



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

April 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 02:50 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. ****March 26th, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Out of State Travel Request - Specialty Courts**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A16/4-9-2024
WHEREAS, there has been a request on behalf of the Circuit Court for the Board to approve for members of the Specialty Court team to attend multiple out of state training/conferences; and,
WHEREAS, Van Buren County Treatment Courts received federal grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Funding for continued education was allocated in the approved budget. Our federal grants require attendance at an annual grantee meeting and

conference as a condition of continued funding; and,
WHEREAS, Rachel Lindley, Specialty Courts Administrator, requests permission for the following individuals to attend the National Association of Court Managers Conference (NACM) which is held in New Orleans, LA from 07/21/2024-07/25/2024. The NACM national conference is budgeted into each department's budget every year. This is a chance for court administrators to learn the newest trends in court management and to build relationships with other courts. Funding for this conference, including airfare, lodging and meals will be accessed through each department's travel budget. Those administrators attending this year will be:

- Veronica Stillson, Family Court and FOC Administrator
- Ryan Smith, District Court Administrator
- Rachel Lindley, Specialty Courts Administrator (prior approval by Specialty Courts request)

• Natalie Dean, Trial Court Administrator; and,
WHEREAS, the following individuals are requesting permission to attend the All Rise Conference (previously the National Association of Drug Court Professionals) which is held in Anaheim, CA from 05/21/2024-05/25/2024:

- Rachel Lindley, Specialty Court Administrator
- Brianne Smith, Specialty Court Program Supervisor
- Hon. Jeffrey Dufon, Circuit/Family Court Judge
- Hon. Susan Metzger, Probate Court Judge
- Jay Blair, Prosecutor's Office
- Carmen Frattura, Probation Officer
- Jewel Hurn, Peer Support
- Stephanie Williams, Clinical Liaison
- Natalie Dean, Trial Court Administrator
- Alex Runowski, Defense Attorney
- Ben Kackley, CMH Therapist
- Alicia Storm, Defense Attorney
- TBD, Specialty Court Case Manager; and,

WHEREAS, we are requesting permission for Rachel Lindley, Karl Stamm and Logan Hudson to attend the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Conference which is held in New Orleans, LA from 09/08/2024-09/11/2024; and,

WHEREAS, the following individuals are requesting permission to attend the All Rise OWI Foundational Training which is held in Billings, MT from 07/15/2024-07/18/2024: • Judge Arthur Clarke

- Emily Jipp, Prosecutor
- Rachel Lindley, Specialty Courts Administrator
- Brianne Smith, Specialty Courts Program Supervisor
- Casey Davis, VBC Sheriff's Office
- Jewel Hurn, Peer Support

WHEREAS, Funding for this training, which includes airfare, lodging, meals and ground transportation, is covered by the BJA grant. No county contribution is requested; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the members of the Specialty Court team to attend multiple out-of-state training/conferences with staff receiving the federal per diem rate reimbursement.

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

B. **Office of the Public Defender - MIDC Grant

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A17/4-9-2024

WHEREAS, in late February, we received approval from the MIDC to proceed with planning for the separation of the Public Defender's Office from Allegan County. This allowed us to begin drafting the FY 24-25 MIDC grant application specifically for Van Buren County, which is due April 22, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, because we don't have a final proposal yet, and it is due prior to the next

Board meeting, we are asking for approval to submit the final draft of the Grant application once completed to meet the deadline; and,
WHEREAS, we plan on requesting the same number of personnel as before, along with some funds for capital improvements and IT enhancements, while leaving our maintenance of effort monetary requirements unchanged; and,
WHEREAS, the County will continue to fund the Public Defender's Office through its maintenance of effort agreement of approximately \$310,000 and receive the remainder of the budget from the MIDC; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the FY 24-25 MIDC Grant application.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **MSUE Veterans Therapy Garden

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION B3/4-9-2024

WHEREAS, MSU Extension has been active in developing the Veterans Horticulture Therapy program by installing a therapy garden at 801 Hazen St. per the resolution approved by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioner in November 2021; and,
WHEREAS, the therapy garden is instrumental to a successful veteran program; and,
WHEREAS, grant funds have been obtained by MSU Extension to install fencing, irrigation and other infrastructure improvements to enhance the use of the garden for programming; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continuation of MSU Extension to improve the area for use as a garden and to extend the agreement until 2030.

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

10. Finance

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

FINANCE RESOLUTION F20/4-9-2024

WHEREAS, we have been operating under the original Cost Sharing Agreement that included other parties; and,
WHEREAS, the only contributing parties now are Covert Township and Van Buren County, we recommend updating the Agreement; and,
WHEREAS, litigation costs will be split 50/50 between Covert Township and Van Buren County; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the revised New Covert Generating Tax Tribunal and appeal litigation cost settlement agreement with Covert Township.

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

B. **Computer Replacement Program

FINANCE RESOLUTION F21/4-9-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the 2024 PC Refresh; and,
WHEREAS, the IT department purchases ~50 computers as part of our annual PC refresh project aimed at replacing aging devices deployed around the County. Our target lifecycle for all laptops and desktops is 5 years in operation; and,
WHEREAS, this purchase would allow us to replace all computers in the environment that have reached the end of the targeted lifecycle; and,

WHEREAS, this is a planned budgeted expense that will be funded from the Technology Improvement Fund, 636.0-228.00-752.005. Due to the overall cost, this purchase requires board approval to comply with purchasing policies. The total amount of the purchase is \$26,117.76; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the 2024 PC refresh.

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

C. ****Prosecuting Attorney's Office Summer Intern 2024**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F22/4-9-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request on behalf of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for the Board to approve the employment of a summer intern from May 1st, 2024 through August 31st, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the prosecutor's office has used interns in the past to assist with the increase in the caseloads. It also provides an opportunity for a young adult to become involved in the criminal justice system to evaluate future career paths; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Molly Jackson has shadowed our office on trials and assisted with trial preparation on a small scale. She is now seeking an opportunity to work for our office from May 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, it is requested for the opportunity to employ Ms. Jackson at \$15.00 per hour for up to 20 hours a week; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the request for a summer intern in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office from May 1st, 2024, to August 31st, 2024, at \$15.00 per hour for up to 20 hours a week.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Veteran's Social/Covert event
- VBC Youth Initiative
- South Haven Life Guards
- Mental Health Crisis Mobile Unit
- South Haven area water supply
- Road Commission
- Fair Board

15. Chairman's Update

- RFP for Facilities Master Plan

16. Board Correspondence

A. Lapeer County

B. Crawford County

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:20 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk