



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

February 28, 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

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 01:00 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board. Present: Patterson-Gladney, Chappell, Doroh, Godfrey, Peat and Leary. Schincariol absent and excused.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Add Item 6.C. Posting Administrator Position and Item 6.D. Policy Discussion
Hear Public Comment after Item 6.B.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **February 14th, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
5. **Public Comment**
This item was heard after Item 6.B.

The following residents spoke in opposition to the Consumers Energy Electric Upgrades Project:
Shannon Thompson, Duane Hampton, Brian Williams, Penny Woodhams, Richard Woodhams, Jerry Labadie, Faith Fletcher, Diane Lambert, Scott Kendrick, Julia Richardson, Tom Richardson, Steve Rigoni, Kevin Goll, Ginger Smietana, Richard Bennink, Pam Lombard, Bill Woodhams, Scott Timkovich, Jennifer Blatson, Joanne Preston, Joyce Hampton, Matt Seiferlein, David Buchovich, Mike Roberts, Marilyn Reed, Kraig Jones, Richard Klinke, Jim Marcelletti, Nate Smallcombe, John Ritsema, Lorraine Valk, Jim Tapper, Tammy Tapper, Joe Muvrin, Bob Lambert, Ted Griffin, Pam Harris, Greg Pardike, Bonnie Pardike
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **Children's Advocacy Center Progress Update**
The Children's Advocacy Center is now open and Lori Antkoviak presented a progress update.
 - B. **Consumers Energy Project Presentation**

An overview of the Consumers Energy Electric Updates Project was presented by Derek Nofz, Pete Mulhearn, Dan Enck and Tim Voss.

7. Administrative Affairs

A. Re-Appointments/Appointment for Southwest Michigan Planning Commission - EXPEDITED

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Commissioners Doroh and Patterson-Gladney and the appointment of Commissioner Leary to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. ROBIN Memorandum of Understanding template review - EXPEDITED

Chris Sharrer reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding for use with ISP's seeking ROBIN funding.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the ROBIN Memorandum of Understanding.

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

C. ROBIN MOU Signature Authorization - EXPEDITED

The due date for ROBIN Grant applications is March 14, 2023 and the Board Chair will need to sign the MOUs.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, authorization for the Board Chair to sign ROBIN Grant MOUs on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

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

D. Posting Administrator Position

Discussion regarding posting the County Administrator position.

Motion to post the County Administrator position.

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

E. Policy Discussion

Discussion regarding county policy during extreme weather events and employee work from home policy during those events. Interim Deputy Administrator Norton directed to review this item and it will be brought back for further discussion at the next meeting.

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Request to use County property - Paw Paw Large Tire Recycling Event

The Conservation District will be hosting a large tire recycling event on July 10-11, 2023. They are requesting to use the Buildings & Grounds office/barn for the event.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of county property located at 753 Hazen Street on July 10-11, 2023 for the large tire recycling event.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. Historical Museum Roof Upgrade - EXPEDITED

The roof of the Historical Museum in Hartford was damaged by a storm in 2022. John Small is recommending making an upgrade to the insurance claim and replacing the roof to a standing seam metal roof which includes a lifetime warranty. There are contingency funds in the B&G budget for this cost.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, upgrading the roof replacement at the Historical Museum to a standing seam metal roof with a lifetime warranty at a cost of \$69,250.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

9. Finance

A. Annual Resolution for Continuation of the Collection of 911 Local Surcharge

Tim McGee is requesting the annual resolution for the statutory collection of 911 local surcharge fees.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the continuation of the collection of the \$3 per month/per device 911 local surcharge fee.

B. Refinancing RLF Loan - EXPEDITED

Zach Morris is requesting refinancing terms for a loan issued to RNS Packaging through the Van Buren County Revolving Loan Fund. The loan has become delinquent and the new terms will lower the monthly payment.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the refinancing terms for the RNS Packaging loan and authorize the Board Chair to sign all necessary documents.

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

C. Remaining ARPA Funds Discussion

Discussion of future use and allocation of remaining ARPA funds. Commissioner Patterson-Gladney is requesting to revisit the requests for Covert Township Sanitary Sewer and Red Arrow Youth Ministries.

CIP funds are interrelated to the ARPA funds and projects should be reviewed. Discussion of the Administration Building foyer and security projects. Norton directed to review the costs and concepts of that project.

This item will be brought back to the board at the next meeting for further discussion.

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Life EMS Contract Renewal

The contract with Life EMS Ambulance Services is expiring and provides service to Pine Grove, Bloomingdale and Columbia Townships and the City of Gobles.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the renewal of the Life EMS Ambulance Services contract for a three-year period.

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

B. MERS 457 Plan

Human Resources Director Cerven is recommending adding the MERS 457 Defined Benefit Pension Plan to the benefits offerings of current employees, in addition to Fidelity 457b, and to switch to only a MERS 457 plan offering for new employees.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, offering a MERS 457 Defined Benefit Pension Plan to current employees in addition to Fidelity 457b, and only the MERS 457 Plan for new employees.

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

C. Consulting Agreement with Maner Costerisan - EXPEDITED

The recommendation is to enter into an agreement with Maner Costerisan for as-needed consulting and training services due to the vacancy in the Finance Director position. Services would be invoiced monthly on an hourly basis per the fee schedule in the contract. Reports to be provided to the board.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, contracting with Maner Costerisan for financial consulting and training services as-needed and invoiced monthly.

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

D. Post-employment consulting contract with Ryan Post - EXPEDITED

The recommendation is to enter into a consulting agreement with Ryan Post at a rate of \$25 per quarter hour. This will result in savings by not solely using Maner Costerisan and will utilize his institutional knowledge of the position. Interviews for the Finance Director position are scheduled for next week.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the consulting contract with Ryan Post for financial matters at a rate of \$25 per quarter hour.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

11. Public Comment

- Maria Bowater provided a flyer for the Youth Mental Health First Aid event being held March 11, 2023
- Emily Hickmott provided the Conservation District 2022 Annual Report

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 04:46 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk