



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

November 28, 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 03:11 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: Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney participated via zoom without voting on matters.
4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
Remove Item 8A from agenda and present at the next meeting to provide Commissioner Patterson-Gladney an opportunity to sign the resolution.
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 Tina Leary, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **November 14th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Proclamation of Dana Getman
This item was removed from the agenda.
9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **Holiday Lighting

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B19/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Director, John Small, to participate with decorating the County's buildings and grounds with lighting and decorations that have been supplied to us from The Village of Paw Paw downtown development; and,

WHEREAS, the buildings and grounds department will arrive on Saturday, November 25th to donate their time installing decorations and lighting on the grounds and buildings of the County. The buildings and grounds department has found this to be a fantastic team building experience, while also getting the opportunity to have their families involved in the process; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve of the request for the Buildings and Grounds Director, John Small, to participate in installing lighting and decorations of the County's buildings and grounds that have been graciously supplied to us from The Village of Paw Paw downtown development.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C13/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$12,980,762.38 were submitted and reviewed; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves of the total claims in the amount of \$12,980,762.38 for the month of October 2023.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

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

FINANCE RESOLUTION F54/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, Pursuant to a petition filed with the Drain Commissioner of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, proceedings have been taken under the provisions of Act 40, Public Acts of Michigan, 1956, as amended (the "Act"), for the making of certain improvements to the Dokey Intercounty Drain (the "Project"), which is being undertaken by the Dokey Intercounty Drain Drainage District (the "Drainage District"); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Drainage Board intends to issue the Drainage District's note or notes (the "Note"), in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$97,500, in anticipation of the collection of an equal amount of special assessments against property and public corporations in the counties of Allegan and Van Buren, said special assessments to be duly confirmed as provided by the Act; and,

WHEREAS, fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the Project has been apportioned by the Drainage Board for the Drainage District to the County of Allegan and fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the Project has been apportioned by the Drainage Board to the County of Van Buren (the "County"); and,

WHEREAS, the Drainage Board deems it advisable and necessary to request that this Board adopt a resolution pledging the limited tax full faith and credit of the County on the Note to the extent of special assessments are assessed against benefitted properties and public corporations in the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") may, by resolution adopted by a majority vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board, pledge the full faith and credit of the County for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on the Note pursuant to Section 434 of the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the pledge of the full faith and credit of the County to the Note will reduce the

cost of financing the Project and will be a benefit to the people of the County; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. Pursuant to the authorization provided in Section 276 of the Act, the Board, by a majority vote of two-thirds of its members elect, does hereby irrevocably pledge the full faith and credit of the County for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on the Note, to the extent of the 50% of the cost of the Project apportioned to the County and specially assessed against property and public corporations in the County and assessments against the State of Michigan, to the extent apportioned to the County, and does agree that in the event that the property owners or public corporations in the Drainage District or the State of Michigan shall fail or neglect to account to the County Treasurer of the County for the amount of any special assessment installment and interest (in anticipation of which the Note are issued), when due, then the amount thereof shall be immediately advanced from County funds, and the County Treasurer is directed to immediately make such advancement to the extent necessary. The ability of the County to levy taxes to pay its share of the principal of and interest on the Note shall be subject to constitutional and statutory limitations on the taxing power of the County.
2. In the event that, pursuant to said pledge of full faith and credit, the County advances County funds to pay any part of the principal of and interest due on the Note, the County shall take all actions and proceedings and pursue all remedies permitted or authorized by law for the reimbursement of such sums so paid.
3. The Chairperson of the Board, the County Controller/Administrator, Deputy Administrator, the County Clerk, the County Treasurer, Finance Director, and any other official of the County, or any one or more of them ("Authorized Officers"), are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or desirable for the issuance of the Note and to execute any documents or certificates necessary to complete the issuance of the Note, including, but not limited to, any applications including the Michigan Department of Treasury Application for State Treasurer's Approval to Issue Long-Term Securities, any waivers, certificates, receipts, orders, agreements, instruments, and any certificates relating to federal or state securities laws, rules, or regulations, and to sign such documents and give any approvals necessary therefor.
4. This resolution shall become effective only if the Board of Commissioners of the County of Van Buren County adopts a resolution substantially in the form of this resolution that pledges the limited tax full faith and credit of the County of Van Buren to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Note when due to the extent of its apportioned share of the cost of the Project.
5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions are, to the extent of any conflict with this resolution, rescinded to the extent of the conflict.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

C. ****Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F55/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to modify our match commitment from \$10,350.00 to \$12,400.00 for the Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the County needs to update the current multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that expired in May, 2021. On November 9, 2021, the Board approved Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's (SWMPC) application for \$42,350 to the Michigan State Police that required a County \$10,350 match. The total grant was \$42,350; County \$10,350; State \$32,000; and,

WHEREAS, we have just been informed that the State changed their parameters on allowable expenses. They no longer allow in-direct costs to be paid from the grant, which is an expense that the SWMPC incurs in all of their grants. Consequently, in order to make SWMPC whole, the County will need to increase the match to \$12,400; and,

WHEREAS, since local units of government are dependent upon the plan for their own hazard mitigation planning, it is recommended to approve this increase. The grant amount would then be: \$42,350 total; \$12,400 County; \$29,950 State; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves of the request to modify our match commitment from \$10,350.00 to \$12,400.00 for the Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. **Wage Exception Policy

LABOR RESOLUTION L39/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to approve of the Wage Exception Policy; and,
WHEREAS, due to the ever-changing job market, County hiring managers are finding it difficult to attract and retain experienced talent with our starting wages. There has been feedback from Commissioners wishing to only see wage requests after a certain threshold. We've recently added language in some union contracts for wage approvals that does not require union involvement to the "C" step, and we are wishing to mimic that for the Board and to eliminate the amount of these requests coming to the Board for review; and,
WHEREAS, instead, we have created a detailed policy, directing Department Heads/Elected Officials to Administration for consideration of a salary exception up to the "C" step by providing relevant information about a prospective candidate that would qualify them for a wage exception; and,
WHEREAS, additionally, there is a separate form should a Department Head/Elected Official want to ask for a wage exception above the "C" step. This form, as well as an official Board request, will make its way to a Committee of the Whole agenda for the full Board's consideration; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves of the Wage Exception Policy.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

B. **Updated Personnel Handbook

LABOR RESOLUTION L40/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to approve of the updated and revised Van Buren County Personnel Handbook; and,
WHEREAS, personnel handbooks should be routinely reviewed and our most recent one was adopted in 2019. Human Resources has worked closely with our legal counsel on ensuring our policies were up to date and compliant with legal regulations and consistent with labor agreements. There are no major changes, mainly language clean up and compliance; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves and adopts the updated Van Buren County Personnel Handbook.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

12. Public Transit

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

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T8/11-28-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to approve the re-appointment of Richard Curtis to the Public Transit Local Advisory Council for a four-year term set to expire on November 30th, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, Richard Curtis wishes to renew his appointment to the Public Transit Local Advisory Council. He represents senior citizen residents; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the re-appointment of Richard Curtis to the Public Transit Local Advisory Council for a four-year term set to expire on November 30th, 2027.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Update

- Policy Summit online registration
- MAC Heath & Human Services
- Harold Schuitmaker death
- Veteran's Garden/Veteran's Day
- Trees for Troops
- Veterans Court Graduation December 21st at 3 pm

15. Chairman's Update

The organizational meeting will be held in January. Chairman Peat expressed his desire to continue as Chair next year. His focus would be strategic planning and long-term strategic financial fund from Palisades revenue.

16. Public Comment

17. Board Correspondence

18. Closed Session

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:30 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk