



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

April 11, 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 03:02 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board.
2. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer
Invocation given 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, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Mike Chappell absent and excused.
4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
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 presented.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **March 28th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Minutes
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Reappointment to Van Buren County Planning Commission - Barbara Rose
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A21/4-11-2023
WHEREAS, there has been a request to review and approve the reappointment of Barbara Rose to the Van Buren County Planning Commission for a two-year term expiring on March 31st, 2025, and;
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Planning Commission has a member with a term set to expire on March 31st, 2023, and would like to see reappointment to the Planning Commission, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the reappointment of Barbara Rose to the Van Buren County Planning Commission with a term set to expire March 31st, 2025.

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

B. ****Reappointment to Van Buren County Planning Commission - Jan Petersen**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A22/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to review and approve the reappointment of Jan Petersen to the Van Buren County Planning Commission for a two-year term expiring on March 31st, 2025, and;

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Planning Commission has a member with a term set to expire on March 31st, 2023, and would like to see reappointment to the Planning Commission, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the reappointment of Jan Petersen to the Van Buren County Planning

Commission with a term set to expire March 31st, 2025.

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

C. ****MAC's 125th Anniversary Recognition**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A23/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, Michigan's 83 county governments play a central role in the proper delivery of, and oversight for, critical public services for the state's approximately 10 million residents; and

WHEREAS, Michigan county governments are led by Boards of Commissioners, who are elected from their communities; and

WHEREAS, the State Association of Supervisors of Michigan was formed by representatives of 16 counties on Feb. 1, 1898, in the Senate chamber of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing; and

WHEREAS, the association's name was changed to the Michigan Association of Counties on July 17, 1969; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties is the oldest association representing local governments in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, 48 of Michigan's 83 counties have had at least one of their commissioners (or supervisors prior to 1968) serve as president of the association's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the association created the Michigan Counties Workers' Compensation Fund in 1979 to help county members provide workplace safety and injury insurance services to its employees; and

WHEREAS, the association created the Michigan Association of Counties Service Corporation in 1986 to partner with service providers to help counties save money on everything from health insurance to telecommunications services; and

WHEREAS, the association hosts two major conferences every year to bring together county leaders for briefings on trending public policy issues and to hear from state newsmakers and others; and

WHEREAS, the association's advocacy work in Lansing and beyond has advanced the interests of county governments and the residents they serve; and WHEREAS, no fewer than five association presidents have served or are serving in the Michigan Legislature in the 21st century, a testament to the culture of public service inculcated by the association.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Van Buren County and its Board of Commissioners wishes to commend and honor the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary year.

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

D. Reappointment to the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board - Carol Sjoquist EXPEDITED

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A24/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to review and approve the reappointment of Carol Sjoquist to the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board for a three-year term from April 1, 2023 expiring March 31, 2026, and;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sjoquist has been a contributing member since 2001, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the reappointment of Carol Sjoquist to the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board for a three-year term from April 1, 2023 expiring March 31, 2026.

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

E. Reappointment to the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board - Tom Erdman - EXPEDITED

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A25/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to review and approve the reappointment of Tom Erdman to the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board for a three-year term from April 1, 2023 expiring March 31, 2026, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Erdman has been a contributing member since 2008, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the reappointment of Tom Erdman to the Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board for a three-year term from April 1, 2023 expiring March 31, 2026.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. **Retirement and Adoption of K9 Bruno

FINANCE RESOLUTION F14/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the retirement and adoption of K9 Bruno, and;

WHEREAS, K9 Bruno's handler, Daniel Rowse is no longer in the K9 handler position within the Sheriff's office. Rowse is requesting to adopt K9 Bruno and the Sheriff has agreed to allow Rowse to purchase Bruno upon board approval, and;

WHEREAS, K9 Bruno is a 6-year-old male German Shepard and has been with his K9 handler since 2019. It was agreed upon by Sheriff Abbott and a waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement is to be signed by Sheriff Abbott and Rowse. It is customary when K9 handlers leave the unit or retire to have the K9 go with the handler, as this is the family the K9 is accustomed to, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the adoption and purchase of K9 Bruno.

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

B Road Commission Bond Request

FINANCE RESOLUTION F15/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Van Buren (the "Road Commission") has requested the County of Van Buren, State of Michigan (the "County") to issue general obligation limited tax bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended ("Act 34"), in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) (the "Bonds") for the purpose of paying all or part of the costs of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping capital improvement projects within the County, consisting generally of: (a) a new Bangor garage and maintenance facility, and (b) remodeling and expanding the Lawrence Administrative Office, including all mechanical, electrical, technology and security systems, site, utility and parking improvements and all related appurtenances and attachments thereto (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Road Commission has promised to pay the debt service on the Bonds from its Michigan Transportation Fund revenues and other available funds; and

WHEREAS, a notice of intent to issue the Bonds must be published before the issuance of the Bonds in order to comply with the requirements of Section 517 of Act 34; and

WHEREAS, the County intends at this time to state its intentions to be reimbursed from proceeds of the Bonds for any expenditures undertaken by the County or the Road Commission for the Project prior to issuance of the Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Notice of Intent Authorized. The County Clerk is authorized and directed to publish a notice of intent to issue bonds in the Kalamazoo Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation in the County.

2. Form of Notice of Intent. The notice of intent shall be published as a display advertisement not less than one-quarter (1/4) page in size in substantially the form attached to this resolution as Exhibit A.

3. Approval of Notice of Intent and Publication. The County Board does hereby determine that the foregoing form of Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds and the manner of publication directed is the method best calculated to give notice to the County's electors and taxpayers residing in the boundaries of the County of the County's intent to issue the Bonds, the maximum amount of the Bonds, the purpose of the Bonds, the source of payment for the Bonds and the right of referendum relating thereto, and the newspaper named for publication is hereby determined to reach the largest number of persons to whom the notice is directed.

4. Reimbursement Declaration. The County makes the following declarations for the purpose of complying with the reimbursement rules of Treas. Reg. § 1.150-2 pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended:

(a) The County reasonably expects to reimburse itself with proceeds of the Bonds for certain costs of the Project which were paid or will be paid from the funds of the County or the Road Commission subsequent to sixty (60) days prior to today.

(b) The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for the Project, including issuance costs, is \$20,000,000.

(c) A reimbursement allocation of the capital expenditures described above with the proceeds of the Bonds will occur not later than 18 months after the later of (i) the date on which the expenditure is paid, or (ii) the date the Project is placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three (3) years after the original expenditure is paid. A reimbursement allocation is an allocation in writing that evidences the County's use of the proceeds of the Bonds to reimburse the County for a capital expenditure made pursuant to this resolution.

5. Bond Counsel. Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. is hereby approved as bond counsel for the Bonds.

6. Municipal Advisor. Bendzinski & Co. Municipal Finance Advisors is retained as the registered municipal advisor to the County in connection with the issuance of the Bonds.

7. Rescission. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Tina Leary, Carried
Roll Call Vote: All Yes

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. **Buildings and Grounds Director Reclassification Request

LABOR RESOLUTION L19/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve the Buildings and Grounds Director position reclassification. It is being requested that the position be reclassified from a range 31 (\$62,575.50-\$84,396.00) to a range 34 (\$74,704.50- \$100,132.50), and;

WHEREAS, per the tentative agreement dated December 14, 2022, "The parties agree that if the Union can provide data from comparable counties with like positions that show justification for the Board to consider reclassifications no later than January 4, 2023, the Board will review the data during the January 10, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and then make a determination at the January 24, 2023 Board meeting. If the Board approves any reclassification of a position in any AFSCME bargaining unit at that January 24, 2023, Board meeting, the increase in pay will be retroactive to January 1, 2023.", and; WHEREAS, the Buildings and Grounds Director position was proposed for reclassification at the January 10th, 2023 CoW Meeting. During this meeting, it was decided to have the B & G Director position be resubmitted after seeking comparison from surrounding counties., and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the Buildings and Grounds reclassification request from range 31 to range 34.

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

B. **Friend of the Court Reclassification Request

LABOR RESOLUTION L20/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve the reclassification of two Friend of the Court positions, being the Account Specialist I and Medical Support Specialist position, and;

WHEREAS, per the tentative agreement dated December 14, 2022, "The parties agree that if the Union can provide data from comparable counties with like positions that show justification for the Board to consider reclassifications no later than January 4, 2023, the Board will review the data during the January 10, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and then make a determination at the January 24, 2023 Board meeting. If the Board approves any reclassification of a position in any AFSCME bargaining unit at that January 24, 2023, Board meeting, the increase in pay will be retroactive to January 1, 2023.", and; WHEREAS, the Account Specialist I and Medical Support Specialist positions were proposed for reclassification at the January 10th, 2023 CoW Meeting. At this meeting, it was decided to have the FOC positions resubmitted after seeking comparisons from surrounding counties, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the Account Specialist I and Medical Support Specialist positions

reclassification requests.

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

C. ****Juvenile/Probate Reclassification Request**

LABOR RESOLUTION L21/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve the reclassification of the Juvenile Diversion Officer and the Court Specialist III position, and;

WHEREAS, per the tentative agreement dated December 14, 2022, "The parties agree that if the Union can provide data from comparable counties with like positions that show justification for the Board to consider reclassifications no later than January 4, 2023, the Board will review the data during the January 10, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and then make a determination at the January 24, 2023 Board meeting. If the Board

approves any reclassification of a position in any AFSCME bargaining unit at that January 24, 2023, Board meeting, the increase in pay will be retroactive to January 1, 2023.", and;

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Diversion Officer and Court Specialist III positions were proposed for reclassification at the January 10th, 2023 CoW Meeting. During this meeting, it was decided to have the two positions resubmitted after seeking a comparison from surrounding counties, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the Juvenile Diversion Officer and Court Specialist III reclassification request.

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

D. ****Transit Reclassification Request**

LABOR RESOLUTION L22/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve the reclassification from Public Transit, and;

WHEREAS, per the tentative agreement dated December 14, 2022, "The parties agree that if the Union can provide data from comparable counties with like positions that show justification for the Board to consider reclassifications no later than January 4, 2023, the Board will review the data during the January 10, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and then make a determination at the January 24, 2023 Board meeting. If the Board

approves any reclassification of a position in any AFSCME bargaining unit at that January 24, 2023, Board meeting, the increase in pay will be retroactive to January 1, 2023.", and;

WHEREAS, the Public Transit positions were proposed for reclassification at the January 10th, 2023 COW Meeting. During this meeting, it was decided to have the positions resubmitted after seeking a comparison from surrounding counties, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the Public Transit reclassification request.

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

E. **IT Director Reclassification**

LABOR RESOLUTION L23/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve the reclassification of the Information Technology Director position from CA 37 to NU 34, and;

WHEREAS, the Operations Manager was recently appointed to the Information Technology Director position, which gave Administration the opportunity to review the pay classification for the position. The previous Director was classified as CA 37. After reviewing external and internal comparables, we believe the correct classification is NU 34, and;

Pay Ranges:

NU 34 (\$75, 018.26 - \$100,594.65)

CA 37 (\$83,068.44 - \$121,805.97)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the reclassification of the Information Technology Director position from CA 37 to NU 34.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

F. Wage Exception - Finance & Administration Specialist - EXPEDITED

LABOR RESOLUTION L24/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve a wage exception for the Finance & Administration Specialist position, and;
WHEREAS, on March 24th, interviews were conducted for the Finance & Administration Specialist vacancy which became vacant after a recent promotion. One candidate separated themselves from the rest with her experience with accounts payable and BS&A software. Her relevant experience will result in quicker training within the Finance department and allowing Finance to become fully staffed again, and;
WHEREAS, we are seeking to bring her in at the Non Union R25C step, \$24.25 hourly, which is where the previous incumbent was placed before accepting a promotion, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the wage exception to the R25C step, \$24.25 hourly.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

G. Specialty Court Renewal Contract - EXPEDITED

LABOR RESOLUTION L25/4-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to extend the contract with Rachel Lindley for Specialty Court services, and;
WHEREAS, the Specialty Courts Administrator obtained the title on October 24, 2022. She resigned from her position on March 30, 2023. It is imperative that Specialty Courts have a capable person to handle State and Federal grants applications and to ensure that the required reporting is accurate while the Court seeks to hire new personnel. Therefore, the Courts are requesting to extend the contract with Rachel Lindley, former Specialty Courts Administrator, through October 11, 2023, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the extension of the contract with Rachel Lindley for Specialty Court services through October 11th, 2023.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Public Comment

Road Commissioner Wayne Nelson thanked the Board for their support of the requested bond.

15. Treasurer's Monthly Report

A. Treasurer's Report

Chief Deputy Treasurer Kim Babcock and Aaron Stevens from Maner-Costerisan presented the Treasurer's update. Bank reconciliations have been completed through February. The audit extension has been approved by the state and is due May 1st.

16. Chairman's Update

A. Van Buren County Community Mental Health Board - Board Chair
Assignment Update

Clarification that up to four Commissioners can sit on the Mental Health Board at one time. There is no conflict for Commissioner Leary and Commissioner Patterson-Gladney both to be on that board.

17. Board Correspondence

A. Eaton County Resolution

18. Closed Session

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:21 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk