



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

April 23, 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 Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **April 9th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
 - Rick Wilde, Lawrence Twp. re: Sheriff Abbott
 - Tim Martin, Decatur Twp. re: Sheriff Abbott
 - Kathleen Murphy, Paw Paw re: Sheriff Abbott
 - Chris Tapper, Waverly Twp. re: Sheriff Abbott
 - John Tapper, Paw Paw Twp. re: Sheriff Abbott
 - Zachary Baker, Paw Paw re: Sheriff Abbott
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **DCS - Broadband Expansion Efforts Update and Comcast Subrecipient Agreement**
Chris Scharrer, DCS Technology, gave an update on the implementation of the ROBIN Grant broadband expansion efforts and the proposed Comcast Subrecipient Agreement. The cost for Comcast to provide gap filling for unserved locations is \$317,240 to come from designated ARPA funds. A demonstration was given on the broadband link on the county website.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Comcast Subrecipient Agreement with \$317,240 in designated ARPA

funds.

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

7. Administrative Affairs

A. Early Voting Grant Application Round 2 - EXPEDITED

County Clerk Suzie Roehm presented the request to submit the Round 2 Early Voting Grant application in the amount of \$5,864.11 and to be expedited to today's Board meeting due to the filing deadline of April 26th.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Round 2 Early Voting Grant application in the amount of \$5,864.11.

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

B. Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) Appointment

It is necessary to appoint the new Probate Judge, Susan Metzger, and new County Public Defender, Karla Tankut, to the Van Buren County Community Corrections Advisory Board to be eligible for grant funding.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Probate Judge Susan Metzger and Public Defender Karla Tankut to the Van Buren County Community Corrections Advisory Board.

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

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Request to use County Property - Warner Vineyards

Warner Vineyards, Inc. is requesting to use 3 paved, non-Sheriff parking lots in Paw Paw for overflow parking during their summer concert series on Fridays and Saturdays, 6-11 p.m., May-September, 2024.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of 3 county parking lots for overflow parking during the Warner Vineyards summer concert series.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. Consumers Energy Easement, 712 W. North St, Paw Paw MI

Consumers Energy is requesting an easement on county property at 801 Hazen St., Paw Paw for the purpose of installing electric lines at 712 W. North St., Paw Paw for Paw Paw Public Schools.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, an easement on Parcel ID: 80-47-581-033-55 to Consumers Energy for the purpose of installing electric lines for Paw Paw Schools.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

9. Finance

A. Blight Elimination Round 4 Grant Agreement

Treasurer Trisha Nesbitt presented the request for a grant agreement with the State Land Bank Authority for a Round 4 Blight Elimination Grant. The Village of Decatur submitted a \$3 million proposal for renovation of the Edgar Bergen Building located at 312 School Street. Village Manager Chris Tapper gave an overview of the project.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Round 4 Blight Elimination Grant agreement with the State Land Bank Authority.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Parks Millage

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler presented the request to implement a .10 mill tax levy for a Parks and Recreation Millage and place on the winter tax bill.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the implementation of a .10 mill tax levy for a Parks and Recreation Millage and place on the winter tax bill.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

Yes: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Tina Leary

No: Paul Schincariol

C. Foster Swift Invoice

Motion to pay the Foster Swift Invoice for NCG litigation in the amount of \$1,057.50, subject to the cost sharing agreement.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Creation of Position - Civilian Court Liaison EXPEDITED

Sheriff Abbott presented the request to create a Civilian Court Liaison position which will primarily be responsible for court proceedings and the liaison for the Public Defenders Office. The position will be funded by the Sheriff's Department for the remainder of 2024 and by the Public Defenders Office beginning in 2025. The position would be non-union and be at \$21.60 per hour.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the creation of a Civilian Court Liaison, non-union, position at \$21.60 per hour.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:08 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk

