



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

September 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 02:58 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 Kurt Doroh, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **September 10th, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **MSUE Memorandum of Agreement Renewal FY 2024 - 2025
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A50/9-23-2024
WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is requested to review and approve the annual Memorandum of Agreement between Van Buren County and Michigan State University (MSU) for MSU Extension services to be provided in Van Buren County during FY 2024-2025; and,
WHEREAS, the agreement outlines the financial commitment for services, including a

base assessment of \$69,963, an additional 50% 4-H Educator for \$36,429, and a combined 35% Agronomy Educator and 50% Consumer Horticulture/Veterans Liaison at a cost of \$100,211, bringing the total agreement to \$206,603; and,
WHEREAS, the funding for this agreement was approved in the MSU Extension 2024-2025 County General Fund Budget; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the annual Memorandum of Agreement between Van Buren County and Michigan State University Extension for FY 2024-2025.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. ****Domestic Violence Coalition Services Agreement Renewal FY 2024 - 2025**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A51/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Coalition has requested the renewal of its annual agreement with Van Buren County for the provision of services during FY 2024-2025; and,
WHEREAS, this agreement is renewed annually at the beginning of each fiscal year, with no changes to the terms and conditions of the agreement except for the updated dates reflecting the FY 2024-2025 term; and,
WHEREAS, the amount budgeted for services rendered under this agreement is \$25,000.00, to be paid on November 1, 2024; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the renewal of the Domestic Violence Coalition FY 2024-2025 Annual Agreement.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. ****VBCD Resource Recovery Services Agreement Renewal FY 2024 - 2025**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A52/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) has requested the Board of Commissioners to accept and sign the Resource Recovery Services Agreement for FY 2025, contracting the VBCD to administer resource recovery services at the rate of \$100,000.00, as outlined in the attached agreement; and,
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners previously approved \$100,000.00 for Resource Recovery services and contracted the VBCD to administer these services for FY 2024, with the agreement set to expire on September 30, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, a new agreement has been prepared for FY 2025 to continue the partnership with the VBCD in administering resource recovery services; and,
WHEREAS, the financial impact of this contract is \$100,000.00 for FY 2025, which has been budgeted for this purpose; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the request to contract the Van Buren Conservation District to administer resource recovery services at the rate of \$100,000.00 for FY 2025.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. ****Recovery Zone Services Agreement Renewal FY 2024 - 2025**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A53/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Recovery Zone Services Agreement is an annual agreement that provides for essential services and is renewed at the beginning of each fiscal year; and,
WHEREAS, the FY 2024-2025 renewal agreement contains no substantive changes other than the updated dates for the upcoming fiscal year; and,
WHEREAS, the County has budgeted \$25,160 for services rendered under the Agreement in FY 2024-2025, ensuring the continuation of services within the allocated budget; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the Recovery Zone Services Agreement FY 2024-2025 renewal.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

E. ****Resolution to approve appointments to the Materials Management Planning Commission**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A54/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Southwest Michigan Regional Planning Commission (SWMPC) has made recommendations for appointments to the Materials Management Planning Commission (MMPC) following an open application process and evaluation of applicants based on the criteria required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and,

WHEREAS, the SWMPC has carefully selected the highest-scoring applicants to fill the specific membership slots required, ensuring balanced representation across all participating counties, including Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the required membership includes representatives from various sectors such as the solid waste disposal industry, materials utilization facilities, hauling operators, composting facilities, waste diversion operators, environmental groups, businesses generating managed material, regional planning agencies, and local elected officials; and,

WHEREAS, the recommended appointments include individuals who represent the solid waste disposal industry, hauling operators, composting facility operators, businesses that generate managed materials, and elected officials from Van Buren County and other participating counties, as well as the Pokagon Sovereign Nation; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the appointments to the Materials Management Planning Commission as recommended by the Southwest Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

F. ****Building Authority Re-Appointment - Paul DeYoung**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A55/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Building Authority Board has requested the re-appointment of Paul W. DeYoung for a new three-year term, set to expire on December 31, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, Paul W. DeYoung has been a dedicated Van Buren County resident since 1993, and has served as the County's Register of Deeds since 2012, bringing extensive leadership experience in key county committees; and,

WHEREAS, his professional background in business and construction distribution, combined with his experience as an elected official, makes him well-qualified for continued service on the Building Authority Board; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the re-appointment of Paul W. DeYoung to the Van Buren County Building Authority Board for a three-year term set to expire on December 31, 2027.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A56/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has submitted a request for an employee to attend the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) in Hoover, Alabama, from October 27, 2024, through November 1, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI), hosted by the U.S. Secret Service, offers specialized training to law enforcement officers in computer forensics and cybercrime investigations, focusing on digital currency fraud, which continues to be a

growing concern; and,
WHEREAS, the knowledge and skills acquired at this training will enhance the Sheriff's Office's ability to investigate fraud complaints, particularly those involving digital currency, benefiting the department and the wider Van Buren County community; and,
WHEREAS, there will be no financial impact on Van Buren County, as the U.S. Secret Service will cover all associated costs, including travel, lodging, and a per diem for the employee attending the training; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the out-of-state travel request for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office employee to attend the National Computer Forensics Institute in Hoover, Alabama, from October 27, 2024, to November 1, 2024.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **Request to Use County Property - Pray for the Nation

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B15/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, Pastor Steven Green of Truth Church has submitted a request to use Van Buren County Park in Paw Paw, MI, for a community prayer event titled "Pray for the Nation," scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd, 2024, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM; and,
WHEREAS, the event will bring together congregations from across Van Buren County for a time of prayer and reflection dedicated to the nation, with the goal of fostering unity within the community; and,
WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to adhere to the County's standard terms and conditions for the use of the park, including the restoration of the property to its original condition following the event; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the request from Pastor Steven Green of Truth Church to use Van Buren County Park for the "Pray for the Nation" event on Sunday, November 3rd, 2024, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **Termination Agreement - Whelan & Co/Acrisure

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B16/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren County purchased the building located at 315 S. Kalamazoo St in Paw Paw (Whelan Building) in 2022; and,
WHEREAS, the County subsequently entered into two concurrent leases with Whelan & Co and Acrisure, both set to expire on April 30, 2025, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the lease terms; and,
WHEREAS, a request has been made to terminate the leases with Whelan & Co and Acrisure effective October 1, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, the annual lease is valued at \$31,250, with monthly rent set at \$2,604, and terminating the leases early will result in the loss of 7 months of rental income, totaling \$18,229; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the lease termination agreement with Whelan & Co/Acrisure.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C9/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$3,875,671.69 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 \$3,875,671.69 for the month of August 2024.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **County Child Care Fund Budget Summary FY25

FINANCE RESOLUTION F47/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has approved the Van Buren County Child Care Fund Annual Plan and Budget for FY25; and,
WHEREAS, the approved plan includes reimbursement rates of 50% for detention and residential services, and 75% for all other programming, including the entire juvenile probation department; and,
WHEREAS, the Child Care Fund plan reflects significant changes related to juvenile justice reform, with financial support from the State to assist the County in complying with the new requirements; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed Child Care Fund Annual Plan and Budget has been reviewed in depth with the Finance Director, and is fully reflected in the County's FY25 budget; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the authorization for the Board Chair to sign the FY25 Child Care Fund Annual Plan and Budget form.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. FY2024 USDA Housing Preservation Grant EXPEDITED

FINANCE RESOLUTION F48/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the County of Van Buren has applied for and been selected to receive a FY2024 USDA Housing Preservation Grant in the amount of \$105,701 to finance the repair and rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes within rural Van Buren County; and,
WHEREAS, the grant will support low- and very low-income homeowners in the county with necessary home repairs and rehabilitation, improving the quality of life for residents and strengthening the community as a whole; and,
WHEREAS, the USDA grant term is for one year, and the funds will enable the renovation of approximately 10 homes, contingent upon securing a \$389,626 matching fund request from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) through the MI Neighborhoods program; and,
WHEREAS, the initial grant request was for \$317,000 over two years, aiming to renovate 18 homes with staff support, but the reduced funding will allow for completion of fewer homes unless additional matching funds are secured; and,
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Community Services Department is actively pursuing the additional funding from MSHDA through the MI Neighborhoods Grant in the amount of \$389,626 to enhance the renovation budget and build administrative capacity for further housing projects; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the acceptance of the FY2024 USDA Housing Preservation Grant in the amount of \$105,701 the submission of the MI Neighborhoods MSHDA Grant application in the amount of \$389,626 and authorizes the County Board of Commission Chairperson to sign the grant contract documents.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

A. ****MDOT Contract 2022-0144 P7**

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T20/9-23-2024

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) provides State and Federal funding assistance for the purchase of replacement buses; and,
WHEREAS, MDOT Contract 2022-0144 P7 offers financial support for the procurement of a replacement bus, which is critical to maintaining and improving the County's public transportation services; and,
WHEREAS, the approval of this contract will ensure continued access to reliable and efficient transportation for the community, promoting sustainability and meeting the needs of County residents; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the MDOT contract 2022-0144 P7 for the funding of a replacement bus, and authorization of the Board Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to digitally sign the contract on behalf of the Board for final approval.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Village of Mattawan mural
- SW Michigan Behavioral Health service award given to Commissioner Godfrey
- Bird Flu-farm workers
- SW Michigan Action Agency
- Van Buren County Museum
- Municipalities

15. Chairman's Update

16. Board Correspondence

A. Crawford County

17. Closed Session

A. **Closed Session to Discuss Attorney Client Privileged Correspondence Regarding Litigation NCG v VBC**

Motion to enter into closed session under MCL 15.268E regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation with New Covert Generating that would have a detrimental effect if it were held in open session.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
Roll Call Vote: All Yes

Board went into closed session at 3:09 p.m.

Board returned from closed session at 3:30 p.m.

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 03:32 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk