



MINUTES

**Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street**

February 27, 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 01:25 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.

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

6. Approval of Minutes

A. **February 12th, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

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

7. Public Comment

- County Clerk Suzie Roehm - update on early voting turnout

8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Re-appointment of VBCMHA Board of Director Members

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A10/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request on behalf of the Van Buren Community Mental Health Board to re-appoint two of their current members, Catherine Bolton and Angela Dickerson with terms set to expire on March 1, 2027, to the VBCMHA Board; and,

WHEREAS, both members completed a Van Buren County Application for Appointment for the two current members of the VBCMHA Board of Directors who are up for re-

appointment. Both Catherine Bolton and Angela Dickerson are valued members in good standing with the Board; and,
WHEREAS, in addition to endorsement for re appointment by the VBCMHA Board of Directors, both applicants continue to meet state and federal requirements for appointment to a board responsible for spending federal funding. It is also important for the Board of Commissioners to know that the VBCMHA Board continues to meet the standards required by law for primary and secondary consumers of mental health service for serving on the Board; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the request on behalf of the Van Buren Community Mental Health Board to re-appoint two of their current members, Catherine Bolton and Angela Dickerson, with terms set to expire on March 1, 2027.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **Use of County Property - Paw Paw Days 2024

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION B1/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, the request is to use the County Park and the County Administration building parking lot for the Paw Paw Days Classic Car & Truck Show and Village of Paw Paw Streetscape Dedication; and,
WHEREAS, the Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce has requested use of County property from July 26th- July 27th for the 2024 Paw Paw Days event. The event includes the classic car show, marketplace arts and crafts fair, Kid Zone in downtown Paw Paw and is one of their major community fund-raisers. The County Park will be used on Friday and Saturday for the marketplace activities. They are also requesting use of the County Administration Building and Courthouse parking lots for vendor parking. They have secured the proper insurance needed; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the request to use the County Park and the County Administration building parking lot for the Paw Paw Days Classic Car & Truck Show and Village of Paw Paw Streetscape Dedication.

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

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C2/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the January claims in the amount of \$3,929,764.85; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves of the total claims in the amount of \$3,929,764.85 for the month of January 2024.

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

B. **ARPA - Update & Standard Allowance Election

FINANCE RESOLUTION F11/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, the request is to recommend changing the County's ARPA's election of Loss Revenue "calculated method" to the \$10 million standard allowance; and,
WHEREAS, treasury had previously provided that recipients must make a one-time, irrevocable election to either take the standard allowance or calculate revenue loss.

Recipients were able to indicate this choice in their Project and Expenditure Reports due April 30, 2022; and,
 WHEREAS, the County chose the calculated method election for loss revenue. In 2023 the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) allows for superseding the prior election for future reporting cycles and instead take the standard allowance; and,
 WHEREAS, recipients continue to be required to employ a consistent methodology across the period of performance (i.e., choose to use either the standard allowance or the full formula) and may not elect one approach for certain reporting years and the other approach for different reporting years. Recipients that elect the standard allowance do not have to produce any further demonstration or calculation of revenue loss; and,
 WHEREAS, loss Revenue either by a calculated method or the standard method is the broadest eligible use category. Recipients may use these funds on government services. These government services include any service traditionally provided by a government unless Treasury has stated otherwise; and,
 WHEREAS, eligible government services that may be covered under the revenue loss eligible use category include maintenance, improvement, or new construction of public school facilities, including those that address over-crowding and capacity constraints, support energy efficiency, and respond to health and safety concerns, among other purposes; and,
 WHEREAS, modifying the County's election from the calculated method to the standard allowance of up to \$10 million allows the County to avoid any clawback of unobligated or unassigned funds. All funds need to be obligated by December 31, 2024; and,
 WHEREAS, county's capital improvement program is underway and plan to be able to recommend projects to the board in the next quarter to meet the deadline of expending all funds on or before December 31, 2026; and,
 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves of changing the County's election from the calculated method to the standard allowance in amount of up to \$10 million.

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

C. ****911 Local Surcharge Collection Continuation for 2024-2025**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F12/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act ("Enabling Act"), Public Act 32 of 1986, as amended, Van Buren County is authorized to impose a county surcharge upon telephonic service users within the county that can access 9-1-1; and,
 WHEREAS, the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC"), in Case No. U-15489, established a default county surcharge rate for Van Buren County of \$1.17 per user; and,
 WHEREAS, section 401b of the Enabling Act states that in the event. Van Buren County proposes an increase to the amount approved by the MPSC in Case No. U-15489, it must do so with the following limitations: (a) up to \$0.42 per month by resolution; (b) up to \$3.00 per month with the approval of the voters in the county; and, (c) any combination of (a) and (b) with a maximum county 9-1-1 charge of \$3.00 per month; and,
 WHEREAS, upon the expiration of the surcharge rate on June 30, 2021, the county surcharge would revert to the \$1.17 default rate set by the MPSC in Case No. U-15489, absent resolution by the Board of Commissioners, resulting in significant reduction in revenue to operate and maintain the county's 9-1-1 system; and,
 WHEREAS, at the August 2020 Primary Election, the voters of Van Buren County approved a 9-1-1 Surcharge Proposal authorizing Van Buren County to assess a county 9-1-1 emergency services charge on monthly billings to each service device located within Van Buren County that can access 9-1-1 at a rate not to exceed \$1.83 each month in addition to the \$1.17 surcharge established by the Michigan Public Service Commission in Case No. U-15489, for a total of \$3.00 each month subject to annual approval by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025, to be used exclusively for the funding of 9-1-1 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch services within Van Buren County, including facilities, equipment and

operations; and,

WHEREAS, after due consideration of the reasonable expense necessary to operate and maintain the county's 9-1-1 system, the Board of Commissioners has concluded that any reduction in the current surcharge would prove detrimental to the operation of the 9-1-1 system designed to assist with the protection and safety of Van Buren County residents, businesses, and visitors; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners concludes that the default county surcharge rate of \$1.17 per device established by the MPSC in Case No. U-15489 must be increased in order for the county to meet its obligations associated with the reasonable and necessary expenses of operate and maintain its 9-1-1 system; and,

2. The Board of Commissioners hereby increases the default county surcharge rate established by the MPSC in Case No. U-15489 by \$1.83 per device located within Van Buren County that can access 9-1-1 for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, as approved by the voters of Van Buren County at the August 2020 Primary Election; and,

3. With this increase, the county surcharge imposed by Van Buren County upon each service device located within Van Buren County that can access 9-1-1 shall be \$3.00 for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, as approved by the voters in the August 2020 Primary Election; and,

4. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator, in conjunction with the County Sheriff and County 9-1-1 Director, to make all necessary filings with the State of Michigan to ensure that the correct surcharge rate of \$3.00 is imposed.

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

D. ****Purchase of Two Detective Cars**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F13/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request on behalf of the Sheriff's Department to purchase two detective vehicles to replace aging two; and,

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's office utilizes unmarked cars for detectives to drive. We need two new cars to replace aging vehicles. One aging vehicle is planned to go to caution and the other will be utilized as a training vehicle; and,

WHEREAS, not to exceed \$58,000 to be taken out of Public Safety Vehicle line item 207.0-301.00-981.000; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the request on behalf of the Sheriff's Department to purchase two detectives' vehicles to replace the aging two.

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

E. ****Auction of Detective car**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F14/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to authorize the auction of a Detective vehicle; and,

WHEREAS, we are no longer in need of our 2008 Hyuandi Accent and would like to dispose of it through auction at bidergy; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the request to authorize the auction of a Detective vehicle.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. ****Public Transit Dispatcher - Full Time**

LABOR RESOLUTION L3/2-27-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to take a current part-time Public Transit Dispatcher and make them full-time status; and,

WHEREAS, to better succession plan after turnover and upcoming retirement, Public Transit would like to make one of their part-time Dispatchers full-time to assist with the workload and assist with succession planning for anticipated retirement to happen within the Dispatch area of Public Transit; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the request to take a current part-time Public Transit Dispatcher and make them full-time status.

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

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Public Transit fundraiser transportation
- Market Van Buren
- Safe Harbor fundraiser
- Land Bank Authority Award - Decatur
- Covert Senior Services Building
- SW Michigan Planning Commission

15. Chairman's Update

- Veteran's Standdown
- Strategic Plan

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 01:47 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk

