



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

November 14, 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 01:03 PM by Paul Schincariol, Vice-Chairman of the Board. Present: Patterson-Gladney, Chappell, Godfrey, Leary and Schincariol. Absent and excused: Doroh and Peat.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **October 24th, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
 - Administrator Faul introduced the new County Finance Director, Becky Grabemeyer.
- A. **FOC Amnesty Day**
Veronica Stillson provided information on FOC Amnesty Day. It will be held on December 12th at the Conference Center in Lawrence. The purpose is to clean up bench warrants, provide payers assistance with community resources, right-size child support orders and ultimately get payments to custodial families. A total of 451 letters were sent.
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **Resource Recovery Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report**
Kalli Marshall presented the 2023 Resource Recovery Annual Report.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Proclamation of Dana Getman**
Commissioner Patterson-Gladney is requesting a Proclamation honoring Dana Getman's life and contributions to the community.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, a Proclamation honoring Dana Getman in celebration of his life and contributions to the community.

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

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Holiday Lighting

Buildings & Grounds Director John Small is requesting approval to install holiday lighting and decorations. The Village of Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority would like to participate and provide lights and decorations for the park. The Building & Grounds staff will once again donate their time on Saturday, November 25th to decorate.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the request to work with the Village of Paw Paw and to install lighting and decorations for the holiday season.

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

9. Finance

A. Commissioner Per Diems

Commissioner per-diems were reviewed.

Motion to approve Commissioner per-diems for payment as submitted.

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

B. Claims

Claims were reviewed.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, claims in the amount of \$12,980,762.38.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

C. Monthly Financial Statement

Wayne Nelson presented the Monthly Financial Statement.

D. Dokey Intercounty Drain Note, Full Faith and Credit of Van Buren County

Drain Commissioner Joe Parman presented the request for the Board to approve the full faith and credit of the County for the Dokey Intercounty Drain Note. The Dokey Drain is an Intercounty Drain with Allegan County and the drainage District has been completed and there is a special drain assessment for 5 years. The pledge reduces the cost of financing.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the full faith and credit of the County for the Dokey Intercounty Drain Note.

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

E. Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant

The County match on the Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant needs to be increased. The parameters for allowable expenses were changed, which resulted in an increase of \$2,050 for the match.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, modifying the County match commitment for the Hazard Mitigation

Planning Grant from \$10,350 to \$12,400.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Wage Exception Policy

Human Resources Director Anna Cerven presented the request to approve a wage exception policy. The policy would direct Department Heads/Elected Officials to submit the request for a wage exception up to the "C" step to Administration for consideration instead of to the Board. Some of the union contracts do not require union involvement up to the "C" step. Any request above the "C" step would continue to be submitted to the Board.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the adoption of the wage exception policy as submitted.
Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. Updated Personnel Handbook

Human Resources Director Anna Cerven is requesting approval of the updated and revised Van Buren County Personnel Handbook to be compliant with legal regulations and consistent with labor agreements.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the updated and revised Van Buren County Personnel Handbook.
Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

11. Public Transit

A. Director's Report

Public Transit Director Laurie Schlipp presented her Director's report.

B. Re-appointment to the Public Transit Local Advisory Council - Richard Curtis

Laurie Schlipp presented the request to re-appoint Richard Curtis to the Public Transit Local Advisory Council as representative for senior citizen residents.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the re-appointment of Richard Curtis to the Public Transit Local Advisory Council for a term that expires 11/30/2027.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

C. Transit Financial Reports

Tami Naber presented the Public Transit Financial Report.

D. Transit Operations Reports

Tami Naber presented the Public Transit Operations Report.

12. Veterans Services

Commissioner Chappell commented on the many Veterans Day Services that were held.

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:18 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk