



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

March 22, 2022 4:00 PM

Commissioners

Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Kurt Doroh, District 2
Richard Godfrey, District 3
Mike Chappell, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Donald Hanson, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7

Board of Commissioners Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
On the above date the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 04:34 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board.
2. **Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer**
3. **Roll Call**
The roll was called by County Clerk Suzie Roehm with the following commissioners answering to their name and district: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Mike Chappell, Randall Peat, Donald Hanson, Paul Schincariol
4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
5. **Approval of Agenda / Consent Agenda**
All items on the agenda marked with '*' are part of the consent agenda. Commissioners or the public can request that items be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented with the notation by Commissioner Schincariol that his yes vote in the 3/8/2022 Board of Commissioners minutes for Item 9B was not listed. (Minutes will be corrected)
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
6. ****Approval of Minutes**
 - A. ****3/8/2022 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
Emilly Hickmott, Van Buren County Conservation District
8. **Presentation**
9. **Administrative Affairs Committee**
 - A. ****911 Dispatch Console Integration Agreement with MPSCS**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA19/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is for approval of an Integration Agreement between Van Buren County (Van Buren County Central Dispatch) and the State of Michigan's Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), Office of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) for the MCC7500 Dispatch Radio Consoles and associated Member Subscriber Agreements (MSA) for Van Buren County, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, and Van Buren County Central Dispatch, and;

WHEREAS, the foundation of the VHF Radio Upgrade project is the integration of the MCC7500 Dispatch Radio Console(s). The consoles are an upgraded direct connection point for the entire Public Safety Radio System utilized by Van Buren County Central Dispatch. Van Buren County became a member of the MPSCS in 2000. With the numerous changes that have occurred over the past 20+ years, MSA's are being reviewed / renewed when members update and/or replace local communication systems or major connection components with the MPSCS. As VBCCD proceeds through the process of upgrading and integrating the MCC7500 Dispatch Radio Consoles, the MPSCS has been required by the Attorney General's (AG) office to execute new agreements, including:

1. Board of Commissioner's Resolution that authorizes the entering into the Integration Agreement between VBCO & MPSCS, which also states who is authorized to sign such agreements.
2. Member Subscriber Agreement for Van Buren County (recommended Board Chair's signature)
3. Member Subscriber Agreement for Van Buren County Sheriff's Office (recommended Sheriff's signature)
4. A Member Subscriber Agreement for Van Buren County Central Dispatch (recommended 911 Director's signature)

The Point of Contact (POC / Liaison Officer) for all items between the MPSCS & VBCO has historically (and currently) been the 911 Director, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Integration Agreement between Van Buren County and Michigan Public Safety Communications System for the MCC7500 Dispatch Radio Consoles and agreements and authorizes the Board Chair, the County Sheriff, and the County 911 Director to sign all related documents on the County's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **Increase in Summer Marine Patrol Wage

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA20/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to increase the wage for seasonal marine patrol deputies, and;

WHEREAS, the current wage for marine patrol deputies is \$16.00 per hour. To be competitive and have a comparable wage, we are requesting to increase the wage to \$20.00 per hour. These are seasonal employees that do not belong to any bargaining unit. The \$20 per hour wage would be the same wage as the reserve division, and;

WHEREAS, the budget impacted is 101.0-331.00-543.000 which is both grants funded and a general fund account. We would counteract the increase by adjusting the number of hours worked by the marine patrol, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the hourly wage increase from \$16.00 per hour to \$20.00 per hour for the seasonal marine patrol positions.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. ****Re-Appointments for 4 Van Buren Cass Mental Health Authority Board Members**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA21/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to re-appoint four board members to the Van Buren / Cass Mental Health Authority, and;
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the Van Buren / Cass Mental Health Authority. Four of the members' terms expire on 3/31/2022. All have applied for re-appointment to a three-year term to expire on 3/31/2025. The candidates for re-appointment are: Thomas Coles, Carie Faul, Thomas Palenick, and Mike Toth, and;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the re- appointment of Thomas Coles, Carie Faul, Thomas Palenick, and Mike Toth to the Van Buren / Cass mental Health Authority with all terms expiring on 3/31/2025.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Submission**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA22/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners supports the submission of an application titled, "Paw Paw River Water Trail Public Access Development" to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the development of a parking area and an ADA pathway to a kayak/canoe launch in Hartford Township along County Road 687, and;
WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the County's 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan, and;
WHEREAS, Van Buren County has made a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$52,000 matching funds, in cash and/or force account, and;
WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded, the applicant commits its above local match and pledged amounts from the following identified sources: Hartford Township \$ 52,000
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Van Buren County Commissioners hereby authorize the submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application for \$296,000, and further resolves to make available a local match through its financial commitment and the of Hartford Township totaling \$104,000 (26%) of a total \$400,000 project cost, during the 2023-2024 fiscal years.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

10. **ARPA Committee**

A. **ARPA Proposal # 032 - Lawton / Porter Utility Expansion Study**

ARPA RESOLUTION ARPA6/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$20,000 to be used for a feasibility study that will analyze the practicality and sustainability of a utility expansion to the northern portion of Porter Township with emphasis on serving Honee Bear and other customers immediately south of the Village of Lawton, extending sewer and/or water service outside the Village into Porter Township, and;
WHEREAS, the interested stakeholders include the Village of Lawton, Porter Township, and the Honee Bear Canning Company (within Porter Township). ARPA Category 5 is most appropriately suited for this request, and;
WHEREAS, the project total cost is \$25,000, the Village of Lawton and Honee Bear

have each committed a contribution of \$2,500 (\$5,000 total) and are requesting the use of ARPA funds for the remaining \$20,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a feasibility study to analyze the practicality and sustainability of a utility expansion immediately south of the Village of Lawton to the northern portion of Porter Township.

Roll Call Vote

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

Yes: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Mike Chappell,
Donald Hanson, Paul Schincariol

No: Randall Peat

11. Buildings and Grounds Committee

A. Purchase of Kalamazoo Street Properties

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION BG5/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the purchase of two properties located on Kalamazoo Street, and;

WHEREAS, as part of the county's long term facility plan, the Board of Commissioners allowed county administration to pursue the purchase of two properties in Paw Paw, noted as follows:

Property #1: (Known as the Chiropractor Clinic)

Parcel # 80-47-110-002-00

309 S. Kalamazoo Street

Paw Paw, MI 49079

Property #2: (Known as the Insurance Building)

Parcel # 80-47-110-001-00

315 S. Kalamazoo Street

Paw Paw, MI 49079

WHEREAS, Property appraisals were received and reviewed by the buildings and grounds committee on 9/21/2021 and the full board on 11/23/2021. Updates were shared with the buildings and grounds committee on 1/21/2022 and the full board on 2/8/2022. After several weeks of negotiations, an agreement has been reached with both property owners.

The agreement for Property #1 is for \$193,000. Once the purchase is complete, arrangements will be made to demolish the structure.

The agreement for Property #2 is for \$280,000. In this agreement, the county will be the new owner and take over an existing lease with the occupants of the building that expires on 4/30/2025. The expected revenue from this lease is \$98,958.33.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the purchase agreement for Parcel # 80-47-110-002-00 & Parcel # 80-47-110-001-00 for a total amount of \$473,000 and to authorize the board chair to sign any related documents.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

12. Finance Committee

A. ****CESF Grant Extension through 6/30/2022**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F8/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the grant extension through 6/30/2022 as requested by the court and prosecutor's office, and;

WHEREAS, the original agreement award amount of \$265,179.96 was for the period 3/1/2020 through 9/30/2021. The amended agreement with the extension shall continue through 6/30/2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the grant extension through 6/30/2022 and for the Board Chairperson to sign on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

13. **Labor Negotiations and Contracts Committee**

A. **Competitive IT Wages**

LABOR/NEGOTIATIONS RESOLUTION L7/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the increase of IT staff wages, with the exception of the IT Director, by two ranges and move every employee to the lowest step on the new scale that provides them a wage increase, and;

WHEREAS, recruiting and retaining talent in the IT field is absolutely critical to all business operations within the County. Without qualified staff supporting the technology behind business operations, the organization and the community that it serves suffer. After extensive studies of surrounding municipalities, it was determined that Van Buren's current pay schedules for information technology employees are not competitive within the local market. This resulted in the loss of four staff members in six weeks to a neighboring county in summer 2021; a significant hit to our pool of institutional knowledge. By moving forward with this request, we have the opportunity to cement the IT team for the foreseeable future, retain the talent that we have, help recruit more talented individuals, and be far more competitive across the local government space, and;

WHEREAS, with all positions staffed, this represents an increase in GF expenditures of \$24,160.50. This is offset by the recent work of reducing annual GF expenditures to Frontier Communications by \$34,000 annually, resulting in a savings of roughly \$9,800. Additionally, due to military deployment, the County will not be paying wages to one IT staff member for 9-12 months beginning in Q2, 2022, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the increase of IT staff wages, with the exception of the IT Director, by two ranges and move every employee to the lowest step on the new scale that provides them a wage increase as noted in the proposal.

Roll Call Vote

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Donald Hanson, Carried

Yes: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Randall Peat, Donald Hanson, Paul Schincariol

No: Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Mike Chappell

B. **Out of State Travel - Training**

LABOR/NEGOTIATIONS RESOLUTION L8/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is for board approval of out of-state travel for one Sheriff Deputy to attend specialized training in Lawrence, Indiana for Traffic Crash Reconstruction, and;

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office maintains specialized deputies to reconstruct traffic accidents. These specially trained deputies will testify as to why a traffic crash occurred and the at fault and possibly negligent driver. Many times, they testify during fatal drunk driving crashes. The training for this was historically done by Michigan State University. However, the instructor has since retired and MSU is not fulfilling this specialized course. Many Michigan agencies have turned to the Institute of Police Technology and Management for this training. The closest training they are offering is in Lawrence, Indiana.

The training consists of three 2-week-long courses.

Session 1 - 4/25/22-5/6/22

Session 2 - 6/20/22-7/1/22

Session 3 - 7/18/22-7/29/22, and;

WHEREAS, training for the 3 courses is a total of \$3285 to be paid out of 101.0-302.00-910.004 Travel and meal will be paid out of 101.0-302.00-861.00. Both line items have sufficient funds to accommodate the cost.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the out of state travel for the Sheriff Deputy to attend the training in Lawrence, Indiana.

Motion by Donald Hanson, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

14. Public Transit Committee

A. **MDOT Proposed Resolution of Intent 2022

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T5/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners have the authority to contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for State and/or Federal funds for passenger transportation related services, and;

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve Master Agreement No. 2022-0144, and;

WHEREAS, this resolution shall also approve execution of Project Authorizations for any programs designated by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners and/or Project Authorizations for any amount determined by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners with the Michigan Department of Transportation which are issued under Master Agreement 2022-0144.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board Chair of the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners or its Designee, is authorized to enter into and execute on behalf of the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners said Master Agreement and all such Project Authorizations with the Michigan Department of Transportation for passenger transportation related services for the Agreement period.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **MDOT Contract 2017-0136 P11 R1

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T6/3-22-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to approve MDOT contract 2017-0136 P11 R1, and;

WHEREAS, the MDOT has sent a revision to their contract 2017-0136 P11. The payment language has been changed to better define the terms of reimbursement for operating expenses in FY 2021, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of

Commissioners approves the revised contract and authorizes the Board Chairperson or Vice Chair to sign related documents on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

15. Public Comment

16. Closed Session

17. Board Correspondence

A. Iron County Resolution

18. Committee/Out-Board Assignments

Palisades

Bloomingtondale Communications meeting

Naco

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 04:57 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk