WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 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 April 2, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 07:38 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
Members Absent:	Comms.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michael Auten, Asst. 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. Monica Prince, Ypsilanti Twp., commented about the older adults' millage money being spent and spoke about senior's current fears. She asked for flexibility in the funds provided to the senior centers.

   Bruce Astrien, Ann Arbor, expressed his appreciation for the commissioner's work on the older adult millage. He spoke about the role of government and government workers.

   Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke about his previous experiences and expressed his desire for the commissioners to conduct random testing for chemical plants.

   Ilene Cobner, Augusta Twp., spoke about her concern with the FBI training facility being built in Milan without concerns for the residents and lack of sound protection.

   Mindy Alpert, Augusta Twp., echoed the sentiments of Ilene Cobner. She also stated that she was pleased with the conversation on older adult services.

   KT Pedri, spoke on behalf of the unhorsed population and spoke about the federal issues that they are facing. She spoke about deaths due to homelessness and the Ann Arbor daytime warming center. She spoke about Federal cuts and foodbank cuts. She asked the board to take action.

Sharon Lee, Ypsilanti Twp., thanked the commissioners for their work on the older adults millage. She spoke about ending homelessness among seniors.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The commissioners responded to public comments.

Comm. Somerville stated that she has been working to obtain a permanent daytime space year-round. She stated that she would continue to work with board partners. She also stated that in response to Ms. Lee's comments, prevention was being considered. She spoke about her desire to create a housing commission in the county.

Comm. LaBarre echoed Comm. Somerville's comments and spoke about the COC meeting.

Comm. Hodge commented on the FBI training facility and stated that he has been in contact with representative Dingell.

Comm. Lyte commented on the FBI training facility and suggested recalling the elected officials in her area. She also commented on the Ypsilanti Senior Center and other centers possibly supporting them.

Comm. Somerville commented on Arbor One and spoke about legal help that the county is providing. She spoke about the requirement for Arbor One to safely rehouse tenants. She encouraged tenants to contact legal services. She spoke about her belie that the Arobor One issue is a racial issue as a majority of the tenants are black.

Comm. Lyte echoed the sentiments of Comm. Somerville.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Hodge reported on the health department and how the federal landscape impacts the health department. He spoke about the health department being featured on PBS News Hour regarding their response to COVID-19. He spoke about the county offering free gun locks.

Comm. LaBarre reported on the Continuum of Care meeting and the reports on Winter Housing that they received. He spoke about the increase in need and lack of resources. He requested to get a report in May on sheltering.

Comm. Rabhi reported on Environmental Council and their vote on a resolution to recommend that the Board update their PACE ordinance. He spoke about the proposed data center coming to Ypsilanti Twp.

Comm. Scott reported on the CJCC and their recent meeting.

Comm. Somerville reported on the Community Corrections meeting and a policy that they implemented. She spoke about the budget issue that they could have faced. She stated that she would ask for more state support for community corrections.

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification about the comments Comm. Somerville made. He expressed his desire for everyone to work together. He also expressed his desire for people who can pay for diversionary programs to pay.

Comm. Scott made a point of order that the liaison reports are not for comments and spoke more about the CJCC meeting.

Comm. Sanders added that she was in attendance at the meeting and spoke about the short notice given.

VI. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Catherine Jones-Alther, Deputy Finance Officer, provided a report that the commissioners requested on resource management and next steps at the priority retreat.

   Comm. Rabhi asked for more information in the federal and state column which Jones-Alther provided.

   Comm. LaBarre stated his problems with mandated services and stated that he would advocate for human services above all other services. He added that offices should highlight mandated services.

   Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on the goals of the process and how it would be included in the budget which Jones-Alther provided. He stated that it would be helpful for mandates and grant fulfillment at the state and federal level to be separated in all the county contracts.

   Comm. Scott gave more information on the budget process.

   Comm. Hodge and Comm. LaBarre provided further clarification.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **25-073** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm.Somerville, moved that a resolution to set a Public Hearing on the proposed Washtenaw Urban County 2025-26 Action Plan be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. **25-062** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm.Beeman, moved that a resolution appointing a member to Joint Airport Zoning Board be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
2. **25-063** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that aresolution appointing a commissioner to the Area Agency on Aging 1-B - Executive Board (Ageways) be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

There was discussion about the report from the treasurer being taken out from the consent agenda and being its own item on the agenda. Chair Scott stated that the county treasurer could present if she submitted a report.

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the minutes of the March 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-0019 RECEIVED: March 17, 2025: State of Michigan Tax Commission: Recognition of Receipt of Petition to Opt-Out of County Designated Assessor For the Washtenaw County Designator Assessor.
R-0020 RECEIVED: March 27, 2025: Washtenaw County Food Policy Council: Resolution Support of Prioritizing Food Services for Seniors in Washtenaw County

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, 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. Somerville, 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. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, 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. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of $25,000 and under from March 11, 2025 through March 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 and Comm. Somerville commented on the item.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman moved that a resolution to ratify the application of a grant application to the United States Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for a Hazard Mitigation Plan from the Resiliency Office be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

B. Comm. Rabhi expressed his concerns with the mini grant fund being spent on non-profits and not the county. He requested that each agency being funded provide information on how the county will be recognized for their funding.

Toni Kayumi, OCED Director, spoke about requirements that OCED made that would address Comm. Rabhi's concerns.

Comm. Rabhi asked about a specific program at the University of MI and OCED provided more information. He also expressed his displeasure with the University of Michigan receiving these funds.

Comm. Somerville stated her belief that motions should be made if the commissioners have a request. She also requested that the people receiving the mini-grants come and speak in front of the commissioners.

Comm. LaBarre made some notes on the process and stated his belief that the Board should have a template that recipients could use to recognize the county.

Comm. Beeman echoed the sentiments of Comm. Somerville.

Comm. Hodge responded to remarks by Comm. Rabhi on recognizing formal support from the county and expressed interest in working together to create a template. He echoed the sentiments of Comms. Beeman and Somerville.

Comm. Lyte asked for clarification about the mini-grants at the University of Michigan. Kayumi stated that she would look into the issue. She echoed the sentiments of her colleagues about the University of Michigan and DEI. She also stated that she had received negative feedback about SOS services and asked how they would be held accountable. She requested more information on SOS services.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his desire for the University of Michigan grant to be reconsidered. He requested that the Board send a statement to the Board of Regents.

Comm. Scott commented on the University of Michigan and the mini-grant program.

Comm. Beeman clarified that the program was through Michigan Medicine and not the university.

Comm. Scott also expressed her disappointment with the University of Michigan.

Kayumi stated that the contracts were specific and could not be moved to another department.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved to add the following amendment:

Be it further resolved that each organization receiving it further resolved that each organization that is receiving County funds shall provide to each end user of any payment service or other program funded by the county a statement of recognition that the service is being funded by the people of Washtenaw County and be it further resolved that each organization shall provide the County Board of Commissioners with the form and format in which this information will be
provided to the end user prior to the funds being appropriated to each organization.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he would like information on how each organization planned on acknowledging Washtenaw County's contributions before he voted on the item at the next meeting.

Comm. Lyte asked for more information on what the organizations are doing with the funding outside the annual report. Kayumi stated that they did follow-up reporting as part of their grant requirements.

Comm. Rabhi stated that it would be helpful to know what percentage of the funding the county is providing to each of the service providers.

After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Comm. Somerville spoke about the feedback for service providers like SOS.

Comm. Hodge called the question. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution approving the final recommendation of award recipients for RFP 8749, "New Human Partnership Mini-Grants", from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **25-064** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, 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. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

B. **25-065**
Comm. Sanders asked for clarity on the Contimuum of Care planning grant which Ellis Johnson, Finance, provided.Comm. Sanders asked what the percentage increase was. Johnson provided those figures.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, 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. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

C. **25-066** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, 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. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 0 ABSENT 2. Motion carried.

3.

A. **25-067** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution approving a vendor to complete a Housing Proposal be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

B. **25-068** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution proclaiming April as Celebrate Diversity Month be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

C. **25-069** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution recognizing April 22 as Earth Day be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

D. **25-070** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution recognizing April 7 as World Health Day be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

E. **25-071** Comm. Hodge presented the resolution to a representative from the Sheriff's office.

The commissioners expressed their appreciation for the work that telecommunicators with the sheriff's office do.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution proclaiming April 13 through April 19, 2025 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

4.

A. **25-072** Comm. LaBarre seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of March 24, 2025 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Rabhi stated that if the mini-grants to the University of Michigan come back for a vote, he would like to express his displeasure with the University of Michigan ending their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs. He requested a letter be added in the resolution expressing the Board's displeasure. Comm. Scott stated that she would write the letter.

Comm. Hodge commented on Comm. Rabhi's statement and stated that he would be happy to work with the Chair to draft the letter.

Comm. Lyte asked for Board leadership to incorporate discussions about the sheriff's office.

Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the Western Washtenaw regional advisory meeting and provided an update on the broadband program. He spoke about his intention to vote yes on resolutions A&C in final reading.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his conversations with SEMCOG staff about the lane project and stated that there was a review process. He asked for a resolution to prepare public comments to submit to MDOT to expressed their opposition to the project.

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 PM.

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Katie Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: April 16, 2025