



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

July 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

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 01:57 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. ****July 9th, 2024 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Saddle Lake - Legal Lake Level Control Structure**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A37/7-23-2024
WHEREAS, Saddle Lake, located in Columbia Township, Van Buren County, Michigan has an established normal lake level by the Van Buren County Circuit Court under Part 307 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, as amended, ("Part 307"); and
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners and its Delegated Authority, the Van Buren County Drain Commissioner, have jurisdiction for the operation and

maintenance of the normal level of Saddle Lake. MCL 324.30702; and,
WHEREAS, MCL 324.30722(4) requires annual expenditures of over \$10,000 to be approved by the county board of commissioners; and
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners finds it necessary to approve annual expenditures of over \$10,000 for activities to maintain the normal level of Saddle Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Over \$10,000 Expenditure: The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves annual expenditures of over \$10,000 for activities to maintain the normal level of Saddle Lake, including the maintenance and repair of lake level infrastructure. MCL 324.30722(4). This express authorization to spend more than \$10,000 annually shall authorize annual expenditures of over \$10,000 for all years in which work for the activities authorized herein continues to occur.

2. Costs of Activities: All costs associated with the lake level activities authorized in this resolution, including retaining all necessary consultants (e.g., legal counsel and engineers), shall be reimbursed by a lake level special assessment district to the extent permitted by Part 307.

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A38/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the out-of-state travel request for the Trial Court Administrator and one night lodging for the Specialty Courts Administrator, Rachel Lindley; and,

WHEREAS, the Trial Court Administrator is requested to attend the Practitioner Training hosted by All Rise, also known as the National Association for Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from September 24-27, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, this introductory training covers key topics such as coordinating drug treatment programs, treatment court dynamics, treatment phases, grant writing, and recovery capital, which are essential for the effective management of Specialty Courts; and,

WHEREAS, the Specialty Courts Administrator, Rachel Lindley, who will be teaching a session at the training, requests one night of lodging to stay for the duration of the event; and,

WHEREAS, the training is imperative in light of the future transition of the Specialty Court Administrator and the upcoming maternity leave for the Specialty Court Supervisor, ensuring the Trial Court Administrator can step into management roles as needed; and,
WHEREAS, expanding the knowledge base in Specialty Courts is crucial to maintaining the quality of programming and supervision of grants during any absences; and,
WHEREAS, the training provides breakfast and lunch as part of the event and all related travel and lodging costs will be covered by Specialty Court grants, with no impact on the general fund; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the out-of-state travel request for the Trial Court Administrator and the Specialty Courts Administrator (for one night lodging only) to attend the Practitioner Training in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from September 24-27, 2024.

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

C. ****Out of State Travel Request - Sheriff's Office**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A39/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request on behalf of the Sheriff's Office to grant permission for the Narcotics Unit to travel out of state to attend the 30th National Narcotics Conference; and,

WHEREAS, this conference will include classes on narcotics trafficking, fentanyl

distribution, High Risk Interdiction/Traffic Stops/K-9 Deployment, Overcoming Critical Incidents, The Illicit Fentanyl Crisis & Drug Poisonings: Understanding, Awareness, Action, and Short-Term Rental Interdiction; and,
WHEREAS, the training is expected to be highly beneficial to the County and the Narcotics Unit as it will provide critical skills and knowledge in combating narcotics-related issues within the community; and,
WHEREAS, the cost of this training has been budgeted by the Sheriff's Office under line item 101.0-302.00-957.000; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the out-of-state travel request for the Sheriff's Narcotics Unit to attend the 30th National Narcotics Conference.

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

D. ****VBCMh Board Appointment - Annie Brown**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A40/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request to appoint Annie Brown to the Van Buren Community Mental Health (VBCMh) Board of Directors for a three year term set to expire March 31, 2027; and,
WHEREAS, Annie Brown, current mayor of South Haven, holds a Bachelor's degree from Hope College, and serves as Vice Chair of United Christian Services and Secretary of Senior Services of Van Buren County; and,
WHEREAS, Annie Brown previously served as the West Michigan Regional Coordinator for US Senator Gary Peters; and,
WHEREAS, Annie Brown has completed the required checks to ensure she does not appear on the federal exclusion list and has not presented any conflicts of interest that would disallow service on the VBCMh Board; and, WHEREAS, there is no financial impact to the County, as VBCMh board members receive a per diem payment per meeting, and VBCMh has six regularly scheduled meetings each year; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, appoint Annie Brown to the VBCMh Board of Directors for a three-year term set to expire March 31, 2027.

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

E. ****Van Buren Housing Assistance Program (VBHAP)**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A41/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Community Services Department requests approval to apply for and administer the Van Buren Housing Assistance Program (VBHAP) with an initial budget of approximately \$650,000.00; and,
WHEREAS, this funding will be sourced from the USDA Home Preservation Grant (HPG) and the MI Neighborhoods initiative by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA); and,
WHEREAS, the program aims to provide critical home repairs, structural improvements, energy efficiency upgrades, and arsenic remediation for low- and very low-income homeowners in rural Van Buren County; and,
WHEREAS, approval from the Commission is essential to move forward with the grant applications, initiate program activities, and ensure the successful implementation and management of VBHAP, ultimately improving the quality of housing and the well-being of residents in our community; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the Community Services Department's request to apply for and administer the Van Buren Housing Assistance Program (VBHAP) with an initial budget of approximately \$650,000.00.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C7/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$14,912,270.00 were submitted and reviewed, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve of the total claims in the amount of \$14,912,270.00 for the month of June 2024.

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

B. New Age Landmark Amended Loan Agreement EXPEDITED

FINANCE RESOLUTION F39/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the amendment to the existing loan for New Age, and to refinance the current balance over a 15-year term at an interest rate of 4%; and,
WHEREAS, the total amount owed is \$184,839.83, with the loan to be amortized based on \$137,200.46 over 15 years at 4%, resulting in a monthly payment of \$1,014.86; and,
WHEREAS, the accrued interest of \$47,639.37 will be used to incentivize monthly payments throughout the life of the loan, with the total forgivable amount being \$47,639.37 if all payments are made; and,
WHEREAS, New Age has not been making their payments and are essentially in default; and,
WHEREAS, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board has worked with the owners of New Age to agree to an amendment that provides for the refinancing of their note to make it easier for them to pay the County back; and,
WHEREAS, this amendment and refinancing structure is essentially the same as the one previously approved for the RNS Packaging amendment and refinance; and,
WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Board approve the amendment to the existing loan, refinancing the current balance over a 15-year term at an interest rate of 4%; and,
WHEREAS, it is further recommended that the Board Chair and the EDC Chair be authorized to enter into the agreement on behalf of the County; and,
WHEREAS, to expedite this process, it is requested that this recommendation be added to today's, July 23rd, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting for final approval; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the amendment to the existing loan for New Age, refinancing the current balance over a 15-year term at an interest rate of 4%, and authorize the Board Chair and the EDC Chair to enter into the agreement on behalf of the County.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

A. **Vehicle Disposal Request

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T16/7-23-2024

WHEREAS, the request is to dispose of two vehicles from Transit's fleet; and,
WHEREAS, Van #33 was purchased in 2015 for \$37,652.00, utilizing local funds, with a useful life of 4 years, has been removed from revenue service due to expensive mechanical issues, and is no longer drivable; and,
WHEREAS, Bus #38 was purchased in 2016 for \$89,242.00, using a Federal and State grant, and has met its useful life; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the disposal of Van #33 and Bus #38.

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

13. Veterans Services

14. Public Comment

15. Chairman's Update

- Lisa Ransler prepared a letter on behalf of the Board in support of Van Buren County Housing Assistance Program

COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE:

- Veterans Court Graduation
- VBC Youth Fair
- Public Health Department working with GIS mapping

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:11 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk