



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

January 9, 2024

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 03:00 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
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 presented.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **December 12th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **SWMPC - Appointment of Kimberly Sinclair
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A1/1-09-2024
WHEREAS, the request is to appoint Kimberly Sinclair to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and;
WHEREAS, we have been notified that the SWMPC would like to reappoint Ms. Sinclair for a two-year term set to expire on December 31st, 2025, to replace Jan Petersen, and;
WHEREAS, according to John Egelhaaf, Director SWMPC, "Ms. Petersen has been a wonderful board member. She is extremely conscientious and seemed to be quite

connected to the breadth of work that we engage in. Her term ends in December, and she has chosen not to be reappointed, and;

WHEREAS, Ms. Petersen has been sensitive to a need at the SWMPC because our treasurer is stepping away from the board after many years and Jan, as alternate treasurer, is also stepping away. Thus, we do not have a simple succession to fill that officer's seat in 2024 and beyond. Her suggestion of a replacement has experience with budget and financial matters, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners appoints Kimberly Sinclair to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission with a term expiration of December 31st, 2025.

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

B. Van Buren Cass District Board of Health - Reappointment - Robert Linderman EXPEDITED

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A2/1-09-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the District Health Board, and;

WHEREAS, there has been a request to review and approve the appointment of Robert Linderman for a three-year term set to expire January 1st, 2027, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the reappointment to Robert Linderman to the Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health for a three-year term set to expire on January 1st, 2027.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

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

FINANCE RESOLUTION F1/1-09-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to receive an update on the ROBIN Grant and forward the proposed MEC Subrecipient Agreement and DCS Broadband Consultant Agreement to the January 9th, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting for expedited approval; and,

WHEREAS, the presentation will include:

1. Provide a ROBIN Grant update including a revised Broadband map showing progress with the Grant programs.
2. Provide a financial review for Midwest Energy and Communications (MEC) including a final Subrecipient agreement.
3. Provide potential proposals from Comcast and others to provide gap filling for unserved locations in South Haven and Antwerp Townships.
4. Provide a proposed consultant agreement for finalizing the ROBIN Grant, filling the gaps and monitoring the implementation.

WHEREAS, the Board allocated \$7 million of ARPA funding for Broadband expansion. Utilizing DCS as a consultant, MEC submitted an application for a ROBIN Grant utilizing County and local units of government's ARPA commitments as matching funds. The ROBIN Grant will provide broadband connection to the majority of the County with some gaps. A Subrecipient Agreement with MEC will authorize the use of ARPA dollars to compensate MEC for the implementation of the ROBIN Grant. The cost in the Subrecipient

Agreement is \$4,117,369.78, which is \$1,102.67 per location serviced (3,734 locations); and,

WHEREAS, the projected need for County ARPA funding, including the Subrecipient Agreement and Consultant Agreement, is approximately \$5.5 million, but that might increase to fill in the gaps. The cost to fill the gaps will be provided once they are determined. Until the final number is determined, we will retain the original \$7 million budget; and,

WHEREAS, the original consultant agreement with DCS was through the completion of the ROBIN Grant application and approval process through 2023. The proposal is to continue with DCS for \$15,000 per month beginning in January 2024 through the award of the remaining parcels. After that, DCS will be retained for \$12,000 per month through 2025 or until the ISP work is completed. There is a 30 mutual cancelation clause; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners receive the update on the ROBIN Grant and approves the proposed MEC Sub-recipient Agreement and DCS Broadband Consultant Agreement.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Board of Commissioners Compensation

This item was discussed and revised resolution will be brought back to the Board.

B. Chief Deputy Treasurer - Salary Exception EXPEDITED

LABOR RESOLUTION L1/1-09-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request to hire the applicant for the Chief Deputy Treasurer position with a salary exception at the Non-Union Range 26 Step F, and to forward this to the Board of Commissioners meeting January 9th, 2023 on an expedited basis, and;

WHEREAS, this is a key position in the Treasurer's Office, which has been vacant for over a month. The candidate exceeds all qualifications for education and experience, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the salary exception for the Chief Deputy Treasurer position at the Non-Union Range 26 Step F.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioners Roundtable

- Wellness Committee
- Kinexus
- ORV Ordinance
- Veteran's Court Graduation

15. Chairman's Update

- Broadband press release
- Palisades revenue fund

- Strategic planning

16. Public Comment

17. Board Correspondence

18. Closed Session

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:47 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk