



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

July 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 02:53 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**
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 Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. **** June 27th, 2023 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Appointment to Land Preservation Board - Christopher Rickli**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A35/7-11-2023
WHEREAS, the request is to approve the appointment of Christopher Rickli to the Land Preservation Board for a term set to expire on March 1st, 2025, and;
WHEREAS, this appointment will fill the Farmer Representative vacancy. All Board terms expire March 1st, 2025, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Christopher Rickli to serve on the Land

Preservation Board as the Farmer Representative for a term set to expire on March 1st, 2025.

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

B. ****Appointment to Land Preservation Board - Michael Matheny**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A36/7-11-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the appointment of Michael Matheny to the Land Preservation Board for a term set to expire on March 1st, 2025, and;
WHEREAS, this appointment will fill the Elected Official vacancy. All Board terms expire March 1st, 2025, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Michael Matheny to serve on the Land Preservation Board as the Farmer Representative for a term set to expire on March 1st, 2025.

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

C. ****Appointment to Palisades Community Advisory Panel - Bill Van Tassel**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A37/7-11-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the appointment of Bill Van Tassel to the Palisades Community Advisory Panel, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners previously selected Gary Stock to serve on the PCAP as the citizen representative of the county at large. The role of whoever holds this position is to represent the questions and concerns of residents from the east side of Van Buren County. Gary sadly passed away earlier this year, which created a vacancy on the PCAP. Bill Van Tassel has been identified as a suitable candidate to fill this position given his role as a leader in Almena Township and his involvement with local groups like the Van Buren Conservation District, and;

WHEREAS, while certain types of PCAP members do not need the approval of the Board of Commissioners to hold a seat on the panel, appointment of "citizen representatives from Covert Township, South Haven Township, the City of South Haven, Lake Michigan Homeowners Association, and the County-At-Large" must be approved by the Board of Commissioners, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Bill Van Tassel to serve on the Palisades Community Advisory Panel.

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

D. ****Intergovernmental Contract - Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A38/7-11-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve a three-year renewal of the intergovernmental contract with Southwest Michigan Behavior Health (SWMBH), and;
WHEREAS, SWMBH is a community mental health regional entity formed under the Mental Health Code. The County engages SWMBH to coordinate the provision of substance abuse disorder services through the contract and pass-through of PA 2 Funds, and;

WHEREAS, their current contract expires December 31st, 2023, and they are requesting a three-year renewal for the term of 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2026, and;

WHEREAS, for 2023, the approximate pass-through of PA 2 Funds is approximately \$160,000.00, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the renewal of the intergovernmental contract with Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) for a three-year term of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026.

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

E. ****Carl Davis Proclamation**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A39/7-11-2023

WHEREAS, the Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, and agencies of government at other levels; and, WHEREAS, municipal clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all. The municipal clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community. The Keeler township clerk, Carl Davis, has served as the Keeler Treasurer from 1972 to 1980. He then served as the Keeler Township Clerk from 1986 to present. Dedicating eight years as the township's Treasurer and thirty-seven years as the townships Clerk; and, WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize that accomplishments and years of services from the Keeler Township Clerk, Carl Davis; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners further extends their appreciation to Carl Davis for his many years of service to Keeler township and for the vital services that he performed, along with the exemplary dedication to the community he represented.

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

F. **Reappointment to Kinexus Group Workforce Development Board - Tom Stanek - EXPEDITED**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A40/7-11-2023

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the Kinexus Board, and; WHEREAS, Tom Stanek has been a member of the Kinexus Board and has a term set to expire on June 30, 2023. Tom Stanek is seeking approval from the Board of Commissioners for reappointment. The recommendation is to appoint him for a three-year term which will expire on June 30, 2026. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Tom Stanek to the Kinexus Board for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2026.

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

G. **Area Agency on Aging Fiscal Year 2024 Plan Summary - EXPEDITED**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A41/7-11-2023

WHEREAS, the Region IV Area Agency on Aging has submitted their FY 2024 Annual Plan for review and implementation; and, WHEREAS, this plan covers aging services for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the region IV Area Agency on Aging FY 2024 Annual Plan Executive Summary as presented and submitted.

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

9. **Buildings and Grounds**

10. **Finance**

11. **Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts**

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Public Comment

15. Chairman's Update

Human Resources Director Anna Cerven provided the Board with information received from comparison counties for Elected Officials and Board of Commissioner wages for review. This item to be brought back to the board at a future meeting.

A. ARPA Update

The ARPA proposal summary for items approved, denied, tabled or not heard was presented for review. Discussion regarding remaining funds. This item to be discussed further at the next board meeting.

16. Board Correspondence

A. Alcona County Resolution

B. Alger County Resolution

C. Cheboygan County Resolution

17. Closed Session

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:52 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk