



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

October 8, 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 01:00 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board. Present: Patterson-Gladney, Chappell, Doroh, Godfrey, Peat, and Leary. Commissioner Schincariol absent and excused.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **September 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
 - David Hagen - Van Buren County Stand Down
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **Van Buren County Housing Target Market Analysis - Sharon Woods LandUseUSA**
Lisa Ransler and Sharon Woods of LandUseUSA, presented the findings of the Van Buren County Housing Target Market Analysis.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Road Commission Re-Appointment - Nelson, W.**
The Road Commission is requesting the reappointment of Wayne Nelson for a six-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Wayne Nelson to the Van Buren County Road Commission for a six-year term expiring December 31, 2030.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

B. Road Commission Re-Appointment - Askew, W.

The Road Commission is requesting the reappointment of W.C. Askew, Sr. for a six-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of W.C. Askew, Sr. to the Van Buren County Road Commission for a six-year term expiring December 31, 2030.

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

C. Digital Information Department - AI Steering Committee

Jerry Happel is requesting the formation of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Steering Committee to address policy issues and multiple other items. A list of potential members to the committee was discussed. This item will be heard further at the next COW meeting.

D. Van Buren Youth Initiative \$12,000 Grant Award from the Michigan Arts and Cultural Council (MACC)

Lisa Ransler announced that the Van Buren Youth Initiative has received a \$12,000 grant award from the Michigan Arts and Cultural Council.

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Facilities Master Plan - Request for Proposals

Three firms that responded to the Facilities Master Plan Request for Proposals were previously interviewed and discussions have followed. Staff will be directed to negotiate an agreement with the selected provider.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, to select Tower Pinkster as the firm to negotiate an agreement with to prepare the Facilities Master Plan for Van Buren County.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

B. 2024 - 2025 Snow Removal Bids

John Small reviewed the snow plow bids that were received for the 2024-25 snow season. He presented his recommendation with a total cost of \$63,150.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the recommended snow plow bid awards as presented for a cost of \$63,150 for the 2024-25 snow season.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

9. Finance

A. Commissioner Per Diems

Commissioner pre diems were reviewed.

Motion to approve Commissioner per diems with noted adjustments.

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

B. Claims

Claims were presented and reviewed.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the payment of claims in the amount of \$8,117,379.45.

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

C. Budget Adjustments

Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly budgets adjustments.

Motion to approve the monthly budget adjustments required to maintain funds as presented.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. Monthly Financial Statement

Becky Grabemeyer presented the Monthly Financial Statement.

Motion to accept the Monthly Financial Statement as presented.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

E. Equalization - 2024 Apportionment Report

The Van Buren County Apportionment Report 2024 was presented and must be approved in October.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Van Buren County Apportionment Report 2024.

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

F. 2024 Drain and Lake Level Assessments

Joe Parman presented the 2024 Drain and Lake Level Assessments to be spread on the various tax rolls in Van Buren County for approval.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2024 Drain and Lake Level Assessments for Van Buren County.

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

G. Specialty Court Grants – Accept & Sign Contracts

Rachel Lindley presented the request for approval to accept and sign the FY24-25 grant contracts awarded to the Specialty Court programs. There are nine grants totaling \$4,720,721.00.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the acceptance of the FY24-25 Specialty Court grant contracts and authorize the board chair to sign all required documents.

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

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. County Administrator - Contract Extension

Discussion on the request for extension of Administrator Faul's contract.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the contract extension request for County Administrator John Faul.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

A. Bi-Monthly Update

David Krzycki presented the bi-monthly Veterans Services update and introduced new employee Jayna Miller.

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:40 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk