WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 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 March 5, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 07:03 PM by Comm. Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott
Members Absent:	Comms. Crystal Lyte, Annie Somerville
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; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Ashlyn Poole, Clerk’s Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Cherisa G. Allen, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke about her application to the WeLIVE Coordinator role and the sheriff appointing someone to the position.

   Gigi Jones, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke about the problems with grafitti covering the gateway coming into Washtenaw County and her desire for the Board and the county to intervene.

   Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke about his concerns about housing vouchers and who receives them and requested that the commissioners investigate.

   Comm. Somerville, let the commissioners know that she would be back at the next March meeting and commented on Cherisa Allen's comments and stated that she would follow up one-on-one.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Hodge stated that he would follow up on Cherisa Allen's concerns.

Comm. LaBarre stated that the Board did pass policy in late 2024 outlining what positions fall under what departments jurisdictions and suggested that Allen review the policy on the website.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the grafitti and her thoughts.

Administrator Dill stated that administration would look into the grafitti issue and Ms. Allen's issue. He stated that he would speak to the sheriff.

Comm. Sanders expressed her appreciation for Ms. Allen bringing the issue that hose raised to the Board's attention.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge reported on the Board of Health and their desire to pursue grant funding. He also spoke about JFS and funding issues.
Jimena Loveluck reported on the Health Department's communication team and highlighted their impact post-covid.

Comm. LaBarre reported on CMH and their appointment of a new member. Thanked Terry Walker for his service as chair. Spoke about Medicaid cuts and his concerns about their impact on CMH. He reported on the Continuum of Care and stated that they did not receive the HUD grant which covered about 50 homes.

Comm. Beeman reported on the CAB meeting and spoke about JFS not receiving their federal payment.

Comm. Sanders reported on the Road Commission, Roads 101 presentation and spoke about her first Ageways meeting as a representative for Washtenaw County. She also shared that she was able to attend a drainage info session.

Comm. Rabhi reported on the Environmental Council and spoke about their appointment of 2 Federal EPA employees to the Environmental Council and how it impacts the community long-term. He spoke about the perceived constant attacks on federal employees.

VI. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Dill informed the commissioners about his attendance at the NACO Legislative Conference.

He also reported that there was substantial progress on the site. He stated that about 80% of the superstructure had been demolished.

Comm. Rabhi asked if they were expected to be within budget. Jason Fee, Director of Facilities Management, stated that there had been some additional abatement needed.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Scott and Comm. Hodge spoke more about the NACO conference. She expressed a desire for the county to adopt their own S.T.A.R. program. She also talked about her attendance at a Federal Expo.

Comm. Hodge also spoke about his attendance at these events.

Comm. LaBarre asked if any members of the majority party addressed the crowd. Comm. Hodge spoke about the people who spoke at these events, which MI counties

Comm. Sanders asked if any sessions explained what DEI was. Comm. Sanders spoke about DEI and who benefits from it. The commissioners who attended stated that no such discussion took place.

County Administrator Dill stated his belief that the ignoring of DEI was intentional.

Comm. Hodge spoke about a resolution passed calling for NACO to call upon the government to reverse their rollbacks of DEI projects.

VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **25-045** Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Remonumentation Peer Review Board be approved.

   Comm. Rabhi asked about the Remonumentation Peer Review board and the members on the board. Scott Miller, Water Resources, clarified that the people performing work on remonumentation and the people on the board were two different groups of people.

   Comm. Rabhi expressed his discomfort with people on the board and people doing the work being from the same company. Miller provided a further explanation and stated that there were one or two people from the same company.

   Comm. Scott suggested that they find out how many surveying firms there are in the county.

   He stated his belief that there should be a policy against this.

   Comm. Rabhi also asked if the remonumentation contracts had already been contracted. Miller gave a status update.

   Roll Call Vote: YEAS 6 NAYS 1 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

IX. APPOINTMENTS

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi moved that CONSENT AGENDA be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that the minutes of the February 19, 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-0014** RECEIVED: February 12, 2025: City of Manchester Planning Commission: Notice of Intent to Update the Master Plan.
   R-0015 RECEIVED: February 14, 2025: Sylvan Township: Draft 2024 Sylvan Township Master Plan Update, 42-Day Public Comment Period is Open
   R-0016 RECEIVED: February 28, 2025: Washtenaw County Environmental Council: Resolution Recommending the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Recognize Contributions of Federal Employees and Oppose The Elimination of Federal Positions

   Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, 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. Rabhi, 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. Rabhi, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of $25,000 and under from February 11, 2025 through February 25, 2025. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

6.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

1.

A. Comm. Rabhi asked about partner contributions and grants listed in the application. Scott Miller, Water Resources, stated that the contributions were coming from other submitted grants on the agenda.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm.Hodge, moved that a resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for $350,000 for the Beyer and Tyler Dams removal from Water Resources be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

B. Comm. Rabhi expressed his concerns about a large proportion of the dollars going through the RFP process. Jimena Loveluck, Public Health Officer, provided clarification as to why that was the case. He asked what services that the county provides would fit under this grant and Loveluck provided more detail. Comm. Rabhi expressed his general discomfort with so much of the funds going through the RFP process.

Comm. Scott expressed appreciation for the work that the committee had done.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge moved that a resolution to utilize Opioid Settlement Funds to complete a request for proposals process, establish an emergency fund, fund program administration by the Health Department, and establish an Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee from the Health Department be approved.Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **25-036** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved a resolution to approve the above midpoint hire of Dr. Thomas Atkins as a Psychiatrist from Community Mental Health be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

B. **25-037** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to pledge full faith and credit for the Portage Base Line Lake, Lake Level District from Water Resources be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

C. **25-038** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm.Rabhi, moved that A resolution to approve assessments for Portage Base Line Lake, Lake Level District from Water Resources be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

D. **25-039** Comm. Sanders asked about the amount of work available to the person who takes the position. She also inquired on some of the duties and whether the position would support commissioners having their own websites.

County Administrator Dill explained that administration would work in collaboration with this position.

Comm. Scott also spoke more about the position and what it entails.

Comm. Sanders noted that she had been requesting an orientation for the commissioners not related to benefits or stipends that could help them more serve their constituents. She asked that this be put at the top of the agenda for the person hired for this position.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that a resolution to authorize the creation of 1.0FTE for the Board of Commissioners Constituent Outreach Coordinator position from Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

3.

A. **25-040** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution to borrow against anticipated delinquent 2024 real property taxes from the County Treasurer be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

B. **25-041** Comm. Rabhi asked where the matching funds for the grant would come from. Scott Miller stated that he was glad that Comm. Rabhi brought up the issue and explained what his office had done in the past with grants and municipalities. He stated that he did not know where the money would come from today, but noted that they may try to get funds from the Road Commission. He clarified that if they were approved, they were not obligated to accept if they did not have the matching funds.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his discomfort about voting for the issue without matching funds.
Administrator Dill said that if approved, they would come to the board for approval.

Comm. Hodge stated his belief that Ypsilanti Twp.does not feel like they are able to provide more than the $400,000 that they had already promised.

Comm. Rabhi asked where the county would be if they did not get the grants. Miller explained the status of the projects.

Comm. Sanders asked about a community information session regarding continued flooding and if it pertained to the two dams. Miller stated that they were partially related.

Comm. Rabhi asked Administration and water resources to start thinking about ways that the funds would come from to be the county match from the grants.

Comm. Sanders highlighted the fact that many residents may not have flood insurance and that the dams backing up may affect them and noted that many people are not able to economically recover from flooding.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application with the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy for $2,184,296 for the Beyer Dam removal from Water Resources be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

C. **25-042** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application with the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy for $6,672,456 for the Tyler Dam removal from Water Resources be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

D. **25-043** Comm. Rabhi asked if the grant covered underage usage, safe storage, usage while driving, and cannabis use during pregnancy but stated that he received his answers in the intermission and stated that his concerns were addressed by the director.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution authorizing the signature of the County Administrator for the Michigan Marihuana Operation and Oversight grant from the Health Department be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

E. **25-044** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution to amend the bylaws of the Washtenaw County Community Action Board be approved . Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

4.

A. **25-046** Comm. Hodge, 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 24, 2025 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

1. Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. Rabhi, moved that Closed Session to discuss negotiation strategy be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. Sanders, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 PM.

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Katie Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

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