



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 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 September 17, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 PM by Comm. Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Members Present: Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte (7:57 PM), Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders (7:57 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.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Tammy Bruno, Saline Township, spoke regarding concerns around data centers in Washtenaw County.

Dr. Lauren Sargent, Ann Arbor, spoke in favor of the data center resolution on the agenda.

Andrea Pierce, Ypsilanti Township, spoke in opposition of data centers and asked the Commissioners to support the data center resolution on the agenda.

Michelle Dietrich, Superior Township, expressed support of reopening pension plans for employees, spoke in opposition of data centers, and expressed support for the resolution on the agenda.

Kelly Coleman, Saline Township, spoke in opposition of data centers and in favor of the data center resolution on the agenda.

Bill Bray, Manchester Township, spoke regarding blight in his neighborhood and the fire hazard it creates.

Mary Campbell, a Washtenaw County employee, thanked the Commissioners for discussing retiree benefits. Clarified that 856 employees signed the petition in favor of reopening pensions.

Tim Olson, Ann Arbor, expressed frustration on behalf of the Labor Coalition as he feels the will of the employees is not being heard in regard to retiree benefits.

Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Township, spoke about property taxes and how they are assessed.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Rabhi thanked everyone who came and spoke. He stated that he supports the data center resolution on the agenda and encouraged activists to pay attention and to not give up. He feels that more could be done about data centers. He supports full reopening of pensions and retiree healthcare as he wants to take care of employees. He wishes that tax laws would change so counties and municipalities aren't as reliant on property taxes.

Comm. Lyte thanked everyone who had comments. She would like more information on data centers and to know the truth. She encouraged those who spoke to keep fighting against data centers and pushing municipalities to create more regulations regarding them. She supports what the employees want in regard to retiree benefits, but wants to ensure that communication related to these issues continues.

Comm. Somerville stated that she supports the data center resolution. She encourages everyone to be mindful about using AI as that is part of the reason data centers are opening. She is supportive of reopening pensions and is interested in getting information from Wayne County regarding how they reopened their pensions.

Comm. Beeman expressed support for employees and their desires. She wants to make sure they take the best steps forward, as employees are the backbone of the County. She stated that she was proud of those who came to speak out against data centers. She wants to make sure that any projects in relation to data centers will benefit the communities they are in.

Comm. Rabhi addressed the secrecy that comes with the data center proposals. He hopes that we will all come to a quick realization about how damaging AI is. It costs people jobs and takes away from human interactions.

Comm. Sanders spoke in relation to AI and data centers. She wonders if there is a way for the County to help communities build strength against data centers. She would like to see education about data centers to combat secrecy. She would like to know how data centers that have already been created have impacted their communities.

Comm. Hodge thanked everyone for their comments. Two of the data centers are proposed to be in his district, so he has learned a lot about them. He stated that he has toured data centers. He wants to make sure there are strategies around data centers to limit negative impacts. He supports the resolution regarding data centers.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his desire to get multiple speakers for a working session in regard to data centers.

Comm. Scott spoke about the importance of protecting rural areas of the County. She will be attending a meeting with Township Supervisors. She thanked labor for their continued voice. She feels that the dignity and rights of the workers are important.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Maciejewski stated that the Board of Public Works met the morning of the meeting and the final cleanup day of the year is September 27 in Ypsilanti. You must register for this event on the county website. The Material Management Planning Committee met the week prior and discussed organics in the solid waste system. He brought up the importance of the SNAP program.

Comm. Rabhi provided updates from the Parks and Recreation Commission. He stated that the Squires Preserve acquisition has been completed. There has been a conservation easement purchased by the County in Augusta. Repairs have been approved for park buildings. They also voted to submit for a TAP grant.

Comm. Scott discussed including art in the pool area at the Mary Lou Rec center. They would like to do the same in the new Eastside Rec Center.

Comm. Sanders stated that she attended the Michigan Works annual conference with Comm. Lyte. She stated that Michigan Works and the programs they offer are in jeopardy due to cuts to the funding. She encouraged people to reach out to their elected officials in support of those programs. She clarified that the County did not pay for their travel, it was paid for by Michigan Works.

Comm. Beeman attended the Michigan Works Board Meeting and would like to consider a resolution in support of Michigan Works.

Comm. Somerville stated that as the Liaison of the Commission on Aging, she would like the County Administration Team to come up with a plan in case of a Federal and State shutdown to prevent any gaps in services.

VI. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Dill said they are planning in case of Federal and State shutdowns. He reminded commissioners that they are continuing conversations in relation animal control. In the future the report will include updates on the Eastside Rec Center.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

None.

VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. **25-186** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Washtenaw County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting September 3, 2025 be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
2. 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.)

R-0044 RECEIVED: September 8, 2025: City of Ann Arbor: Notice of Ann Arbor City Charter Amendment.

R-0045 RECEIVED: September 8, 2025: Ypsilanti Township Clerk: Resolution 2025-23 Opposing the building of two High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence Research Centers at the Bridge Road and Textile Road Location.

R-0046 RECEIVED: September 11, 2025: City of Chelsea: Distribution of Draft Master Plan for Review.

R-0047 RECEIVED: September 12, 2025: Washtenaw County Environmental Council: Resolution Recommending That the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Act on Serious Public Health, Energy, Water, Worker and Climate Concerns Related to Proposed Data Centers in the County.

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 from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the month of August, 2025. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
 - B. 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 August 2, 2025 through September 9, 2025. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
6. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: Report of the Treasurer. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

XI. RESOLUTIONS

1.
 - A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution modifying the soil erosion and sediment control fee schedule and create 1.0 FTE Soil Erosion Control Officer position from the Water Resources Commissioner be approved.

Comm. Rabhi thanked the Water Resources Commissioner for increasing revenue and creating a union position in place of seasonal staff.

Voice vote - motion carried.

- B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution authorizing the signature of the County Administrator on the lease with the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study from Facilities be approved.

Comm. Hodge stated that he will be voting yes, but would like to more mindful of how spaces are being used in the future.

Comm. Rabhi expressed the same view as Comm. Hodge.

Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

- A. **25-187** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution approving the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health 2025/2026 annual operating budget in the amount of \$151,575,367 for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 from Community Mental Health be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **25-188** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution amending the 2024/25 Community Mental Health budget be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. **25-189** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution authorizing the County Administrator's signature on the Washtenaw County Health Department's Comprehensive agreement for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, from Washtenaw County Health Department be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. **25-190** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution appropriating \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act interest earnings and amending the budget from County Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- E. **25-191** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution ratifying the County Administrator's signature on a grant agreement with Superior Township in the amount of \$445,848.30 and amending the budget be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- F. **25-192** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution to adopt the Broadway Park Redevelopment Brownfield Plan Amendment #1, from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the responsible party is DTE, a private company, and taxpayer dollars are being used to clean up the mess of the private project. He will be voting no on this resolution.

Comm. Hodge spoke about a written public comment that echoes Comm. Rabhi's comments over the past few meetings.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 (Rabhi) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- G. **25-193** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution approving the opioid litigation settlement with various generic manufacturers, from Corporation Counsel be aproved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- H. **25-194** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge, moved that a resolution approving the opioid litigation settlement with defendants Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family, from Corporation Counsel be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3.

- A. **25-195** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a Resolution authorizing the Emergency Management Work Agreement and the Signature of the County Administrator on the Local Budget for Emergency Management Performance Grant from the Emergency Management Division of the Sheriff's Office be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- B. **25-196** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Washtenaw County Dental Clinic be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. **25-197** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that a resolution directing Washtenaw County staff to develop informational outreach materials on data centers for local municipalities and urging local municipalities to require a set of recommendations for data center approval be approved.

Comm. Hodge asked if there was anyone from the Resiliency Office regarding their resolution. Ashley Hall stated that there was not anyone in attendance.

Comm. Rabhi stated what he thought would be heard from the Environmental Council.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

4.

- A. **25-198** 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 September 8, 2025 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Sanders stated that this Saturday there will be a Michigan Collaborative summit on human trafficking she is hosting at the LRC at 10 AM. She is waiting for an answer on whether or not it is open to the public.

Comm. Somerville stated that their was a public meeting last week with an update on Eastside Community Center. She believes that construction will start in 2026. She is grateful for the turnout at the meeting. She wants to make everyone aware that this is new, and they will have to be creative with the project.

Comm. Sanders stated that the Eastside Community Center is in need of sponsors. Further,

Towsley will also need support and encourages those interested to reach out to Alpha House. She thanked Trinity Health for gifting Alpha House the building.

Comm. Rabhi expressed the fear of losing free speech in our country. He condemned ABC's decision regarding Jimmy Kimmel.

Comm. Beeman echoed Comm. Rabhi's fears, pointing to Ben and Jerry's founder stepping down.

Comm. Sanders agreed with previous statements, she has received emails asking her to get a professor fired. She finds this alarming and thanked her colleagues for being engaged.

XIII. PENDING

1. **25-199** Chair Scott brought forward the proposed motion from the September 3, 2025 meeting that was moved by Comm. Labarre and seconded by Comm. Hodge to approve a resolution to approve the Older Adults Transportation Request for Proposal (RFP) recommendations from Administration.

Comm. Sanders asked for clarity from Administration that the documents she previously requested have been received. Director of Operations Brady Peck confirmed that the documents have been received.

Comm. Hodge clarified what was submitted by different bidders.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he would be voting yes on this with some reservation. He never wants to see this type of thing to come up again. He's disappointed that they set up a scoring process and didn't follow it. He wants clear and concise scoring criteria in the future.

Comm. Sanders stated that she expects honesty, transparency, and fairness. She wants to be sure that the bidding process is equitable for all. She stated that what happened at the previous Board Meeting was about following the rules.

Comm. Beeman agreed that there is a process in place for bidding and the Board has to be responsible and do what is good for the community.

Comm. LaBarre stated that he appreciates the diligence going into this item. He looks forward to the first bus rides for seniors and hopes to build upon it.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that they set up a process with millage dollars and expects that going forward, the process will be efficient and effective. He expressed his previous concerns about the ability to deliver on the rides, but he is optimistic after speaking to the companies.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Lyte). Motion carried.

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Katie Scott, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Brenden McArthur, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: October 1, 2025