



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

April 26, 2022 1:00 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 01:02 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. Approval of 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 consent agenda as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

A. **4/12/2022 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

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

B. Administrative Affairs

****Set Public Hearing for CDBG Grant Funding for Mattawan Life Sciences**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA26/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to set a public hearing related to Mattawan Life Sciences CDBG State of Michigan Grant closeout for May 10, 2022 at 12:50 p.m., and;
WHEREAS, a 100k Grant was awarded to Van Buren County in 2019, to perform site readiness activities on what has been called the Mattawan Life Science Industrial Site in the Village of Mattawan. The project commenced in the Fall of 2020 and was completed in the Summer of 2021, and;
WHEREAS, Grant dollars have been fully expended.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves setting the public hearing for 5/10/2022 at 12:50 PM to officially close out the grant with the State of Michigan.

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

****Equalization Report**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA27/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, MCL 211.34(1) requires the county board of commissioners to meet in April each year to determine county equalized valuations; which equalization shall be completed and submitted along with the tabular statement required by Section 5 of Act No. 44 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended no later than May 1 of each year; and WHEREAS, the assessment rolls of the various assessment jurisdictions have been reviewed by the various local Boards of Review throughout the County of Van Buren and submitted to your Equalization Department in the appropriate timely manner; and WHEREAS, those assessment rolls have been audited and balanced by your Equalization Department in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the guidelines of the State Tax Commission; the results of such being listed on the attached equalization report and on the prescribed Michigan Department of Treasury Form L-4024 (County Equalization Directors Report of County Equalization); and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the County Equalized Valuations as indicated within the attached equalization report a cumulative total for Real Property of \$4,321,094,075 (Four Billion, Three Hundred Twenty One Million, Ninety Four Thousand, Seventy Five Dollars) and a cumulative total for Personal Property of \$577,682,658 (Five Hundred Seventy Seven Million, Six Hundred Eighty Two Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars). The combined total of Real and Personal Property of the Cities and Townships in Van Buren County is \$4,898,776,733 (Four Billion, Eight Hundred Ninety Eight Million, Seven Hundred Seventy Six Million, Seven Hundred Thirty Three Dollars).

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

****Van Buren County Planning Commission Re-Appointments**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA28/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, the request is for the re-appointment of three board members Celinda Gilmore, Scott Cedarquist and Ray Martin to the Van Buren County Planning Commission; and WHEREAS, members Celinda Gilmore, Scott Cedarquist, and Ray Martin's current three-year terms expire on 4/1/2022. They have each applied for reappointment to the Van Buren County Planning Commission with a new term date of 4/1/2025; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners reappoints Celinda Gilmore, Scott Cedarquist, and Ray Martin to the Van Buren County Planning Commission with terms expiring on 4/1/2025.

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

****Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Re-Appointments**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA29/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, the request is for the re-appointment of three board members Dr. Patrick Creagan, Cynthia Compton, and Kate Hosier to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority; and WHEREAS, members Dr. Patrick Creagan, Cynthia Compton, and Kate Hosier's three-year terms all expire on 6/1/2022. They have each applied for reappointment to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority with a new term date of 6/1/2025; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of

Commissioners reappoints Dr. Patrick Creagan, Cynthia Compton and Kate Hosier to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for three-year terms that will expire on 6/1/2025.

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

C. Finance

****Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Annual Contribution**
FINANCE RESOLUTION F9/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, to authorize payment to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) for the annual contribution pursuant to their bylaws; and WHEREAS, in 1973, Van Buren County approved membership in the SWMPC, formerly known as MACOG. Membership is contingent on our contribution based upon a per capita formula as noted in SWMPC bylaws. SWMPC's recent request for payment explains that through our funding they are able to pay for their annual audit, administration expenses of the SWMPC board, and short- term project work and research.

WHEREAS, they are requesting the same rate as previous years at \$0.21 per capita. The 2020 US Census measured Van Buren County's population at 75,587, thus the total dollar amount requested for 2022 is \$15,873.00; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of approve the payment of \$15,873.00 to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for our Annual Contribution.

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

****South Haven Buoy Project**
FINANCE RESOLUTION F10/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the 2022 South Haven Weather Buoy expenditure in the amount of \$5,000; and WHEREAS, the South Haven buoy project began in 2013. The county has contributed to the expense of the buoy for several years. The purpose of the buoy is to record wind speeds, wave heights, water temperatures and visual conditions of the lake. The device is heavily used by multiple entities and is an essential tool for the Marine Division of the Sheriff's office and our Emergency Operations Center; and WHEREAS, referencing resolution dated July 11, 2017, the costs have not changed since that date. Multiple contributions are made for the buoy project within Van Buren County with the City of South Haven being the largest contributors; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of approves the 2022 South Haven Weather Buoy expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.

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

****ARPA Proposals Deadline of 5/31/2022**
FINANCE RESOLUTION F11/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to implement a deadline for ARPA proposals to be submitted by 5/31/2022; and WHEREAS, on April 5, 2022, the ARPA committee met and discussed implementing a deadline of 5/31/2022 for ARPA funding requests. The reason is that the majority of funds have been allocated. The board can always re-open the opportunity for funding requests if projects come in less than budgeted.

The total award of ARPA funds was \$14,699,370.

To date, the BOC has fully approved \$12,112,069.35 in projects. Of this amount, \$7 million is for Broadband Expansion and \$4,035,152 is for Capital Improvements (loss revenue). We have a total of \$2,587,300.65 available (not including pending requests). NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of approves the deadline of 5/31/2022 for ARPA proposals, noting the board may re-open requests in the future.

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

****Data Backup Software Support Renewal**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F12/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the software maintenance and support renewal purchase for the backup software used by the County. The name of the backup software has been redacted for security purposes; and
WHEREAS, Van Buren County IT has been using this backup software for three years with great success. We would like to renew the support and maintenance on this backup software for another three-year period. In doing so, we save roughly \$2400 vs buying the support annually. The lowest quote of the four received along with the annual budgetary cost breakdown are attached; and
WHEREAS, no additional funds requested. This is a budgeted expense. In compliance with established purchasing policies, board approval is required to move forward with this expense.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of approves the software maintenance and support renewal purchase for the backup software used by the County.

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

5. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented.

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

7. Public Comment

George Lucas, candidate for 38th House District.

8. Presentation

A. Certificate of Proclamation for David Fernandez

Certificate read and presented to Mr. Fernandez by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney.

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA31/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, David Fernandez has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens through his service at the Michigan Department of Health Human Services. A career spanning three decades has given Southwest Michigan a superb public servant and vigorous advocate. Mr. Fernandez work in the Department of Health and Human Services encompassed most Program Areas including Economic Stability, Children and Adult Protection as well as Child Welfare. His career began in Berrien County as case worker and from that position he moved into a variety of other posts. Since 2009 he has served as the Director of the Van Buren

Department of Health and Human Services. His valuable and competent leadership skills dawned a new era of excellence in program performance, and;
WHEREAS, during his career Mr. Fernandez has participated in numerous projects and initiatives including improvement programs, staff training and development, leadership mentoring, permanency and adoption efforts, data systems and service reviews. Many of his contributions included state-wide efforts as well as regional and national involvement. From Food Assistance Accuracy efforts, Caseloads management trainings, Adoption and Permanency Forums and Federal Child & Family Service Reviews his involvement has been deep and varied, and;
WHEREAS, Mr. Fernandez dedication and involvement in the communities where he has served has extended to his integration and leadership in many community and regional boards. He served in the Berrien County Council for Children & Children's Assessment Center Board. He has represented human services in the disaster preparation leadership through the Emergency Operations Administration. Served in the Board of Directors for Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency. He cherished his time co-chairing the Human Service Collaborative Council and the Great Start Collaborative in Van Buren County and engaged in many other community wide projects and initiatives, and;
WHEREAS, in all the areas where his impact has been felt his greatest satisfaction has come from serving the most vulnerable citizens in Michigan. Mr. Fernandez believes this to be his greatest purpose and a higher calling. For him serving others is greater than any other of life's pursuits. His other passion has been to treasure and support the greatest resource in human services which is the staff we guide in this important profession. Recruiting, selecting, training, developing, coaching and cherishing staff who do this work is for him an awesome privilege. During his twenty plus years in management he selected or promoted over three hundred workers and managers. He believes this to be his most significant legacy, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners congratulate David Fernandez on his achievements and thank him for his years of dedication not only to the county but also to the citizens of Van Buren County.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Certificate of Proclamation for Yazmin Fernandez

Certificate read and presented to Mrs. Fernandez by Commissioner Patterson-Gladney.

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA31/4-26-2022

WHEREAS, Yazmin Fernandez began her career with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services over 34 years ago, and;
WHEREAS, during her career she has worked as a Seasonal General Office Assistant and an Assistance Payments Worker. She was promoted on November 1, 2010, to her current position as the PATH Coordinator and Department Analyst for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties, and;
WHEREAS, Ms. Fernandez has shown commitment, dedication, and a passion for serving the people in these communities that face significant barriers such as obtaining and retaining employment, childcare, education, transportation and many more barriers that keep families from achieving self-sufficiency. She has applied her knowledge and experience by training first line staff on the policy and procedures involving employment related activities for the people that we serve. She has worked closely with the Office of Michigan Works to ensure clients obtain the resources they need to achieve the road to self-sufficiency, and;
WHEREAS, we are grateful for her contributions, dedication, and passion to helping the neediest of families and individuals in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren County, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of

Commissioners congratulate Yazmin Fernandez on her achievements and thank her for her years of dedication not only to the county but also to the citizens of Van Buren County.

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

9. Public Comment

10. Closed Session

11. Board Correspondence

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 01:16 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk