



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

November 12, 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 02:54 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, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Commissioner Mike Chappell absent and excused.
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 Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **October 22, 2024 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes
Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Sheriff's Office - Lease Agreement Waverly Township
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A66/11-12-2024
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has requested approval to lease space from Waverly Township to park vehicles, which will enhance accessibility for Road Patrol Deputies; and,
WHEREAS, the lease will also provide access to a conference area that can be used for briefings, further supporting the operational needs of the Sheriff's Office; and,
WHEREAS, the financial impact of this agreement is minimal, as the lease is for \$1 per

year over a five-year term, resulting in a total expenditure of \$5 for the lease duration; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the lease agreement between the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and Waverly Township.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. ****Digital Information Department - AI Steering Committee**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A67/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, at the recent Committee of the Whole meeting, the Digital Information Department presented an update on AI activities and recommended that the Board of Commissioners consider the formation of an ad hoc Artificial Intelligence (AI) Steering Committee to support the County's AI initiatives; and,
WHEREAS, the purpose of the AI Steering Committee will be to guide and oversee the County's AI strategy, policies, and implementation, ensuring responsible and effective use of AI technologies within County operations; and,
WHEREAS, the Committee will be staffed by the Digital Information Department and include the following members: 3 Board members, the IT Director, the Community Services Director, the Veteran Services Director, the Human Resources Director, a Court Representative, a Sheriff's Office Representative, and an additional representative from other elected offices; and,
WHEREAS, the AI Steering Committee will meet monthly at 11:00 AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month, prior to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meetings, to discuss AI-related developments and provide strategic direction; and, NOW,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the formation of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Steering Committee, with its first meeting to take place on November 26, 2024.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. ****VBCBRA \$500,000 EPA Grant Application**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A68/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (VBCBRA) is seeking approval to apply for a \$500,000 community-wide Brownfield Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the support of the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE); and,
WHEREAS, this grant would allow the VBCBRA to conduct environmental investigations and promote economic development at various brownfield sites throughout Van Buren County, thereby fostering environmental cleanup and revitalization; and,
WHEREAS, the VBCBRA has previously managed a \$400,000 EPA grant that expired in 2021, and is preparing this new application with assistance from consulting firm Fishbeck, with a submission deadline of November 14, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, if awarded, the grant will cover 100% of the eligible costs associated with environmental remediation, with administrative expenses to be funded through the VBCBRA Fund (Fund 243), and no impact to the County's General Fund; and,
WHEREAS, if the grant is not awarded, there will be no financial obligation or material costs incurred by the County; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, authorize the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (VBCBRA) to apply for the \$500,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant, and further authorize the Board of Commissioners Chairperson to sign the necessary grant application documents.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. ****Amendments to the Van Buren County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance (2C)**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A69/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board has recommended amendments to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance to align with state law, streamline local participation, enhance oversight of conservation easements, and improve coordination with local units of government; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments and subsequently made a formal recommendation for approval of these amendments to the Board of Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the key updates to the ordinance include the following:

- Updated Legislative References: The ordinance has been revised to ensure alignment with current state laws, particularly the State's Planning Enabling Act (Act 33), maintaining legal compliance and ensuring eligibility for state programs; and,
- Clearer Processes: Local units seeking to add or amend land preservation elements must now notify the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board for compliance verification, with final updates provided in writing to both the Land Preservation Board and the Planning Commission to improve coordination; and,
- Stronger Oversight: The VBC Land Preservation Board is now required to review, approve, and issue written findings on annual monitoring reports for each property, providing these findings to local units to maintain consistent oversight across all preserved lands; and,

WHEREAS, these amendments aim to strengthen legal compliance, improve procedural clarity, and support the long-term stewardship of farmland and open spaces in Van Buren County; and,

WHEREAS, there is no immediate financial impact from these updates, but the alignment with state law may enhance the County's eligibility for state funding and facilitate the purchase of additional development rights; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the proposed amendments to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance as recommended by the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board and the Van Buren County Planning Commission.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

9. **Buildings and Grounds**

A. ****Disposal of Vehicles - Buildings and Grounds**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION B19/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Buildings and Grounds Department has requested the disposal and auction of two vehicles that are no longer required for County operations; and,

WHEREAS, the vehicles identified for disposal are as follows:

- 2009 Ford F-150, VIN: 1FTRX14W99FA49098, to be auctioned through Biddergy Auction; and,
- 2009 Chevy 1500, VIN: 1GCEK19059Z175569, to be disposed of through L&L Disposal; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed auction and disposal of these vehicles will allow for the removal of outdated assets and support efficient fleet management within the Buildings and Grounds Department; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the disposal and auction of the two Buildings and Grounds vehicles as detailed above.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

10. Finance

A. **Michigan State Police - 2024 Emergency Management Grant Agreement

FINANCE RESOLUTION F58/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Michigan State Police, has allocated the 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds to assist local governments in preparing for all hazards and improving emergency management capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the 2024 EMPG grant allocation to Van Buren County is \$11,702.00, which represents 11.417% of the salary and fringe benefits of the County's Emergency Program Manager (Coordinator); and,

WHEREAS, the acceptance of this grant will assist the County in meeting the financial obligations related to the Emergency Management Program while enhancing the County's ability to respond to emergencies and disasters; and,

WHEREAS, it is required that the Board Chair, as the Chief Elected Official, sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Board of Commissioners; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the acceptance of the 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$11,702.00 and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the grant agreement.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. **911 - ProQA - Emergency Police Dispatch (EPD) Software

FINANCE RESOLUTION F59/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Emergency Police Dispatch (EPD) software from Priority Dispatch Corp. was originally purchased in 2019 for use by Van Buren County 911 staff, but was discontinued in 2022 due to software rigidity; and,

WHEREAS, Priority Dispatch Corp. has completed a significant overhaul of the EPD module in 2024, providing greater flexibility, local control, and a more user-friendly interface, aligning the software with industry standards for police dispatch; and,

WHEREAS, Van Buren County currently utilizes the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) software from Priority Dispatch Corp., and the addition of the updated EPD module will ensure consistent protocols across all emergency disciplines, reducing liability risks and improving training efficiency for personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of re-implementing the EPD software and training for existing 911 staff is \$21,668.00, with an annual maintenance fee of \$16,800.00 for all three modules (EMD, EFD, EPD) from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, budget adjustments will need to be completed and funds allocated from GL#261.0-325.00-801.015 (Maintenance Contract Services); and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the purchase and re-implementation of the Emergency Police Dispatch (EPD) software and training from Priority Dispatch Corp. at a cost of \$21,668.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the annual maintenance cost of \$16,800.00 for all three modules (EMD, EFD, EPD) from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, is approved, with the necessary budget adjustments to be made accordingly.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. **911 - RapisoS Modules

FINANCE RESOLUTION F60/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Central Dispatch (VBCCD) currently uses the free

RapidSoS call delivery service, and seeks to enhance its 911 capabilities by purchasing three upgraded modules from the RapidSoS Unite platform: Alarm Call Automation, Communicator, and GIS Incident Mapping; and,
WHEREAS, these modules will improve efficiency in alarm call processing, enhance text and video communication with real-time translation, and provide redundancy for GIS mapping, all critical to 911 operations; and,
WHEREAS, the total cost of the five-year agreement is \$165,975.00, with the first year at \$36,495.00 and subsequent years at \$32,370.00, requiring budget adjustments from GL# 261.00-325.00-801.015 (Maintenance Contract Services); and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the purchase of the three RapidSoS modules – Alarm Call Automation, Communicator, and GIS Incident Mapping – at a total cost of \$165,975.00 over five years, and authorizes the 911 Director to execute the necessary purchase orders with RapidSoS.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. ****Allegan County Juvenile Center Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F61/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Juvenile Center has been a reliable partner in providing essential services for the juvenile justice needs of Van Buren County youth, including stabilization, safety, monitoring, education, and medication management; and,
WHEREAS, the Allegan County Juvenile Center promptly responds to emergency lodging requests, ensuring the safety of the community and the well-being of the youth; and,
WHEREAS, the financial impact of lodging youth at the Center is variable, based on the number of days of care. In FY24, the cost was \$163,148.74 for a total of 1,025 days of care, with 50% of the expenses reimbursed through the Child Care Fund; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continued use of the Allegan County Juvenile Center for lodging youth and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

E. ****Court Appointed Special Advocate Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F62/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is a nationally recognized initiative that provides a voice for children involved in the child protective system, and is actively being developed in Van Buren County by Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center (CAC); and,
WHEREAS, Safe Harbor CAC is recruiting and training volunteers to establish a strong CASA program in Van Buren County, with funds being expended once two volunteers are available to accept cases; and,
WHEREAS, the contracted amount for the CASA program is \$80,000, which will support the ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and advocacy of children in the child protective system; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continued partnership with Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center for CASA services and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

F. ****YouthCenter Software FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F63/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, the YouthCenter software, produced by BizStream, is a case management system that supports Van Buren County in tracking data for diversion and delinquency

cases, with six years of county data already stored in the system; and,
WHEREAS, YouthCenter integrates with state-required Juvenile Justice Reform (JJR) assessments, allowing for efficient data input and reporting, and BizStream has been an active and responsive vendor involved in juvenile justice reform; and,
WHEREAS, the contract for the continued use of the YouthCenter software for one year is \$15,300.00; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continued use of the YouthCenter case management system and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

G. ****MST Associates Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F64/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, MST Associates provides support and training for the Multisystemic Therapy (MST) program, an intensive in-home, evidence-based therapy offered by Van Buren County Mental Health (VBCMh) to assist youth and families in the county; and,
WHEREAS, the MST program has proven to be effective in addressing the complex needs of youth through family-centered interventions, helping to reduce delinquency and improve outcomes; and,
WHEREAS, the contract with MST Associates for program support and training is \$52,000.00; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continued agreement with MST Associates for MST program support and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

H. ****Petersen Research Consultants Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F65/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren County is required by Child Care Fund requirements to employ a quality assurance specialist to assist in implementing research-based practices related to juvenile justice reform; and,
WHEREAS, Dr. Jodi Petersen of Petersen Research Consultants has been a valued partner in juvenile justice reform efforts, with a long-standing relationship with the County and extensive involvement in the Juvenile Justice Reform (JJR) initiative since its inception; and,
WHEREAS, the contract with Petersen Research Consultants for quality assurance services is in the amount of \$19,150.00; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the contract with Petersen Research Consultants and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

I. ****VBCMh Parent Navigator Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F66/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Mental Health (VBCMh) employs a parent navigator, Ms. Hodder, who has extensive knowledge of the child protective system and community resources, serving as a crucial bridge for clients and supporting families in need; and,
WHEREAS, the parent navigator provides innovative support that often allows children to remain in their homes before cases proceed to court and has been instrumental in resolving long-standing, complex cases where parents have lost trust in the system; and,
WHEREAS, the contract for parent navigator services is in the amount of \$97,000.00, reflecting the invaluable support provided to families in Van Buren County; and,

WHEREAS, the AI Steering Committee will meet monthly at 11:00 AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month, prior to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meetings, to discuss AI-related developments and provide strategic direction; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continued partnership with VBCMh for parent navigator services and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

J. ****VBCMh MST/MST-PSB Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F67/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Mental Health (VBCMh) provides the New Outlook wraparound program, which offers comprehensive support services to youth and their families in crisis, with services decreasing as stabilization occurs and transitioning to other community resources; and,

WHEREAS, New Outlook staff assist clients with life and parenting skills, transportation to appointments, medication reviews, and maintain frequent contact with juvenile court diversion and probation officers to support positive outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the contract for the continued partnership with VBCMh for the New Outlook wraparound program is in the amount of \$126,500.00; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the continued partnership with VBCMh for the New Outlook wraparound program and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

K. ****VBCMh New Outlook Contract FY25**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F68/11-12-2024

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Mental Health (VBCMh) provides the New Outlook wraparound program, which offers comprehensive support services to youth and their families in crisis, with services decreasing as stabilization occurs and transitioning to other community resources; and,

WHEREAS, New Outlook staff assist clients with life and parenting skills, transportation to appointments, medication reviews, and maintain frequent contact with juvenile court diversion and probation officers to support positive outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the contract for the continued partnership with VBCMh for the New Outlook wraparound program is in the amount of \$126,500.00; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the continued partnership with VBCMh for the New Outlook wraparound program and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Richard Godfrey, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Hope Center at Hartford location will be closing
- Trees for Troops is December 2nd at 10 a.m.

- News article on Josh Gunneson, Primal Outfitters
- South Haven Chamber Leadership Program
- Veterans Day ceremonies

15. Chairman's Update

- Commissioner laptop inventory/replacement

16. Board Correspondence

A. Livingston County - 2024-09-128

B. Livingston County - 2024-10-150

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Richard Godfrey, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 03:18 AM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk