



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

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 01:00 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board. Present: Chappell, Doroh, Godfrey, Peat, Leary and Schincariol. Commissioner Patterson-Galdney participated via zoom without voting on matters.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Move Item 13 to be heard after Item 6B.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **November 14th, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
 - Donna Spenner, Lawrence Township Supervisor - ORV Ordinance
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **2023 - 2024 VBC District Health Dept. Annual Report**
Danielle Persky presented the Van Buren County Health Department Annual Report and focus for 2024.
 - B. **Legal Self-Help Centers**
Veronica Stillson, along with Stephanie Daniels, Dan Hutchins, Laura Puckett and Charlie Campbell, spoke about the Legal Self-Help Centers that will officially launch in the county's 11 libraries on December 1, 2023. Each library has staff that has been trained by Michigan Legal Help to navigate their website.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Off Road Vehicle Ordinance**
Discussion on adopting a county-wide Off Road Vehicle Ordinance. Some townships already have an ordinance and townships that do not wish to allow ORV's on roadways

could opt out. Sheriff Abbott is not opposed. Many surrounding counties have adopted a county-wide ordinance. Commissioner Chappell to gather more information and bring back to the Board for further consideration.

B. Office of the Public Defender - Reorganization

Administrator Faul presented the request to disengage from Allegan County and advise the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission that we will file a separate compliance plan and financial grant proposal for FY 2024 - 2025. There are significant philosophical and administrative differences, and financial disincentives to continue. There are sufficient funds in the current MIDC budget to allow us to hire a new Chief Public Defender for Van Buren County who could learn our system and begin to work with the MIDC on our behalf, which would provide for a seamless transition.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the recommendation to disengage from Allegan County and advise MIDC that Van Buren County will file a separate compliance plan and grant proposal for FY2024-25.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. Land Bank Authority Reappointment - Suzy Glomski

Treasurer Nesbitt is requesting the reappointment of Suzy Glomski to the Van Buren County Land Bank Authority.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Suzy Glomski to the Van Buren County Land Bank Authority for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2026.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

9. Finance

A. DCS Technology - ROBIN Grant Update and Broadband Consultant Agreement

Chris Scharrer, DCS Technology, gave an update on the ROBIN Grant, reviewed the proposed MEC sub-recipient agreement and the DCS Broadband Consultant Agreement. The Board will review proposed agreements and this item will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

B. MDARD Grant Award - Housing Target Market Analysis (TMA) & Strategic Housing Plan

Lisa Ransler and Zach Morris advised that the Housing Target Market Analysis & Strategic Housing Plan Grant was awarded. This grant required at \$50,000 match. The request is to use \$18,720 from the Housing Program Grant Fund and \$31,280 from the Strategic Economic Development Fund for the match.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, using \$18,720 from the Housing Program Grant Fund and \$31,280 from the Strategic Economic Development Fund for the required \$50,000 match for the Housing Target Market Analysis & Strategic Housing Plan Grant.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

C. Foster Swift Invoice

The Foster Swift invoice was reviewed.

Motion to authorize payment of the Foster Swift invoice in the amount of \$30,180 for NCG litigation in accordance with the cost sharing agreement.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

13. Road Commission Update

A. Road Commissioner Monthly Update

Bret Witkowski presented the Road Commission monthly update.

14. Public Comment

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:00 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk