



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

January 24, 2023

Commissioners

Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Mike Chappell, District 2
Kurt Doroh, District 3
Richard Godfrey, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Tina Leary, 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 03:07 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board.
2. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer
Pledge recited and prayer by Commissioner Doroh.
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, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Randall Peat, Paul Schincariol. Absent and excused: Leary.
4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
Add Item 8.G. Holtech
5. Approval of 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 amended.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **January 10, 2023 Board of Commissioner Minutes
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. Board Committee Meeting Bylaws
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A4/1-24-2023
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Commissioners' Bylaws and Rules of Procedure was presented at the January 10, 2023, Organizational Meeting, and;
WHEREAS, the 2023 Bylaws and Procedures have been updated to reflect the discussion at the January 10, 2023, Organizational Meeting, and;
WHEREAS, Administration made the updates as discussed amongst the Board of Commissioners, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren County Board of

Commissioners adopts the changes as presented effective January 24, 2023.

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

B. ****Renaming the Board of Commissioners Room to the Donald Hanson Board of Commissioners Room**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A5/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, Commissioner Donald Hanson has served Van Buren County for 54 years, and;

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hanson has led by example, set the bar, and made a lasting impact that we will cherish forever, and;

WHEREAS, the naming of a facility is an appropriate recognition for such a distinguished person, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the renaming of the Board of Commissioners Room to the Donald Hanson Board of Commissioners Room.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. **Appointment to District Health Board - Donald Hanson**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A6/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the District Health Board, and;

WHEREAS, the request is to review and approve the appointment of Donald Hanson to the District Health Board, and;

WHEREAS, the recommendation is to review and approve the appointment of Donald Hanson to the District Health Board, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Donald Hanson to the District Health Board.

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

D. **Appointment to District Health Board - Tina Leary**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A7/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the District Health Board, and;

WHEREAS, the request is to review and approve the appointment of Tina Leary to the District Health Board, and;

WHEREAS, the recommendation is to review and approve by resolution the appointment of Tina Leary to the District Health Board, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Tina Leary to the District Health Board.

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

E. **Appointment to Kinexus Board - Tina Leary**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A8/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the Kinexus Board, and;

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on this board and it is necessary to make a new appointment for this position, and;

WHEREAS, Tina Leary is a new member of the Kinexus Board and the recommendation is to appoint her for a three-year term which will expire on December 31, 2025.

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

Commissioners approves the appointment of Tina Leary to the Kinexus Board for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

F. Appointment to Kinexus Board - Kurt Doroh

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A9/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the Kinexus Board, and;

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on this board and it is necessary to make a new appointment for this position, and;

WHEREAS, Kurt Doroh is a new member of the Kinexus Board and the recommendation is to appoint her for a three-year term which will expire on December 31, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Kurt Doroh to the Kinexus Board for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

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

G. Holtec-Repowering Palisades Nuclear Plant

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A10/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the Palisades Nuclear Plant provided more than 800 megawatts of safe, reliable, and carbon-free generation to the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, Palisades recently completed consecutive record-breaking generation runs and boasted an online reliability factor greater than 95 percent, a testament to the workforce and continuous investment in safety and equipment reliability, and

WHEREAS, Palisades provided 600 full-time, highly skilled, and good-paying jobs in Southwest Michigan, making it one of the largest employers in Van Buren County, and

WHEREAS, those permanent jobs were supplemented by the influx of an additional 1,000 specialty workers into the community to support scheduled refueling and maintenance outages, and

WHEREAS, Palisades was one of the largest tax payers in Van Buren County, directly supporting local public school districts, Lake Michigan College, public libraries, and vital municipal services provided by county and municipal units of government, and

WHEREAS, a study by the Economic Growth Institute at the University of Michigan found that the shutdown of Palisades resulted in the annual loss of \$259 million in labor income and value added for the tri-county region, and

WHEREAS, Palisades and its employees have long been actively involved and invested community partners, supporting public and non-profit organizations in Van Buren County and the surrounding area through corporate and employee philanthropy and volunteering, and

WHEREAS, Palisades has maintained strong community outreach and engagement with its stakeholders, including but not limited to state, county, and local units of government, economic development organizations, non-profit organizations, labor, federally recognized Tribes, and the public, including disadvantaged communities, and

WHEREAS, Palisades provided a bridge of clean, reliable generation for the State of Michigan as it transitioned from fossil-fuel generation to renewable and advanced technologies, including the potential deployment of small modular reactors, and

WHEREAS, the operation of Palisades supported the State of Michigan's goals to cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions by millions of tons per year, thereby reducing the direct environmental and human health costs to disadvantaged communities and the general public, and

WHEREAS, Palisades ranks in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's highest safety category and has been recognized by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations

as a top performing plant in the country, and
WHEREAS, Palisades operated in strict adherence to all federal and state regulations under the independent oversight of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to maintain the health and safety of our community, its workforce, and our environment.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners supports the repowering of Palisades by plant owner Holtec International.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **2023 Recycling Collections at Hazen St.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B2/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the Van Buren Conservation District is requesting the use of County property for the Paw Paw Recycle Roundup event, and;
WHEREAS, the Paw Paw Recycle Roundup event is to take place on June 24th from 9:00a.m - 2:00 p.m. The Conservation District is requesting the use of county restrooms inside of the building for their staff/ volunteers as well, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the use of County property for the Paw Paw Recycle Roundup event.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C3/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$2,358,148.35 for December 2022 were submitted and reviewed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves total claims in the amount of \$2,358,148.35.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) Grant Request

FINANCE RESOLUTION F2/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan appropriates \$750 million to allocate and pay to eligible revenue-sharing counties for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 (\$1.5 billion total). Recipients have broad discretion on the use of funds. Specifically, the statute permits recipients to use funds for any governmental purpose other than lobbying activity. Van Buren allocations are \$50,000.00 for both FY 2022 and 2023, and;
WHEREAS, the request is to approve the grant submission which is due January 31, 2023 and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the grant submission.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Salary Exception for GIS Director Position

LABOR RESOLUTION L1/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, the GIS Department has had a vacancy for a director since July 1st, 2022, and;

WHEREAS, after extensive interviews, the selection team identified a highly qualified candidate. He has a broad experience base that spans both the public and private sectors, including the role of GIS Director of St. Joseph County, MI, and;

WHEREAS, we are requesting a salary exception to bring him in at the 1 year step due to his many years of relevant GIS and leadership experience. This step would place his starting wage at \$82,387.50 annually.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the salary exception for the GIS Director position at the 1-year step of \$82,387.50 annually.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

12. Public Transit

A. **MDOT Contract 2022-0144/P2

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T1/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, a resolution of intent, and signatures for MDOT Contract 2022-0144/P2 which provides additional funding from MDOT to offset the increased costs associated with five new buses that are on order from the manufacturer, and;

WHEREAS, due to a variety of circumstances, from a parts shortage to a body material change, new bus costs have increased by about \$75,000.00 per vehicle. MDOT was able to allocate surplus funds to assist transit agencies across the state with the cost differences, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners to approve MDOT Contract 2022-0144/P2.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **MDOT Contract 2022-0144/P3

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T2/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, a resolution of intent, and signatures for MDOT Contract 2022-0144/P3 which provides Federal Section 5311 operating assistance for FY 2023 in the amount of \$779,561.00, and;

WHEREAS, MDOT has issued this contract to assist with 36% of estimated eligible costs for FY 2023 and is required by MDOT in order to record agreement of utilization of funds provided by the Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation and MDOT. The funds shall be used by Van Buren Public Transit in accordance with Master Agreement 2022-0144, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners to approve MDOT Contract 2022-0144/P3 and for the Board Chair to digitally sign on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. **Annual Application Information for MDOT

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T3/1-24-2023

WHEREAS, a resolution of intent, and signatures for MDOT FY 2024 Annual Application. This is required by MDOT and due February 1, 2023. This is the portal for Public Transit to receive operating and capital funding, and;

WHEREAS, each year MDOT requires each transit agency to complete and submit an annual application and supporting documents for the next fiscal year. This is the means which MDOT uses to provide operating and capital funding to transit agencies

throughout the state of Michigan, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners to approve the MDOT FY 2024 Annual Application and for the Board Chair to sign the attached Contract Clauses Certification and Resolution of Intent on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

13. Public Comment

14. Board Correspondence

A. Branch County Prairie River Reclassification

15. Closed Session

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:19 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk