WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 4, 2025

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working Session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Manchester City Offices, in Manchester, MI, on June 4, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 05:32 PM by Comm. LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session.

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; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; 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.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pat Vailliencourt, Manchester, thanked the Board for coming to Manchester and addressed concerns that arose from the previous working session. She urged the board to get the initial funds out.

Janice Kessler, Manchester Twp., expressed her displeasure at the lack of parks in the western area.

Ian Robinson, Huron Valley Area Labor Confederation, expressed his desire to hear the Sheriff's budget discussion.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

None.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Shonagh Taruza, Executive Director of Alpha House, Dan Kelley, Shelter Association of Michigan, and Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Services presented a Continuum of Care Winter Sheltering Proposal.

Comm. Somerville expressed her excitement to continue the sheltering conversations. She expressed her appreciation for CMH and Alpha House and spoke about the Board putting more money into the program.

Comm. Sanders asked about Shelter Diversion and precarious placement issues. Weathers explained the reason for the difficulties. Comm. Sanders asked for the types of fundraising efforts and a list of current organizations donating in the future. She also asked about the percentage of funding that goes to administrative costs and staffing. She asked for these items moving forward.

Comm. Hodge asked Taruza to speak about what the fund approval would mean for the community. Taruza and Kelley spoke more about what it would mean.

Com. Lyte thanked them for their amazing work.

Comm. Sanders asked about how they service the western, more rural side of the county. Taruza, Kelley and Weathers explained their process. Sanders spoke more about inclusion for people struggling in rural areas.

Comm. Scott asked more about the funding requests. Weathers explained where funding would come from.

Comm, Maciejewski asked about the funding request for addiction prevention and the process. Weathers explained the process.

Comm. Rabhi asked about government funding for non-profits and recognizing the county contributions. Weathers, Kelley, and Taruza explained how the county contribution is acknowledged. Comm. Rabhi asked for a more formal recognition so that taxpayers understand the services that they help to fund. He spoke more about physical infrastructure to house people and asked about any progress on that front.

Comm. LaBarre asked about the responsiveness and adaptability of the entities providing services. He expressed his appreciation for the work that they have done.

Comm. Lyte spoke about how the county is recognized for their contributions and spoke about some of the personal conversations that she has had with residents.

B. Alyshia Dyer, Washtenaw County Sheriff, gave an overview of current department operations and spoke about the Sheriff's Office Budget.

Comm. Hodge thanked the Sheriff for her work on a security concern in his neighborhood. He asked about a sustainable solution for the tethering program. Dyer spoke more about her ideas.

Comm. Scott asked about the 100-day report and asked for more information about state and federal funding. Dyer spoke more about the grants and how they alleviate some of the burden put on their budget. She also asked about the attrition numbers. Dyer explained. Scott asked more about the budget constraints and vacancy savings.

Comm. Somerville asked about non-mandated services and an estimate of the expenses. She expressed her belief that work needs to be done to clear up misconceptions about the Sheriff's budget. She asked for more information on the relationship with LAITR. Dyer spoke more about LAITR and funding food and medical services. Somerville asked for more transparency.

Comm. Beeman asked for more information regarding jail costs and asked about the costs per prisoner. Commander Schiappacasse gave a more detailed explanation of the cost per prisoner.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the Sheriff for her presentation and spoke about the responsibility of the Board to address the budget shortfalls in the Sheriff's office. He praised her tenure in office.

Comm. Sanders asked about efforts the Sheriff's office has taken to reduce costs. She also talked about the MOU agreement with the previous sheriff. Sheriff Dyer responded to her questions.

Comm. Scott echoed the sentiments of Comm. Somerville and talked about how to change the narrative regarding the Sheriff's office. She stated that she wanted to recognize that there is room for improvement. She also asked about the delay in the fleet vehicles. Dyer spoke to these concerns. She stated that she would let her know.

County Administrator Dill stated that he had asked similar questions. He stated that Administration did not approve deficit budgets.

Comm. Scott asked about required services. Sheriff Dyer responded to these questions and expressed her belief that some of the negative comments to the board were attributed to her unfairly. She spoke about the work that she has been doing to educate the public on her department.

Comm. Lyte thanked Dyer for her presentation. She asked about the CBI team and stipends being paid. Dyer provided an update.She asked about A Brighter Way being a Fiduciary and expressed her desire for SAVE to be the fiduciary due to a suspected conflict of interest. Dyer expressed her willingness to discuss the issue further.

Comm. Lyte talked about dismantling CBI and replacing a CBI management team and why it is being changed. Dyer explained their process and the problems with SAVE. Comm. Lyte expressed her wishes for the funds moving forward.

Comm. Lyte asked about the number of terminations. Dyer stated that she would get those numbers. Comm. Lyte spoke about safety and concerns about individuals being hired in the Sheriff's office. She spoke about concerns from the community. Dyer assured her that the hiring process is extensive.

Comm. Lyte talked about expanding programming in the Sheriff's office. Dyer explained further and stated that she would get her a detailed list.

Comm. Lyte asked about DEI and asked if the Director was replaced. Dyer stated that the role had been filled and spoke more about the position. Comm. Lyte spoke about the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Comm. Lyte asked about Fire Dispatch and taking on more with the current budget challenges. Dyer spoke about why she believes it is a good idea long-term. She asked about MCOLES Certification.

Comm. LaBarre spoke about the relationship between CMH and the Sheriff's office and stated that he would like to foster this relationship.

Comm. Rabhi gave more clarification about the Sheriff's office expenditures. Administrator Dill provided further clarification.

Comm. Somerville highlighted the work of the CVI team. She spoke about her desire to work with them in the future.

Comm. Hodge asked about the challenges of dispersing the stipends. He expressed his desire to come up with a solution for these issues.

Corporation Counsel spoke generally about the issue.

Comm. Scott suggested that there be another working session for transparency. She expressed her desire for the Sheriff to speak to her plans on the ordinance and the Hazmat team and Tactical rescue team and a pause on funding.

Comm. Lyte asked for more information on this pause. Dyer explained the constraints on the millage.

Comm. Sanders asked for further clarification, which Dyer provided. She requested a list of important items related to millage.

Comm. Lyte stated that she was preparing a resolution to transfer the CVI funds back to the county.

Comm. Maciejewski asked about changes made to patrols and adjustments to services provided through the contracts with municipalities. Dyer provided clarification on the issue.

Comm. Lyte asked about the new vehicles and how the discontinuation of the Durango will affect the vehicles. Dyer stated that she would have her fleet manager look into it.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 08:18 PM.

Andy LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: July 2, 2025