



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

August 22, 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 1:00 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board. Present: Patterson-Gladney, Chappell, Doroh, Godfrey, Peat, Leary and Schincariol.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Addition 7b. Early Voting Grant Application
Addition 7c. Ambulance Service for Keeler Township
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **August 8th, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
Sandra Merchant of the Van Buren Historical Society gave an update on the museum remodeling. Sherry Thompson asked for the Board's help and support to eliminate drones being used to stalk and harass victims. She is asking for support from the Commissioners to go to the state for the implementation of local laws regarding the use and registration of drones.
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **DCS Broadband**
Chris Scharrer presented a project update on rural broadband. He presented what the ROBIN grant has covered and the implementation of the BEAD to cover the remaining parcels not covered. He has requested the Board of Commissioners to consider adding \$500,000.00 to the budget to be able to cover all of the County.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Out of State Travel Request - Specialty Courts, Swift & Sure Mandatory Training**
Specialty Court is requesting approval for the Swift and Sure Case Manager to attend an out-of-state training/conference.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, granting out-of-state travel for the Swift and Sure case manager to attend the training/conference.

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

B. Early Voting Grant Application - EXPEDITED

Administrator Faul presented on behalf of Clerk Roehm, requesting the Board of Commissioners to authorize the Clerk to submit the Early Voting Grant Application and for the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents on the Board's behalf.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the request to authorize the Clerk to submit the Early Voting Grant Application and for the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

C. Ambulance Services - Keeler Township

Administrator Faul presented Keeler Townships desire to separate from Cass/Van Buren Emergency Services Authority and discontinue the inter-local agreement and, in its place, Keeler Township has asked to add them to our existing VBEMS contract.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the request to terminate the Ambulance Services Inter-Local Agreement with Keeler Township and amend the VBEMS Ambulance Services Contract to include Keeler Township effective August 21, 2023.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Use of County Property - Grape Lake 5K Race - EXPEDITED

Request for the use of the Human Services East parking lot located at 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw for the annual Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of the Human Services East parking lot located at 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, during the Wine and Harvest Festival for the annual Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk on September 9th, 2023 from approximately 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

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

9. Finance

A. Sheriff Body Scanner

Lieutenant Hunt presented the Sheriff's Department need for a body scanner to prevent the introduction of illegal substances into the jail. The total purchase cost for the full body scanner is \$184,500 which includes a 5-year warranty.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the purchase of a body scanner by the Sheriff's Department to prevent the introduction of illegal substances into the jail.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. Budget Adjustments

Finance Director Lorna Nenciarini presented the budget adjustments as required to maintain a balanced budget.

Motion to approve the budget adjustments as submitted.

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

C. 2023-2024 County Budget

Finance Director Lorna Nenciarini 2023-2024 County Budget. Commissioner Godfrey and Commissioner Chappel requested a budget increase for the Wellness Committee from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2023-2024 budget as presented with the amendment for the Wellness Committee.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

D. Foster Swift Invoice

Administrator Faul requests the board to review and authorize payment for the Foster Swift Invoice in the amount of \$4,822.50 for the ongoing New Covert Generating litigation.

Motion to approve the authorization for payment of the Foster Swift Invoice in the amount of \$4,822.50.

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

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

Commissioner Chappell spoke about the Salute to Veterans that took place in South Haven. Van Buren County Veteran's Affairs Director David Krzycki led the boat parade.

13. Road Commission Update

A. Road Commission Monthly Update

Managing Director for Van Buren County Road Commission, Bret Witkowski gave the monthly update on projects being completed around the County.

14. Public Comment

Domestic Violence Coalition invited the Board of Commissioner's to their Open House and 27th Anniversary celebration on August 28, 2023 from 4 PM - 7 PM.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:29 PM.