



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

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 02:30 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 call was called by Chief Deputy Clerk Beth Saidla 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**
Deletion 8A. Presentation of Judge Baillargeon - Regional Veteran's Treatment Court.
Addition 9B. Early Voting Grant Application
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 Richard Godfrey, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****August 8th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Presentation**

A. **Judge Baillargeon - Regional Veteran's Treatment Court**
This item was removed from the agenda.
9. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Materials Management Planning Update**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A45/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to hear a presentation from the Van Buren Conservation District and Southwest Michigan Planning Commission regarding Materials Management Planning opportunities and requirements. To consider how Van Buren County may or may not engage neighboring counties in the planning process and how the County will complete the attached Notice of Intent, and;

WHEREAS, Michigan's Solid Waste Program has recently been updated with the passage of significant amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 115). These changes were signed into law in December 2022 and became effective on March 29, 2023. The EGLE Director will initiate the MMP development process in September 2023, as required by Part 115. Once the process is initiated, the law establishes deadlines for plan development and local approvals, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the joining in a multi-county plan with Berrien and Cass Counties with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission as the Designated Planning Agency.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

B. Early Voting Grant Application

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A46/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to authorize, at the August 22, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting, the Clerk to submit the Early Voting Grant Application and for the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents on the Board's behalf, and;

WHEREAS, because the application was just released with a due date of September 8, 2023, we are requesting an expedited approval at today's August 22, 2023, Board Meeting, and;

WHEREAS, there is no impact to the General Fund. The grant is to subsidize costs necessary to accommodate early voting requirements such as the renovations we are doing to create county-wide polling site, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Clerk is authorized to submit the Early Voting Grant Application and the Board Chair is authorized to sign the appropriate documents on the Board's behalf.

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

10. Buildings and Grounds

A. **Use of County Property - Courtside Ministries

BUILDING & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B14/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, the request is to consider granting permission to Courtside Ministries to use space on County property for religious purposes, starting August 30, 2023 through November 30, 2023, and; WHEREAS, Courtside Ministries is a prayer ministry in various States that sets up a table outside of courthouses to offer prayers for those who wish to utilize their services. They have asked for permission to set up a table on County property outside of the Courthouse on Wednesday mornings 8:30 am to 12 noon. Typically, requests from non-profit entities are placed in the County Park, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the use of County property to Courtside Ministries starting August 30, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B15/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for 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 6:00AM - 4:00PM, and;

WHEREAS, this annual event is sponsored by Freshwater Church. They will hold the registration for the event in the parking lot of the 801 Hazen Street parking lot. They estimate that they should be done with the area at 4:00 PM. They have event insurance coverage. Race registration will be set up in front of the Community Mental Health building, and;

WHEREAS, the request is expedited because they just submitted this today and this is the last meeting before the festival, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves 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 6:00AM - 4:00PM.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

11. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C10/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$4,966,193.48 for July 2023 were submitted and reviewed, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the total claims in the amount of \$4,966,193.48 for the month of July 2023.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

B. **Auction of County Property - Liquidation of County Vehicles

FINANCE RESOLUTION F29/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the disposal of a 2013 Dodge Caravan, a 2013 Ford Van, and two 2008 Ford Pickup Trucks through the Biddergy Auction site, and;

WHEREAS, the sheriff's office purchased a 2013 Dodge Caravan (VIN: 2c4rdgb8dr659423) for use within our undercover narcotics division. This vehicle is now past the life expectancy of the vehicle, and it is not cost effective to repair, and;

WHEREAS, the three remaining vehicles were in the possession of the Buildings and Grounds department. The 2013 Ford Van (VIN: 1FTNE2EW6DDA29940), and both 2008 Ford Pickup Trucks (VIN: 1FTFP14V88FB61584 and VIN: 1FTRX14W38FA84685) are in very bad condition, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the sale of the 2013 Dodge Caravan (VIN: 2c4rdgb8dr659423), the 2013 Ford Van (VIN: 1FTNE2EW6DDA29940), and both 2008 Ford Pickup Trucks (VIN: 1FTFP14V88FB61584 and VIN: 1FTRX14W38FA84685) to Biddergy.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

C. **Amended DHS-2091

FINANCE RESOLUTION F30/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the amendment to the Child Care Fund Annual Plan & Budget to cover juvenile detention costs, and;

WHEREAS, detention costs have returned to pre-covid levels and have continued to

increase due to lengthy placements while waiting for residential treatment beds (statewide shortage), and;

WHEREAS, expenditures for juvenile detention have exceeded the budgeted amount.

Signature of the amended DHS-2091 will allow us to continue to bill the State for 50% reimbursement from the childcare fund, and;

WHEREAS, amendments MUST be submitted by 8/30/2023, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the amendment to the Child Case Fund Annual Plan & Budget to cover Juvenile detention costs and authorize the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

D. ****Purchase of Patrol Vehicles for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F31/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the purchase of 8 patrol vehicles for the 2023-2024 fiscal year not to exceed \$500,000.00, and;

WHEREAS, with the supply chain issues that face our nation, the four vehicles we ordered for this fiscal year will not be delivered, and;

WHEREAS, we typically budget for 4 vehicles per year, and;

WHEREAS, in order to stay current with our vehicle replacement plan we must order 8 vehicles this year, and;

WHEREAS, unspent funds from 2022-2023 for 4 vehicles will be rolled over into 2023-2024 and funds for additional 4 vehicles will be budgeted in 2023-2024, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the request to purchase 8 patrol vehicles for the 2023-2024 fiscal year not to exceed \$500,000.00.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

12. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. ****District Court Deputy Clerk - Salary Exception**

LABOR RESOLUTION L34/8-22-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request to approve the starting salary exception for the District Court Deputy Clerk position at the R20 C step (\$18.50 per hour) at the August 22nd, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting, and;

WHEREAS, the chosen candidate has several years of experience working in a District Court Criminal Department. She brings considerable experience and skills that would be beneficial to the District Court. Over the last month, District Court East has had two long-term employees leave, so the knowledge this new candidate brings will be very helpful, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the starting salary exception for the new District Court Deputy Clerk at the R20 C step at the August 22nd, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

13. Public Transit

14. Veterans Services

15. Chairman's Update

A. Elected Officials/BoC Compensation

- Commissioners discussed and decided reports on out board assignments will be added back to the agenda.
- Discussion among commissioners about eliminating per diems and going to salary. Chairman Peat is going to reach out to surrounding Counties that have already implemented this process to get some thoughts and feedback.
- Discussion of the difficulty that the Health Department is having finding medically trained employees. Chairman Peat and Commissioner Leary will update the Board after meeting next week with possible ideas about how to proceed with this issue.
- Administrator Faul Presented on behalf of HR Director Anna Cerven regarding an increase for elected officials & BOC compensation. The board discussed it briefly and will make a decision before the April deadline.

B. ARPA Update

Administrator Faul gave ARPA fund update regarding possible projects for the Board to consider.

The board discussed leasing the Hartford building to USDA. The upfront cost for the remodel is \$900,000. That money would be returned in the next 5 years with the lease. Administrator Faul is to start to prepare the paperwork to begin to move forward with starting the lease agreement.

16. Board Correspondence

A. Livingston County Board Resolution

B. Kankaska County Board Resolution

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 PM .

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Beth Saidla, Chief Deputy Clerk

