MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

Commissioners
Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Mike Chappell, District 2
Kurt Doroh, District 3
David DiStefano, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Tina Leary, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7

January 14, 2025

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, DiStefano, Peat, Leary. Commissioner Schincariol arrived at 2 p.m. due to inclement weather.
2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
   Delete the following items as Zoom was unavailable due to technical difficulties:
   Item 6.A., Item 11.A. to 11.D.
3. Approval of Agenda
   Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
   Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
4. Approval of Minutes

   A. December 10th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
      Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
      Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
      Commissioner DiStefano abstained.
5. Public Comment

6. Presentation

   A. ARPA - Broadband: Update & Mercury RDOF Default, Lawrence Twp
      This item was removed from the agenda.
7. Administrative Affairs

   A. North Lake Drain Petition Project - Full Faith & Credit
      Drain Commissioner Joe Parman is requesting a resolution for Full Faith and Credit of the County for the North Lake Drain Petition Project in the amount of $692,681.02.

      Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Full Faith and Credit of the County Resolution in the amount of $392,681.02 for the North Lake Drain Petition Project.
      Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

B. Appointments - Michigan Materials Management Planning Commission (MMPC)

Lisa Ransler presented the request to appoint Donovan Kelley and Kimberly Haneberg to the Materials Managements Planning Committee to fill vacant positions.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Donovan Kelley and Kimberly Haneberg the the Materials Management Planning Committee.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. Joint Legal Engagement Agreement - New Covert Generating Litigation EXPEDITED

Administrator Faul presented the expedited request for a joint legal engagement letter with Covert Township to engage in the services of Foster Swift regarding New Covert Generating litigation.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Joint Legal Engagement Agreement with Covert Township for New Covert Generating litigation.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

D. Appointment - Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Oversight Policy Board (OPD) EXPEDITED

Administrator Faul presented the expedited request to appoint Richard Godfrey to the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board for a two-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Richard Godfrey to the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2027.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Request to use County Property - 2025 Paw Paw Recycle Roundup Event

The Van Buren Conservation District is requesting to use county property on Hazen Street for the Paw Paw Recycle Roundup Event on June 7, 2025 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of county property for the Paw Paw Recycle Roundup Event on June 7, 2025 from 9 AM to 2 PM.
Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

9. Finance

A. Per Diems

Commissioner per diems were reviewed.

Motion to approve per diems for payment as submitted.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

B. Claims

Becky Grabemeyer presented claims for review.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the payment of claims in the amount of $3,294,741.11.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

C. Budget Adjustments

Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly budged adjustments.

Motion to approve the budget adjustments as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, 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 Kurt Doroh, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

E. Budget Stabilization Transfer

Becky Grabemeyer presented the request to transfer $715,000 from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund. The Budget Stabilization Fund shall have a minimum of 5% of the General Fund expenditures and not more than 20% of the most recent General Fund Budget or the average of the last five adjusted budgets, whichever is less. After the transfer, the fund balance would be at approximately 7.5% of the General Fund five-year average.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the transfer of $715,000 from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
Roll Call Vote
Yes: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Randall Peat, Tina Leary

F. Out of State Travel Request - Finance

Becky Grabemeyer is requesting approval for out of state travel for the Finance Director and Finance Operations Manager to attend the Annual Government Finance Officers Association Conference in Washington, DC on June 28-July 2, 2025.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the out of state travel request for the Finance Director and Finance Operations Manager to the GFOA Conference in Washington, DC on June 28-July 2, 2025.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

G. Purchase of Patrol Car

Captain Jim Charon is requesting approval to purchase a patrol car from Tapper Ford in the amount of $45,408.96 as part of the established replacement plan.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the purchase of a patrol car from Tapper Ford in the amount of $45,408.96.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

H. Disposal of County Property through Biddergy

Captain Jim Charon is requesting authorization to dispose of four old patrol cars through Biddergy.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the disposal of four patrol cars through Biddergy.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

I. Applied Innovation Invoice EXPEDITED

Veronica Stillson presented the expedited request for payment of invoice P101338 from Applied Innovation in the amount of $58,467.08. The invoice is for the renewal of the OnBase licensing.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the payment of invoice P101338 from Applied Innovation in the amount of $58,467.08 for OnBase license renewal.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

J. Purchase of FOC Deputy Vehicle

Veronica Stillson presented the request to purchase a new FOC vehicle from Tapper Ford in the amount of $51,651.00. The request was included in the 2025/26 CIP however there is a car available now and the wait time when ordering can be up to a year.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the purchase of a new FOC vehicle from Tapper Ford in the amount of $51,651.00.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

K. Restated Grant Agreement: Michigan Strategic Fund and Van Buren County for Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program EXPEDITED

Administrator Faul presented the expedited request to approve the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and Van Buren County for the Michigan CDBG Program.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and Van Buren County for the Michigan CDBG Program.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

L. Foster Swift and Knotek - Legal Costs New Covert Generating

The Foster Swift November invoice in the amount of $6,547.50 and the Knotek annual invoice in the amount of $4,450.00 for New Covert Generating litigation was submitted for review.

Motion to authorize payment of the Foster Swift invoice in the amount of $6,547.50 and Knotek invoice in the amount of $4,450.00.
Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Specialty Court Consultant Contract EXPEDITED

Natalie Dean presented the expedited request to approve a consulting/training contract with Rachel Lindley full time from January 27, 2025 to February 23, 2025 and then a maximum of 15 hours per week from February 24, 2025 to April 30, 2025. This will allow time to train the new Specialty Court Administrator.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the consulting/training contract with Rachel Lindley.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) Van Buren County Patrol Deputies Unit Letter of Understanding - Courthouse Security EXPEDITED

Sheriff Abbott is requesting expedited approval of a Letter of Understanding with the POLC Deputies unit that adds the full time lead Security Officer to the bargaining unit. This was previously a non-union position.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, a Letter of Understanding with the POLC Deputies unit to add the lead Security Officer to the bargaining unit.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

C. Salary Exception - Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender EXPEDITED

Karla Tankut is requesting expedited approval for a salary exception for the Assistant Public Defender position, due to qualifications and experience, to R34 D2 step.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the salary exception for the Assistant Public Defender position to R34 D2.

11. Public Transit

A. Director's Report

This item was removed from the agenda.

B. Annual Application Information for MDOT

This item was removed from the agenda.

C. Financial Reports

This item was removed from the agenda.

D. Operations Report

This item was removed from the agenda.

12. Veterans Services

13. Public Comment

Kalli Marshall - Conservation District Tree Sale March 31st order deadline

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:09 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk