



# WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 19, 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 19, 2025.

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

Members Present: Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Annie Somerville

Members Absent: Comms. Katie Scott

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. Daniel Rosenbaum, Ann Arbor City, spoke about 4 properties that are county-owned surface parking lots and his desire to convert them for better use.

Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Township, asked for an update on the commissioners' work on the proposed self-driving car lane. He also asked for a plan of action on the dioxane contamination in the water.

Carolina Conseca, Ypsilanti Township, spoke about her husband's legal situation and her issues with Judge Kunkhe and prosecutor Amy Reiser and the jail system.

Scott Miller, Pittsfield Twp. Congratulated the board for recognizing Social Workers, and he spoke about his time serving with Evan Pratt.

Gary Munce, Lyndon Township, shared a statement emphasizing his support for the Older Persons Services Millage. He gave an overview of some of his core priorities for the millage.

Cherisa Allen, Ypsilanti Township, thanked the commissioners for listening to the issue that she raised at the previous board meeting.

#### IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. LaBarre spoke about how the county had been responding to the plume situation. He also commented on the county parking lot situation and the county jail situation but suggested that she speak with the sheriff's office.

Comm. Somerville clarified that the Washtenaw delegation voted against the self-driving lane on I-94. She thanked Gary for speaking on behalf of seniors and thanked Cherisa Allen for her feedback.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his agreement about the surface parking lots. He spoke about his desire for a Housing Commission. He reiterated his thoughts on the designated toll lanes and stated that the issue must be voted on by SEMCOG. He also commented on CARD and the Dioxane contamination and his disappointment with the lack of support at the state and federal level. He spoke about the jail issue and asked for a timeline of the incidents that the resident experienced.

Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the proposed self-driving car lane on I-94. He noted that the lane resided in Wayne County and encouraged connecting with the Wayne County Commissioner. He also commented on the older persons services millage. Highlighted a townhall occurring on April 9th.

Comm. Sanders spoke about her desire to get resources to seniors as opposed to creating more administrative positions.

Comm. Lyte spoke about the I-94 project. She also commented on Cherisa Allen's comments. Clarified that it was the county's job to respond to anyone who applied for a job in Washtenaw County.

Comm. Rabhi noted that the plan for the i-94 lane was to stretch into Ann Arbor. Suggested that the county submit comment to the

Comm. Hodge requested that the resident who spoke about the jail get in contact with him.

#### V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. LaBarre spoke about the SOS community Services presentation about the rapid rehousing and their lack of federal funding. He suggested that the county divert excess funds to the project.

Comm. Rabhi reported about the drain board meeting and gave an update on the rodent situation. He also reported on the March 11 parks meeting. He spoke about a pandemic affecting oak trees and an application to the MI trust fund and property purchases in the Whitmore Lake preserve. He spoke about an increase in fees to Rolling Hills Waterpark and proposing fee scholarships. He spoke about other purchases.

Comm. Maciejewski reported on the Board of Public Works. He spoke about the disposal of hazardous materials.

Comm. Hodge reported on the Food Policy Council.

#### VI. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Jason Fee, Director of Facilities Management, provided an update on the progress at Cheney school. He spoke about the abatement and demolition work. He stated that the demolition would be completed by the end of April.

Comm. Sanders asked about the bricks remaining from the project and offering bricks for sale for scholarships for families who cannot afford membership.

Comm. Lyte expressed her appreciation for the work being done.

Comm. Rabhi and Administrator Dill thanked facilities for their work in removing contaminants from the community and thanked them for their work.

2. Jeff Rose, Information Technology Director, CIO, provided an update on the new county website and the changes that were made. He shared that the new website was now fully compliant in all mandated areas.

Comm. Hodge commented on the new website.

Administrator Dill thanked Jeff and his team for their work.

## VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Comm. Hodge spoke about his meeting with administration and Poverty Solutions regarding updating the opportunity index.

He spoke about the Small Business Expo.

Administrator Dill thanked OCED for coordinating the event.

Comm. Hodge spoke about the Career Technical Education Summit in held recently.

Comm. Lyte commended Administrator Dill for his speaking on the panel.

## VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

## IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. **25- 047** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Materials Management Planning Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

## X. CONSENT AGENDA

Comm. Rabhi asked if there was a response to the issue that he raised at the previous working session regarding a report from entities receiving county funds. Administrator Dill and Brady Peck stated that they were making progress toward these reports.

Comm. Rabhi requested that the city of Ann Arbor present on the way that the are using funds.

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that the minutes of the March 5, 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-0017** RECEIVED: March 5, 2025: Livingston County Board of Commissioners: Resolution 2025-02-023, Resolution to Support Local Control and Claim of Appeal Against Michigan Public Service Commission Order

**R-0018** RECEIVED: March 6, 2025: Office of Community & Economic Development: Barrier Busters February 2025, BOC Winter Housing Response Fund Report

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. 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 February 25, 2025 through March 11, 2025  
. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that the following reports be received: A report from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the month of February 2025  
. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

6.

## XI. RESOLUTIONS

1. Comm. LaBarre asked about utilizing the fund balance and what would happen if the county falls below the 29% threshold policy. Gavalier explained that the Board could change the policy at any time.

Comm. Sanders asked about the difference between community services block grants and other grants. She also asked about the separation of different energy grants. Ellis Johnson, Finance, explained the difference between the grants and explained why the energy grants were separated.

Comm. Sanders asked for a breakdown of how much funding goes to staffing and how much funding goes to services. She also asked for a map of where previous funds were spent. Johnson spoke a bit about the issue and stated that he would get those figures to Comm. Sanders. He also stated that he would explore the question on the map of services.

Comm. Somerville stated that the item highlights the incredible amount of federal

funding that the county receives and spoke about addressing critical needs like water, food and shelter.

- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Materials Management Planning grant with the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for \$246,129 from Public Works be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution to approve all formula grants received by the Office of Community and Economic Development with a fiscal year starting during the 2025 Calendar year, from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- C. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution authorizing the signature of the County Administrator on the contract for the Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity Grant from the Health Department be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

- A. **25-048** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, 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. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- B. **25-049** Comm. Rabhi asked for more information on the settlement funds. Jimena Loveluck provided more clarity about dates of disbursement, amounts and future plans. Comm. Rabhi expressed his concern with allocating a majority of the funds leaving the county and going into community organizations. He stated that is why he would be opposing the motion.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, 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. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 1 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

3.

- A. **25-050** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution appointing Scott Miller as a Deputy Water Resources Commissioner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- B. **25-051** Comm. Rabhi presented a resolution honoring Evan Pratt for his service to Washtenaw County.

The commissioners and the county administrator thanked Pratt for his work in the county and spoke about their experiences with Pratt throughout the years. Pratt thanked the Board for the honor.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution honoring former Water Resources Commissioner Evan Pratt for his 12 years of dedicated service to Washtenaw County and congratulating him on his retirement be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

- C. **25-052** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution acknowledging March as National Women's History Month be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- D. **25-053** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution recognizing March 31, 2025 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Washtenaw County and supporting the displaying of the Transgender Pride Flag be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- E. **25-054** Comm. Hodge presented the resolution proclaiming March as Social Work Month.  
  
Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to proclaim March 2025 as Social Work Month in Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- F. **25-055** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Kidney Month and March 13, 2025 as World Kidney Day be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- G. **25-056** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to recognize LaFontaine Automotive Group as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce 2024 Large Business Leadership Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- H. **25-057** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to recognize the Crazy Diamond as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce 2024 Small Business Leadership Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- I. **25-058** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to recognize the Purple Rose Theatre as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce 2024 Non-Profit Business Leadership Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- J. **25-059** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to recognize Shawn Personke as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce 2024 Citizen of the Year Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- K. **25-060** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution to recognize Anne and Paul Schissler as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award Winners be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.
- 4.
- A. **25-061** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of March 10, 2025 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

## XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Rabhi spoke about current events happening within the federal government. He expressed his anger with the federal administration deporting residents against the orders of

a judge. He also spoke about a rally that he led regarding cuts to federal positions. He reiterated his support for federal workers.

Comm. LaBarre echoed the sentiments of Comm. Rabhi.

Comm. Somerville suggested that the board should be strategic in helping to keep people housed if they lose their federal positions.

Comm. Beeman highlighted that the University of MI was under federal investigation about their graduate programs and how it could impact the community.

Comm. Rabhi highlighted a video released by the Salvadorian government about the CCOT prison and encouraged his colleagues to watch the video.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 09:35 PM.

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Justin Hodge, Vice  
Chair of the Board of  
Commissioners

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Lawrence  
Kestenbaum,  
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: April 2, 2025