WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 1, 2025

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working Session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 1, 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, 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; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, Director of Board Operations; Tabatha Reynolds, Board of Commissioners Constituent Outreach Coordinator; Brenden McArthur, Clerk's Office; Jason Fee, Facilities Management Director and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

None.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Catherine Jones-Alther, Deputy Finance Director, explained that it is the start of budget season. The recommended budget will be presented on October 15, 2025.

Marie Pfiefer, Budget Analyst, explained the budget review process.

Rachel Rosenburg, Budget Analyst, and Jones-Alther explained budget requests that were received from throughout the County.

Comm. Rabhi and Comm. LaBarre asked for clarification regarding a budget request regarding snow removal, lawn maintenance, and janitorial services.

Comm. Sanders asked if those services are contracted. Jones-Alther clarified that they are.

Jason Fee, Facilities Management Director, clarified what services are contracted. They are bid out about every 3 or 4 years.

Comm. Sanders requested more information regarding those contracts.

Comm. Scott would like to see more detailed information regarding the budget requests.

Comm. Rabhi asked who ranked the budget requests. Jones-Alther clarified that they were ranked by subject-matter experts.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his concern regarding revenue sharing due to state budgeting.

Comm. Somerville stated that in her district 2 marijuana retailers closed. This will have an impact on funds the community receives.

Comm. LaBarre stated that he feels this is a good, well run process, but he would like more community engagement in the process. Further, he would like to know what requests are new.

Comm. Sanders stated that she doesn't know that budgeting is a process that the community should be brought into. She stated that the community is already engaged and states their needs. Many in the community don't understand the process and impacts. She feels that the Commissioners are elected by the community to make these decisions.

Comm. Scott asked for a rough estimate of the amount of money they will have to work with. Jones-Alther stated that it really depends on what happens with the state budget.

Comm. Sanders asked if the employees are asked what they've done to mitigate costs in their budget requests. Jones-Alther stated that is not currently asked. Comm. Sanders would like to go back and ask that question of requestors.

County Administrator Dill stated that they will continue their work around the budget.

Comm. Rabhi stated there have been 3 marijuana retailers that have closed in his district. He is worried that the increased tax will cause more businesses to close and will further impact the revenue received.

Comm. Sanders added that the voices heard are often the ones who are able to speak, not the ones that need to be heard the most. She feels that community involvement in this process will create an equity issue.

Comm. Scott stated that going forward it will be important to know what the places asking for more money are doing to mitigate costs.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. LaBarre listed some of the topic requests that have been received for future Working Sessions, which include the Youth Assessment Center, Eastside Rec Center, and the employee survey.

Comm. Hodge requested that the Community Priority Fund be discussed at a future Working Session.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

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

By: Brenden McArthur, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: October 15, 2025