



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

August 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 02:15 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. ****August 13th, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Proclamation of Pete Sinclair**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A42/8-27-2024
WHEREAS, Pete Sinclair has been a lifelong resident of Hartford, Michigan, exemplifying commitment to his community as a business owner, homeowner, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; and,
WHEREAS, Pete served our nation with distinction as a United States Army Military Police Lieutenant, earning the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service, authoring critical training manuals during the Detroit riots of the late 1960s, and commanding the

Benton Harbor Army Reserve; and,
 WHEREAS, Pete dedicated over 30 years to the Hartford Fire Department as a firefighter, ambulance attendant, and officer, where his contributions include initiating ambulance services in Hartford, earning Fireman of the Year twice, and receiving the Valor Award for saving a family of five from a burning home; and,
 WHEREAS, Pete's leadership extended beyond firefighting, as he served on the Michigan Fire Safety Board, traveling the state to enhance safety standards, and as a key figure in the Hartford School Board for 16 years, during which time he was instrumental in the expansion of school facilities and the establishment of the Hartford Foundation for Quality Education; and,
 WHEREAS, Pete further contributed to the community as a Van Buren County Commissioner, leading efforts to establish the county's 911 system, and serving as Hartford's Emergency Management Coordinator, securing federal and state disaster funding for local storms; and,
 WHEREAS, Pete's commitment to public service includes over 20 years with the Hartford Lions Club, where he has held various leadership roles and coordinated the Concerts in the Park for eight years; and,
 WHEREAS, Pete and his wife, Judy, have been married for 57 years, demonstrating a partnership rooted in love, dedication, and mutual support, further solidifying their legacy within the Hartford community; and,
 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and commend Pete Sinclair for his unparalleled service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of Hartford and Van Buren County, expressing our deepest appreciation and gratitude for his lifelong dedication to public service.
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this proclamation be presented to Pete Sinclair and his family as a token of our appreciation and in recognition of his remarkable contributions to our community.

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

B. **Child & Parent Legal Representation Grant Contract

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A43/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Child & Parent Legal Representation Grant provides partial reimbursement for the costs of court-appointed attorneys and a social worker who deliver essential ancillary services to parents involved in child protective proceedings; and,
 WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), Van Buren County received \$73,454.28 in reimbursement from this grant, significantly aiding the County in managing these critical services; and,
 WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the acceptance of the grant contract for continued funding and support of these legal representation services; and,
 WHEREAS, the approval of the Board Chair, or an authorized designee, to submit the grant contract will allow the County to secure the grant funds and continue providing essential legal services to parents in need; and,
 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, authorize the Board Chair, or their designee, to submit the Child & Parent Legal Representation Grant contract.

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

C. **Quality Legal Representation Grant Contract

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A44/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Quality Legal Representation Grant is a pilot program that enables the court to provide essential prevention services to families involved with child protective services, aiming to keep children in their homes through the support of court-appointed attorneys for ancillary legal services and a dedicated social worker; and, WHEREAS, in

Fiscal Year 2023, Van Buren County benefited from this grant, receiving \$25,000 in funds, which significantly contributed to the County's ability to offer these critical services; and, WHEREAS, the continuation of this grant is vital for sustaining the County's efforts to support families and ensure the well-being of children by providing the necessary legal and social work services; and, WHEREAS, it is required to authorize the Board Chair, or an authorized designee, to submit the grant contract to secure the grant funds and continue these important services; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, authorize the Board Chair, or their designee, to submit the Quality Legal Representation Grant contract.

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

D. ****Appointment to the Southwest Michigan Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) - Paul Schincariol**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A45/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass Counties have formed a multicounty Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) under the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC); and,

WHEREAS, the MMPC oversees the creation, administration, and implementation of the Materials Management Plan (MMP), replacing existing Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMPs); and,

WHEREAS, each county appoints an elected official and a business representative to the MMPC, with other representatives recommended by the SWMPC; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a request to appoint Paul Schincariol as the Van Buren County Elected Official to the MMPC for a five-year term, expiring in August 2029; and,

WHEREAS, Paul Schincariol, a County Commissioner for Van Buren County, has extensive experience in public service and the private sector, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Packaging from Michigan State University; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the appointment of Paul Schincariol to the Southwest Michigan Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) as the Van Buren County Elected Official for a term expiring in August 2029.

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

E. ****Appointment to the Southwest Michigan Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) - Bob Baran**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A46/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass Counties have formed a multicounty Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) under the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC); and,

WHEREAS, the MMPC oversees the creation, administration, and implementation of the Materials Management Plan (MMP), replacing existing Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMPs); and,

WHEREAS, the MMPC includes 17 representatives from various sectors including solid waste facilities, haulers, materials recovery facilities, composting facilities, waste diversion entities, environmental groups, elected township and city officials, and businesses generating managed materials; and

WHEREAS, each county appoints an elected official and a business representative for managed material generation to the MMPC, with other representatives recommended by the SWMPC; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a request to appoint Bob Baran as the Van Buren County business representative to the MMPC for a five-year term, expiring in August 2029; and,

WHEREAS, Bob Baran, owner of ChewMax Pet Products, has extensive experience in

business leadership and management, and has been actively involved in civic organizations including the American Legion; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the appointment of Bob Baran to the Southwest Michigan Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) as the Van Buren County business representative for managed material generation for a term expiring in August 2029.

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

F. ****Appointment to the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Bryan Myrkle**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A47/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has an opening for an unexpired three-year term expiring June 1, 2027, traditionally filled by a city or village official; and,
WHEREAS, Bryan Myrkle, Village Manager of Paw Paw, brings over 20 years of experience in local government, including work with City Councils, Planning Commissions, and Downtown Development Authority Boards; and,
WHEREAS, Mr. Myrkle has significant experience in economic and community development, and has held leadership roles in civic and non-profit organizations, including founding the Eaton County Land Bank; and,
WHEREAS, Mr. Myrkle is committed to contributing his expertise to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in Van Buren County; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners appoints Bryan Myrkle to the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three-year term expiring June 1, 2027.

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

9. **Buildings and Grounds**

A. ****Use of County Property - 2024 Grape Lake 5K Race**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION B14/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, Freshwater Community Church will be hosting the 35th Annual Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk on September 7th, 2024, as part of the Wine & Harvest Festival; and,
WHEREAS, the Church has requested permission to use the Community Mental Health (CMH) parking lot located at 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, as a parking area for runners and volunteers, and as the registration point for participants; and,
WHEREAS, the event is scheduled to take place from approximately 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM on September 7th, 2024; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the use of County property at 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, on September 7th, 2024, for the 35th Annual Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk.

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

10. **Finance**

A. ****Claims**

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C8/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$6,375,164.33 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 \$6,375,164.33 for the month of July 2024.

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

B. ****Disposal of County Property**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F41/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has identified two old patrol cars, specifically two Ford Explorers, that have reached the end of their service life and are no longer cost-effective to repair; and,

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office recommends auctioning these vehicles through Biddergy, following the standard procedure for surplus items; and,

WHEREAS, an additional vehicle will be transferred to the Specialty Courts instead of being auctioned; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the auctioning of the two old patrol cars through Biddergy.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

A. ****MDOT Contract 2017-0136 P12 R2**

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T17/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) contract 2017-0136 P12 was extended earlier this year due to delays in receiving the buses; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of bus chassis has increased by \$7,021.00 per bus, leading to higher overall costs; and,

WHEREAS, MDOT has provided an additional \$14,042.00 in State funding to assist with these increased costs; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the second revision of MDOT contract 2017-0136 P12, authorizes the Board Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to digitally sign the contract on the Board's behalf.

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

B. ****MDOT Contract 2017-0136 P14 R2**

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T18/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) contract 2017-0136 P14 R2 was extended earlier this year due to delays in receiving the bus; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of the bus chassis has increased by \$7,021.00, leading to higher overall costs; and,

WHEREAS, MDOT has provided an additional \$7,021.00 in State funding to assist with these increased costs; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the second revision of MDOT contract 2017-0136 P14 R2, authorizes the Board Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to digitally sign the contract on the Board's behalf.

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

C. ****MDOT Contract 2017-0136 P15 R2**

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T19/8-27-2024

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) contract 2017-0136 P15 R2 was extended earlier this year due to delays in receiving the bus; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of the bus chassis has increased by \$7,021.00, leading to higher overall costs; and,
WHEREAS, MDOT has provided an additional \$14,042.00 in State funding to assist with these increased costs; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the second revision of MDOT contract 2017-0136 P15 R2, authorizes the Board Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to digitally sign the contract on the Board's behalf.

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

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Pete Sinclair recognition on Thursday in Hartford
- Farm Bureau
- SWMI Planning Commission
- SWMI Community Action Agency

15. Chairman's Update

- Interviews Thursday for Facilities Master Plan
- Donation of bell for Board Meetings

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 02:35 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk