MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.
Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226. and via Zoom

A. Roll Call: 12:06 p.m.

Jonathan C. Kinloch (Chair)	-	Present
Sam Baydoun (Vice-Chair)	-	Excused
Glenn S. Anderson	-	Present
Cara A. Clemente	-	Present
Terry Marecki	-	Present
Monique Baker McCormick	-	Excused
Martha G. Scott	-	Present

Commissioners Peterson-Mayberry and Wilson were also present.

B. Chairman's Remarks

C. Anderson/Clemente

Approved. Minutes from the July 14, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Yeas -- Commissioners Kinloch, Anderson, Clemente, Marecki, Scott -- 5

D. Unfinished Business

1. Clemente/Marecki

Passed for the Day. The recommended two-year Comprehensive Executive Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028, including the operating budget plans for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the Projected Budget for Fiscal Year 2027-2028. (2026-31-030) Motion Carried.

E. New Business

1. Scott/Clemente

Approved. The reappointment of Scott Vandemergel (of Shelby Township) to serve as the Director of the Assessment and Equalization Division for the Department of Management and Budget; the Executive's Office advises that Mr.

Vandemergel will be paid an annual salary of $159,943 and all other benefits will be provided in accordance with the Executive Benefit Plan for executive branch employees, as amended; the term is from August 8, 2026 to August 7, 2032; the cost of Mr. Vandemergel's salary will be charged to Account No. 10110 257010 7020010 (MB Assessment Equalization). (2026-66-034) Motion Carried.

Commission Counsel Felicia Johnson provided background on the appointment, explaining that although the Charter places the Assessment and Equalization Division under Management and Budget, state law assigns its functions to the County Commission. Therefore, the division operates on the Commission's behalf, and the Commission has the authority to reappoint Mr. Vandemergel as director. She added that Management and Budget will continue to set the salary, which is expected to increase on October 1 based on its market analysis.

There was discussion among Commissioners with Mr. Vandemergel regarding his certifications.

Item No. 2 through 7 were considered under one motion.

2. Marecki/Anderson

Forwarded to Receive and File. A report on how much of the General Fund's fund balance is assigned vs. unassigned, including a detailed report of the assigned amount (description of items and amounts associated) and how much of the unassigned amount should be maintained, the basis for maintaining the unassigned amount and what amount it requests to be allocated toward the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget shortfall, pursuant to Enrolled Ordinance No. 2025-659, page 11, item 43. (2026-31-034) Motion Carried.

James Tatum provided explained that fund balance represents surpluses accumulated within a fund over time and is categorized as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned based on the County's ability to use the resources. Non-spendable assets, such as inventory, cannot be used as available funds.

3. Marecki/Anderson

Forwarded to Receive and File. A report on the General Fund's fund balances and amounts allocated for budget stabilization for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, pursuant to Enrolled Ordinance No. 2025-659, page 11, item 50. (2026-31-035) Motion Carried.

4. Marecki/Anderson

Approved. A proposed amendment to the 2025-2026 Appropriations Ordinance (Enrolled Ordinance No. 2025-659) in accordance with Budget Adjustment No. 2026-35-065 certifying revenue in the amount of $15,000 in the General Fund (101); the Executive's Office advises that the budget adjustment submitted on behalf of the Personnel/Human Resources Department serves to reallocate funds to Miscellaneous Professional Services to pay grievance arbitration fees per the Collective Bargaining Agreements. (2026-35-065) Motion Carried.

5. Marecki/Anderson

Approved. A proposed amendment to the 2025-2026 Appropriations Ordinance (Enrolled Ordinance No. 2025-659) in accordance with Budget Adjustment No. 2026-35-017 decertifying revenue in the amount of $300,000 in the General Fund (101); the Executive's Office advises that the budget adjustment submitted on behalf of the Department of Management and Budget serves to provide sufficient funds for the Savi Solutions contract. (2026-35-017) Motion Carried.

6. Marecki/Anderson

Approved. A proposed amendment to the 2025-2026 Appropriations Ordinance (Enrolled Ordinance No. 2025-659) in accordance with Budget Adjustment No. 2026-35-002 certifying revenue in the amount of $73,496 in the Central Services Fund – Information Services & Technology (635) and reallocating expenditures in the amount of $73,496 in the County Road Fund (201); the Executive's Office advises that the budget adjustment submitted on behalf of the Department of Information Technology serves to recognize the transfer of an employee currently budgeted in the Department of Public Services – Administration to the Department of Information Technology. (2026-35-002) Motion Carried

7. Marecki/Anderson

Approved. A proposed amendment to the 2025-2026 Appropriations Ordinance (Enrolled Ordinance No. 2025-659) in accordance with Budget Adjustment No. 2026-35-003 certifying revenue in the amount of $2,202,125 in the County Road Fund (201); the Executive's Office advises that the budget adjustment submitted on behalf of the Department of Public Services, Equipment Division, serves to certify Revenue Sources and Appropriation Uses for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 capital allocation funds. (2026-35-003) Motion Carried

Yeas -- Commissioners Kinloch, Anderson, Clemente, Marecki, Scott -- 5

8. Discussion by the County Treasurer regarding the recent federal court ruling related to the County's property tax foreclosure process and the pending federal class action lawsuit. *(This item will be discussed at a future meeting.)*

F. Such other matters as may be properly submitted before the Committee - None

G. Public Comments –

Comments were offered by Tobias Amadeas Brevik

H. Adjournment

Scott/Anderson
The Committee adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Octavia Hunter
Legislative Research Assistant

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

July 28, 2026

D.1. The recommended two-year Comprehensive Executive Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028, including the operating budget plans for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the Projected Budget for Fiscal Year 2027-2028

(2026-31-030)

(previously distributed)