



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

February 13, 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 02:25 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 with the correction on Item 11A of the January 23, 2024 minutes to note that Commissioner Chappell voted no on that item.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****January 23rd, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
*with correction to Item 11A

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Appointment to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission - Roger Engle**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A7/2-13-2024
WHEREAS, there has been a request to appoint Roger Engle to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term to expire December 21, 2025; and,
WHEREAS, Van Buren County has 7 representatives on the SWMPC Board, 4 non-

elected people and 3 Board of Commissioners. All are for two-year terms. The Board of Commissioners terms run concurrent with their elected term of office and expire in even years. The non-elected positions expire in odd years. There is a vacancy in one of the non-elected positions that we recommend Mr. Engle to fill; and,
WHEREAS, Mr. Engle has numerous years of leadership in the private sector and is an adjunct professor of Organizational Behavior at Lake Michigan College. We believe his experience will add value to the SWMPC Board; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Roger Engle to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term set to expire December 21, 2025.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. ****Appointment to Department of Health and Human Services - Janet Engle**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A8/2-13-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request to appoint Janet Engle to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Board for a three year term to expire November 1, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, there are four members of the County MDHHS Board. Two are appointed by the Board of Commissioners, one is appointed by the Governor and one County Commissioner representative. The County appointed positions are for 3-year terms starting on November 1st. There has been a vacancy since November 1, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, we recommend the appointment of Ms. Engle to fill the vacancy. She has experience with MDHHS-Child Protective Services and Child Welfare. She has worked in Wayne, Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties. Also, she founded the Van Buren County Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN Council) and has raised substantial amounts of funds for charities. Her experience will serve the MDHHS Board well; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Janet Engle to the Department of Health and Human Services for a three-year term set to expire November 1, 2026

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. ****Out of State Travel Request - Specialty Courts**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A9/2-13-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request from Circuit Court for the approval of the Swift and Sure Case Manager to attend an out-of-state training/conference; and,

WHEREAS, Matthew Beilman, Specialty Courts Administrator, is requesting permission for Swift and Sure Case Manager, Richard Gibbs, to attend the American Probation and Parole Association 2024 Winter Training Institute to be held in Seattle, WA from 2/25/2024-2/28/2024; and,

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program Court received a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Funding for continued education was allocated in the approved budget. The federal grant requires attendance at an annual grantee meeting and conference as a condition of continued funding; and,

WHEREAS, Funding for this training, which includes airfare, lodging, meals and ground transportation is covered by the BJA grant 299.R. This request includes meal reimbursement at the federal per diem rate as is allowable through the grant. Meal breakdown is as follows:

First & Last Day of Travel

Breakfast \$13.50 Lunch \$15 Dinner \$27

Full Days

Breakfast \$18 Lunch \$20 Dinner \$36

*No county contribution is requested.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the Circuit Court's request for the Swift and Sure Case manager to attend an out-of-state training/conference from 2/25/2024 – 2/28/2024.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. ****2024 Annual Borrowing Resolution**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F9/2-13-2024

WHEREAS, the request is to authorize the County Treasurer to borrow up to \$7.5 million for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the annual tax settlement takes place in March as the 2022 taxes will become delinquent and payable to the county treasurer on March 1, 2023. Local units will turn over their tax rolls to the county treasurer who will then calculate the total amount of delinquent taxes, both real and personal. The county treasurer reimburses all taxing authorities for delinquent real property taxes as of March 1st through the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the current balance of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund is insufficient to pay the anticipated delinquent taxes owed to taxing authorities. Therefore, to raise sufficient monies to fund the Revolving Fund adequately, the county must issue its General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 2023. For the past 3 years, the treasurer has borrowed \$5.5 million; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the County Treasurer's request to borrow up to \$7.5 million for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. ****Jail Medical Care Contract Renewal - Advanced Correctional Healthcare**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F10/2-13-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to process the contract renewal with Advanced Correctional Health Care to provide jail health care for the Van Buren County Jail; and,

WHEREAS, prior to 2019 Jail health care was provided by the Van Buren Cass District Health Department. Effective 9/1/2019 we engaged in a contract with Advanced Health Care to provide these services. Since that time the Sheriff has been pleased with the services provided and asks for Board approval to continue; and,

WHEREAS, the cost to renew is \$473,159. Last year the contract was \$453,956. The increase is acceptable under the terms of the contract that allows for an increase based on CPI (4.23%). Unfortunately, our budget has not kept pace with the escalation clause. At a future meeting we will need to

present a budget adjustment assuming this is approved; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the contract renewal with Advanced Correctional Health Care to provide jail health care to the Van Buren County Jail.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioners Roundtable

- Community Mental Health vacancies
- Hartford Chamber of Commerce dinner
- Veterans Court graduation
- SW Michigan Planning Commission
- Youth Initiative

15. Chairman's Update

- Palisades

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:41 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk