



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

December 12, 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 02:38 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: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol.
4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
Remove Item 10.B.
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 Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **November 28th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Proclamation of Dana Getman
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A58/12-12-2023
WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 15, 2023, Dana Sterling Getman, 77, passed away in his home in the presence of his beloved wife, Teresa Renea Getman, bringing to an end a life dedicated to industry, community and family; and,
WHEREAS, at his core, Dana was a businessman, a dedicated leader who spent his professional career working at Getman Corporation, a family business that under his

leadership grew from a small, regional manufacturer of construction and mining equipment into one of the most recognizable brands in underground mining worldwide; and, WHEREAS, Dana worked at Getman Corporation for over 45 years, joining the company in 1968 at age 12 and retiring from a full-time role in 2013 at the age of 67. He remained Chairman of the Board of Directors of Getman Corporation at the time of his death; and, WHEREAS, after stepping down from his full-time role as CEO of Getman Corporation, Dana turned his attention more fully to his lifelong passions of community service and philanthropic work; and, WHEREAS, Over the final 10 years of his life he would be a key contributor to multiple organizations and causes, including holding leadership roles with Youth Development Company, the Covert School Board, and the South Haven Center for the Arts. He was instrumental in the creation of the South Haven Recreational Authority, contributed to the establishment of the Van Buren County Senior Services Center in South Haven, helped lead efforts for the funding and construction of the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven, and established the Getman Endowment for Equity in Women's Athletics at his alma mater, Kalamazoo College; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners show their appreciation and support to Dana Getman for his many years of unwavering dedication to his community.

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

B. ****Office of the Public Defender - Reorganization**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A59/12-12-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to disengage from Allegan County and advise the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) that we will file a separate compliance plan and financial grant proposal for FY 2024 - 2025; and, WHEREAS, the Office of the Public Defender was created by the State approximately five years ago. This was funded by the MIDC subject to each county continuing their basic costs incurred for contracted public defense attorneys. At that point, Van Buren County and Allegan County agreed to submit a joint plan to the MIDC; and, WHEREAS, while this was a novel concept and well-intended, we believe there are significant philosophical and administrative differences, and financial disincentives to continue. The resolution with the least impact would be to begin planning for separate plans now with the goal to implement in October 2024; and, WHEREAS, the plan would be to advise the MIDC at their December 19, 2023 meeting of our intent to file separately. The grant application is due in April 2024 with approval expected in June/July 2024 and implementation October 2024; and, WHEREAS, in preparation, we would immediately begin to set up a "shadow" office and begin to operate separately so there is no interruption in services. Especially important is to ensure that currently assigned attorneys will continue with their caseload; and, WHEREAS, 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; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves to disengage from Allegan County and advise the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) that we will file a separate compliance plan and financial grant proposal for FY 2024 - 2025.

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

C. ****Land Bank Authority Reappointment - Suzy Glomski**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A60/12-12-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to reappoint Suzy Glomski to the Van Buren County Land Bank Authority for a three-year term set to expire on December 31st, 2026; and, WHEREAS, Suzy Glomski was appointed by the Board of Commissioners to fill a partial

term on the Land Bank Board in August 2022 for a member whose professional background is realtor, attorney, builder, title officer, etc. Her term expires December 31, 2023; and,
WHEREAS, the Land Bank has greatly benefited from her service, and she is willing to continue her service; and,
WHEREAS, the Land Bank Authority is seeking a reappointment for a 3 year-term ending December 31, 2026; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves to reappoint Suzy Glomski to the Van Buren County Land Bank Authority for a three-year term set to expire on December 31st, 2026.

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

D. Medical Examiner Appointment - EXPEDITED

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A61/12-12-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to appoint Dr. Patrick Hansma as Medical Examiner of Van Buren County pursuant to Section I of Act 181 of Public Acts of 1953, as amended (MCL 52.201) subject to the terms and conditions of our Medical Examiner Services Agreement with WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMU Med); and,
WHEREAS, we are presently under contract with WMU Med who employs Dr. Hansma and provides the required legal medical examiner services. This contract has been in effect since 2017. Dr. Hansma replaces Dr. Joyce DeJong who has resigned from WMU Med to pursue other endeavors; and,
WHEREAS, Dr. Hansma, currently a Deputy Medical Examiner, is willing and qualified to serve as Medical Examiner. The Board of Commissioners is required to make an appointment of a Medical Examiner prior to January 1, 2024; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Dr. Patrick Hansma as Medical Examiner of Van Buren County pursuant to Section I of Act 181 of Public Acts of 1953, as amended (MCL 52.201) subject to the terms and conditions of our Medical Examiner Services Agreement with WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMU Med).

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

E. Deputy Medical Examiner Appointments - EXPEDITED

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A62/12-12-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to appoint five Deputy Medical Examiners to the Medical Examiners' Office: Jared Brooks, M.D., Amanda Fisher-Hubbard, M.D., Edmund Donoghue, M.D., Anna Tart, M.D., Joyce deJong, D.O.; and,
WHEREAS, in researching the contract for the Medical Examiner and the request to appoint Dr. Hansma to replace Dr. deJong, it was discovered the appointments of the Deputy Medical Examiners were not processed when requested in 2022. We would like to correct that administrative error; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of five Deputy Medical Examiners to the Medical Examiners' Office: Jared Brooks, M.D., Amanda Fisher-Hubbard, M.D., Edmund Donoghue, M.D., Anna Tart, M.D., Joyce deJong, D.O.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

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

FINANCE RESOLUTION F56/12-12-2023

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to approve the \$50,000 match from the Housing Program Income Fund (\$18,720, Fund # 276.01-694.00-671.000) and Strategic Economic Development Fund (\$31,280 fund # 244.0-728.00-676.000) for the Housing Target Market Analysis & Strategic Housing Plan Grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and,

WHEREAS, the match was approved July 25, 2023, subject to the awarding of the grant.

We have received notice that the grant was awarded, and we want approval for the funding of the match; and,

WHEREAS, as a reminder, the purpose of the Strategic Plan is to empower VBC's 29 rural jurisdictions to effectively address the ongoing, county-wide housing shortage. Rather than just collecting data to affirm there is a housing gap in Van Buren County, the proposed study would look at how best to fill that gap; and,

WHEREAS, the TMA will identify the market potential for new and rehabbed housing units, migration patterns, target markets, and other data necessary to understand the gap between housing stock and demand. This will support communities in their efforts to attract new residents and developers as they create the proformas necessary to secure project financing. Barring significant, disruptive economic events, the TMA will be valid for up to 10 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan will build upon the TMA by reviewing existing planning, zoning, and housing tools and policies throughout the County to determine if current practices are aligned, consistent, contemporary, and substantiated by the results of the TMA. The Strategic Plan will also include an Action Plan that details key tasks, strategies, project champions, and estimated costs to address housing and developer recruitment, relationship building, and community marketing; and,

WHEREAS, the result will be local systems, tools, and policies that better support current, active, and future developer-driven projects within each municipality. By conducting the study on a countywide level, we will be able to capitalize on economies of scale and give every community in the county access to data that would otherwise be inaccessible; and,

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for a portion of this project to be funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Rural Readiness (MDARD)'s Rural Readiness Grant program, and the project would stand to benefit all 29 municipalities and townships in the County; and,

WHEREAS, the \$50,000 County match will come from two funds. \$18,720 will come from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Program Income Fund, and the remaining \$31,280 will come from the Economic Development Strategic Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the CDBG Housing Program Income will repay the \$31,280 to the Economic Development Strategic Fund over the next two to three years with the program income received from paid housing rehabilitation loans; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the \$50,000 match from the Housing Program Income Fund (\$18,720, Fund # 276.01-694.00-671.000) and Strategic Economic Development Fund (\$31,280 fund # 244.0-728.00-676.000) for the Housing Target Market Analysis & Strategic Housing Plan Grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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

B. **DCS Technology - ROBIN Grant Update, MEC Subrecipient Agreement and Broadband Consultant Agreement - EXPEDITED**

This item was removed from the agenda.

C. **Claims - EXPEDITED**

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C14/12-12-2023

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$9,137,614.42 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 \$9,137,614.42 for the month
of November 2023.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts
12. Public Transit
13. Veterans Services
14. Public Comment
 - Christmas shopping with Sheriff Deputies
 - Christmas Tree lighting in Covert
 - Veterans Graduation, December 21st at 3 p.m.
15. Chairman's Update
 - Long range strategic and financial planning
16. Board Correspondence
17. Closed Session
18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:57 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk