



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 2025

WORKING SESSION

I. 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 September 17, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Comm. LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present: Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte(5:37 PM), Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders (7:04 PM), Katie Scott, Annie Somerville

Members Absent: Comms.

Others Present Greg Dill, 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; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Brenden McArthur, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Campbell, Washtenaw County employee, thanked the Commissioners for discussing the possibility of reopening retiree pensions and healthcare.

Danielle Dix, Tecumseh and County employee, addressed why employees are asking for pension.

John Sebastian, Ypsilanti Township, stated that he is in favor of the pension program.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

None.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Comm. Labarre stated that item B regarding retirement benefits for County employees will be a standing item.

- A. Dr. Hanna-Attisha presented RX kids, a program designed to address economic struggles in the perinatal period, to the Commissioners. The program has improved the health of mothers and babies. They hope to bring the program to the City of Ypsilanti, but are working to obtain the necessary funds.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Dr. Hanna-Attisha for the presentation and inquired about the role other participating communities are playing with the program. Dr. Hanna-Attisha

gave examples of what other communities have done.

Comm. Hodge thanked Dr. Hanna-Attisha for her commitment to public health and asked what a county-wide program would cost. Dr. Hanna-Attisha stated that she would share those numbers later.

Comm. Somerville stated her desire to offer the program to communities with the highest poverty rates. It would be hard to limit it to just one city as it would not be equitable.

Comm. Lyte stated that she loves the program and that she also desires to make it a county-wide program so it will be equitable.

Comm. Rabhi thanked Dr. Hanna-Attisha for her work. He also inquired about state legislation regarding the program. Dr. Hanna-Attisha provided more information.

Comm. Somerville asked how they determine how much would be needed and how they identified Ypsilanti city. Dr. Hanna-Attisha answered the questions.

Comm. Labarre asked how the process works for a new parent, who administers the program, and what kind of oversight there is. Dr. Hanna-Attisha provided more information. Comm. Labarre stated that he would love to have a Washtenaw County community in the program and thanked Dr. Hanna-Attisha for her presentation.

- B. Washtenaw County CFO Tina Gavalier gave a presentation regarding retiree pension and retiree health benefits for County employees.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Tina for the robust presentation.

Comm. Hodge agreed that the presentation was robust and inquired about the health care options currently provided to County employees and changing the structure.

County Administrator Dill clarified for the Commissioners that they are continuously working to keep costs contained and will continue to do so.

Comm. Somerville thanked Tina for the presentation, but stated that she found it to be overwhelming and asked if other municipalities offer options for employees to choose from.

Comm. Scott mentioned previous concerns raised by the actuary regarding allowing employees to choose what retiree benefits they have.

Comm. Beeman agreed with Comm. Hodge that the high-deductible health plan is costly and would like to avoid raising those costs. She further asked about funding of current retirement plans.

Comm. Rabhi addressed the body stating that this is an issue that can be presented in different ways, and he feels that this presentation provided a lot of cons and would like to see another presentation that offers a differing view. He wants their decision to reflect the values of wanting to support employees, not just based on numbers as that is something that can be worked on.

Comm. Scott inquired about the current average age of Washtenaw County workers. HR Director Guillermo stated that the average age is 42 years old. Comm. Scott further raised concerns regarding unfunded liabilities and how retirees afford healthcare. She thanked Tina for the presentation.

Comm. Lyte thanked Tina for the presentation and reiterated Comm. Rabhi's desire to review all options. She also asked if this is an appropriate time to review these benefits with the current state of the economy. Tina responded. Comm. Lyte asked if employees are included in the discussions as it's important to know what they need. Tina stated that there was an employee survey done.

Comm. Rabhi acknowledged the feedback from County employees in support of reopening the pension.

Comm. LaBarre stated his concerns regarding healthcare costs.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the costs are negotiable with unions. Comm. LaBarre agreed.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM by Comm. LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session.

Andy LaBarre, Chair of the Working Session
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Brenden McArthur, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: October 1, 2025