



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

August 8, 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 02:55 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**
Item 14 and 15 will be heard in reverse order so that Public Comment is the later item.
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 Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****July 25th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Appointment to the Opioid Committee - Cande Rutherford**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A43/8-8-2023
WHEREAS, the request is to approve the appointment of Cande Rutherford to the Opioid Committee, and;
WHEREAS, due to the retirement of Becky Fatzinger there is a vacancy on the Opioid Committee. Deb Hess, Director at Van Buren County Community Mental Health, recommended Ms. Cande Rutherford to fill the vacancy. Ms. Rutherford is employed at VBCCMH as the Division Manager of Community Services, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Cande Rutherford to serve on the Opioid Committee to fill a vacancy.

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

B. ****Remonumentation Committee Appointment - Jerry Happel**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A44/8-8-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the appointment of Jerry Happel to the Remonumentation Committee. There are no term expirations for this committee that meets on an as-needed basis., and;

WHEREAS, the Director of GIS (formerly Land Services) typically sits on this Committee because the work involves the mapping of section corners and maintaining the files that support the program, which are stored in that Department, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Jerry Happel to serve on the Remonumentation Committee.

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

9. **Buildings and Grounds**

A. ****Use of County Property - Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour**

BUILDING & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B13/8-8-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the use of county property by Kalamazoo Experiential Learning Center. It is requested to use the parking lot for registration on September 10th from 7 am-1 pm. Tents will be used (10 by 10) for registration – KELC will bring our own tables and chairs. They would like to place a porta john in the corner of the lot as well. Dropped off on Saturday, September 8th, and picked up on September 11th, and;

WHEREAS, the Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bike Tour has been a tradition (with the best oatmeal cookies) in Paw Paw for a long time. The Paw Paw Women's Service League decided not to continue to host this event as part of their Wine and Harvest Festival event footprint. When no one stepped forward to take over the event, we decided to offer our management portfolio to host the event and continue the tradition and spirit of the community event that celebrates the "wine and harvest" country surrounding Paw Paw, Lawton, and beyond.

WHEREAS, KEC Events is an experiential learning center that teaches and coaches college interns in marketing, public relations, and event management. The college students (primarily from WMU) work at the center learning how to host both community and sporting events. This event is a great opportunity for the students to learn how to host a biking tour. We host nearly 50 events a year here in Southwest Michigan. A similar event that we manage is the KalHaven Ultra Trail Run (April) where over 600 runners participate in either the ultra or relay events from Kalamazoo to South Haven. It's a great event.

WHEREAS, we are honored to bring our WMU students to Paw Paw to have them learn about events and bicycling. The fact that this will remain part of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival's calendar of events is also a tribute to the work that the Paw Paw Service League has done to make it a great tradition, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the request for use of the parking lot on 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, for the 2023 Vineyard Classic Bike Tour on September 10th, 2023 from 7:00AM – 1:00PM and continues this bike tour tradition of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.

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

10. **Finance**

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Public Comment

15. Chairman's Update

This item was heard before item 14.

A. Elected Officials/BoC Compensation

- Anna Cerven reported back that most counties either do not have a Surveyor anymore, and if they do, any compensation is through remuneration funds.
- Discussion on comparison wages for the Clerk, Register and Treasurer vs placing at a payscale level including the Drain Commissioner. Consensus on stipend for Clerk for election programming.
- Discussion on whether to place Commissioner's wages at a set rate with no per diems or continue as currently exists with an increase.

All of these items will be brought back to the board at the next meeting for further discussion.

B. ARPA Update

Chris Scharrer will be at the next meeting and will advise how much ARPA money can be released from the Broadband Project and be used for other projects. Once that figure is complete, the Board can determine what to do with the remaining ARPA money.

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 04:00 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk

