



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

June 13, 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 03:16 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, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol.
4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Add Item 8A - Spark Grant
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. **** May 23, 2023 Board of Commissioners Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. **Spark Grant**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A31/6-13-2023
WHEREAS, there has been a request to seek the Board of Commissioners approval to apply for up to one million in State grant funding for cycle and walking trail off Bue Star Highway, down 32nd Avenue, with no County funds needed, and;
WHEREAS, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission will prepare the grant application, which is due on June 26. The Parks Chair and the Finance Director will review the application prior to submission, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the application for up to \$1 Million in State grant funding for cycle and walking trail off the Blue Star Highway, down 32nd Avenue.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. **Circuit Court - Family Division Contract Renewals

FINANCE RESOLUTION F23/6-13-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to authorize the Board Chair to sign Friend of the Court contracts, and;

WHEREAS, historically, court contracts were signed by the Chief Judge, but we now seek Board Chair signature. These contracts went into effect earlier in the fiscal year and were held until the completion of a childcare fund audit to ensure all contracts are compliant with funding requirements, and;

WHEREAS, the Family Division budgets already have funds allocated for each of these programs, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the authorization of the Board Chair to sign the Friend of the Court contract renewals.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **Legal Self-Help Center Grant

FINANCE RESOLUTION F24/6-13-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to accept a \$10,650.00 grant from the State Court Administrative Office for the Legal Self Help Program and authorize the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents, and;

WHEREAS, the Court was awarded a Legal Self-Help Center grant by State Court Administrator's Office in the amount of \$10,650.00. This will allow for all 11 libraries in Van Buren County to have library staff trained as michiganlegalhelp.org site navigators. Each library will have a desktop and printer available for patron use. The Court will collaborate with each Van Buren County library to serve residents who need to do their own legal research and print forms, and;

WHEREAS, the no financial impact to the County. Grant funds will be disbursed to local libraries, with the court as the pass-through agency, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves a \$10,650.00 grant from the State Court Administrative Office for the Legal Self Help Program and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. L4029 Tax Rate Request - EXPEDITED

FINANCE RESOLUTION F25/6-13-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to review and approve the 2023 Tax Rate Request, Michigan Department of Treasury Form L-4029 as prepared by Equalization Director, Anthony Meyaard, and;

WHEREAS, the annual tax rate request form needs to be approved, signed and submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury by the end of June 2023.

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

approves the 2023 Tax Rate Request Form L-4029 as presented and approves the Board Chair to sign on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. GIS Director Salary Exception EXPEDITED

LABOR RESOLUTION L29/6-13-2023

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 34D step due to his many years of relevant GIS and leadership experience. This step would place his starting wage at \$88,179.39 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 34D step of \$88,179.39 annually.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Public Comment

15. Chairman's Update

A. County Administrator Contract - Update

Chairman Peat reported that the existing contract with John Faul is valid through the end of June. A new contract is being worked on.

16. Board Correspondence

A. Livingston County Resolution

B. Ingham County Resolution

C. Eaton County Resolution

17. Closed Session

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:27 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk