



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

March 26, 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

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 01:02 PM by Paul Schincariol, Vice-Chairman of the Board. Present: Patterson-Gladney, Chappell, Doroh, Godfrey, Leary and Schincariol. Commissioner Peat absent and excused.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **March 12th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the March 12, 2024 minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
 - Donald Quinn, South Haven Township - Health Department (well) concerns
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Update**
GIS Director Jerry Happel provided a presentation on the significant improvements in the department, focusing on efficiency, accuracy and accessibility.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Out of State Travel Request - Specialty Courts**
Court Administrator Natalie Dean presented the out-of-state travel requests for Specialty Courts for the upcoming year.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the multiple out-of-state training and conference requests for the Specialty Courts team.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Michigan Materials Management Plan

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler is seeking authorization for the Board Chair to send a letter to our state legislators requesting funding for the planning and implementation of the newly mandated Michigan Materials Management Program. Van Buren, Berrien and Cass Counties have enlisted Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to spearhead the initiative, but there is no funding available for reimbursement.

Motion to authorize the Board Chair to send a letter to state legislators regarding the Michigan Materials Management Program funding.

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

C. Office of the Public Defender - Reorganization and MIDC Grant

Administrator Faul provided an update on the Public Defenders Office Reorganization and MIDC Grant. Interviews were conducted and Karla Tankut was offered the Chief Public Defender position and will start April 1, 2024. The MIDC grant is due April 22, 2024 and will be presented for full review at the April 9th meeting.

Motion to bring the MIDC Grant proposal to the April 9, 2024 meeting for review and approval.

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

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. MSUE Veterans Therapy Garden

MSU District Director Julie Pioch is requesting a renewal of the property agreement at 801 Hazen St. for use as the Veterans Therapy Garden by MSU Extension. The amendment would extend the approval to use the property, pay for electricity and water, and approve draft plans for infrastructure improvements through 2030.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the renewal of the property agreement at 801 Hazen St. for use as the Veterans Therapy Garden by MSU Extension.

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

9. Finance

A. New Covert Generating Cost Share Agreement - Covert Twp.

Administrator Faul is requesting the approval of the revised New Covert Generating Tax Tribunal and appeal litigation cost settlement agreement with Covert Township.

The only contributing parties are now Covert Township and the County, therefore an updated agreement is recommended.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the revised cost sharing agreement with Covert Township for New Covert Generating litigation.

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

B. Foster Swift Invoice

Motion to approve payment of the Foster Swift invoice in the amount of \$750 according to the cost sharing agreement for NCG litigation.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

C. Computer Replacement Program

IT Director CJ Johnson is requesting approval for the 2024 PC Refresh purchase in the amount of \$26,117.76. This does not include laptops which are being purchased

separately.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2024 PC Refresh purchase in the amount of \$26,117.76.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Prosecuting Attorney's Office Summer Intern 2024

Prosecutor Susan Zuiderveen is requesting approval to employ a summer intern from May to August, 2024 at the rate of \$15 per hour for up to 20 hours per week.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the employment of a summer intern by the Prosecutor in an amount not to exceed \$5,400.

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

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

13. Road Commission Monthly Update

A. Road Commission Monthly Update

Director Bret Witkowski presented the Road Commission monthly update. They will be holding open interviews for summer help on April 16-17 from 3-7 pm.

14. Public Comment

- Prosecutor Susan Zuiderveen commented on the 2024 Crime Victims Rights Resource Fair to be held April 25, 2024 from 2-5 pm at the Outpouring.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:15 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk