board has responded to communications but said that the way that Ypsilanti has asked the Board to respond is out of order.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his discomfort with responding to the communications in this manner.

Comm. Scott reiterated her previous point.

Comm. Hodge stated that in the board packet every communication was acknowledged, so he believed that any changes to the communications may need to be voted on as an amendment.

Comm. Scott stated that this had never be done in previous board packets.

Comm. Scott stated that she inquired about this before the board packet was created.

Comm. Lyte stated her belief that it was best practice that the communications be received and acknowledged with reservations. She also noted that the board does not act out of order with other bodies of government.

Comm. LaBarre explained that the term "received with reservation" had been used before but stated that he was ok with marking the communications as received but not acknowledge.

Comm. Hodge clarified his previous remarks.

Comm. Rabhi asked how the communications would be remarked.

Comm. Hodge stated that all of the communications would be marked as "RECEIVED"

Comm. Rabhi asked if there would be a response to the communication from Ypsilanti.

Comm. Hodge explained that if the consent agenda was approved all items would be marked as "RECEIVED"

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. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of $25,000 and under from January 14, 2025 through January 29, 2025. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

6.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

1.

A. Comm. Rabhi thanked the staff from CMH for preparing these proposals and stated that he was looking forward to voting yes.

Comm. LaBarre thanked CMH for their purchases of the group homes.

Comm. Hodge spoke about group homes and stated that he would vote yes on the resolution.

Comm. Scott echoed the sentiments of her colleagues.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution for two group home purchases from Community Mental Health be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

B. Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on some of the language in the proposal and what the intention of the grant was.

Jimena Loveluck, Health Department Director, explained that the grant provided the funds for some outside consulting to help the Health Department structure their community engagement work and provide support for that type of work. She explained that it was a capacity building grant.

Comm. LaBarre highlighted a connection between Michigan Health Endowment Fund and Washtenaw County.

Comm. Scott expressed her excitement with the county receiving a capacity building grant and thanked CMH for their work on their budget.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution authorizing a grant application to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund from the Health Department be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

C. Comm. Rabhi asked for clarity on the position in the budget which, Jimena Loveluck, Director of the Board of Health provided.

Comm. Rabhi also asked about the budget overall and why it seemed as though there was a decrease in the budget.

Jennifer Brassow, Health Department Finance Manager, explained that they had previously budgeted for surplus payments to their employees, however those funds were paid through the American Rescue Plan Act, so the expenses no longer came from the Health Department's budget.

Comm. Rabhi said that it seemed like significant changes in the fees and he stated that he would vote yes.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution authorizing the Health Department's midyear budget adjustment and revised Environmental Health Fees from the Health Department be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

D. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution adopting the amended Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Ordinance and local Historic District Ordinances from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

E. Comm. Sanders asked for clarification on what equipment would be purchased with the 80k as listed in the grant.

Lt. John Cratsenberg, Washtenaw County Sheriff's office explained that this was an $80,000 increase to the grant and that the equipment had no been purchased yet, but this allowed them to purchase needed upgraded equipment toward the end of the grant but that the bulk of the grant would go to funding two deputy positions.

Comm. Sanders asked if this grant covered Pittsfiled Twp. which is in her district. Cratsenberg explained what the two grants covered.

Comm. Scott asked that discussion be kept to item E.

Comm. Lyte asked for more clarification which Crastenberg provided.

Comm. Sanders asked that in the future, grants could be labeled more clearly.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners on the grant application for the continuation of the Secondary Road Patrol Program, from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

F. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that A resolution ratifying the signature of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners on the application of the Strategic

Enforcement and Traffic Accident Prevention Program, from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **25-017** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution ratifying the application to the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant from IT be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

B. **25-018** Comm. Lyte asked for more information on the Life After Incarceration organization and how they were chosen to participate in this grant.

Sheriff Alyshia Dyer explained that this was an organization that the Sheriff's office had worked with for a while. They work with community partners and this grant is a way to keep the programs going.

Comm. Lyte asked if the funds from the grant were even distributed between the three organizations that were included in the grant.

Renee Casey, Director of Community Corrections, explained that the funds were not distributed evenly because of the restrictions of the grant. She explained that the funding is specific to the services that they provide and the outlines of the grant. She explained that Life After Incarceration provided occupational therapy to people who have recently been released from incarceration. She also said that they provide lifeskills to the jail population.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that 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 be approved.

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

C. **25-019** Comm. Sanders spoke about her concerns with the jump in grades of this position and stated her concerns that this was a precursor to create another position. She stated her understanding in the need for the position but the jump in grade classification. She requested additional discussion and strategy on the role and stated that her comments had nothing to do with the person that is in the role.

Comm. Lyte, stated that she appreciated the work that the Board Liaison does and her constituents requested that the funds do not come from millage funding. She expressed her desire to hire graduate assistants and long term student workers.

Comm. Scott assured that the funding did not come from the millage dollars.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution reclassifying the Board of Commissioners Communications and Operations Manager be approved.

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

3.

A. **25-020** Comm. Rabhi spoke about the impact that Ruth Zweifler had on him and the community. Friends and family spoke and gave tribute.
Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Ruth Zweifler be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

B. **25-021** Comm. Scott presented a resolution honoring Jane Nickert for her 10 years of service to Washtenaw County. Nickert thanked the county for the recognition and stated that it was a privlege to work for the county.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution honoring Jane Nickert for her 10 years of service to Washtenaw County be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

C. **25-022** Comm. Hodge presented a resolution honoring Laura Bauman for her service to Washtenaw County. Laura spoke about her future plans and said that it was a privilege to work for the county.
Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution honoring Laura Bauman for her 25 years of service to Washtenaw County be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

D. **25-023** Comm. Scott presented a resolution recognizing February 2025 as Heart Month in Washtenaw County. She spoke about the importance of bystander CPR and AED machines.
Representatives from the American Heart Association and a survivor who was helped by bystander CPR spoke about the importance of the resolution and thanked Washtenaw County for the recognition.

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

4.

A. **25-024** 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 February 5, 2025 be approved.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

1. Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved to enter a closed session to discuss negotiation strategy.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION
Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. Lyte, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 PM.

Katie Scott, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: February 19, 2025