



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

February 25, 2025

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

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 Chief Deputy Clerk Beth Saidla with the following commissioners answering to their name and district: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Kurt Doroh, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Commissioners Chappell and DiStefano absent and excused.
4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Hear Item 17.A. after Item 5.
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 amended.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****February 11th, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Use of County Property - 2025 Community Events**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A9/2-25-2025
WHEREAS, the 2025 Wine & Harvest Festival, an annual event attracting over 60,000 attendees, requires the use of County-owned properties for various activities, including the Arts and Crafts Show (September 5-7), the Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk (September 6), and the Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bike Tour (September 7); and,
WHEREAS, the Lakeshore Harvest Ride, a community fundraising bike event, requests the use of the South Haven Courthouse parking lot for overflow parking on September 13,

2025; and,
WHEREAS, all event organizers have confirmed they will provide a certificate of insurance if requested; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the use of County property as outlined above.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

B. ****Animal Control Facility - Emergency Floor Replacement**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A10/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, a recent State inspection has mandated the replacement of the kennel floors at the Animal Control Facility to ensure compliance and continued operation; and,
WHEREAS, the necessary emergency floor replacement is estimated to cost \$36,080; and,
WHEREAS, funding for this project will be allocated from the Capital Improvements Fund; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the emergency floor replacement at the Animal Control Facility.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. ****Claims**

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C2/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$4,001,142.93 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 \$4,001,142.93 for the month of January 2025.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

B. ****2025 Annual Borrowing Resolution**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F8/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, the County Treasurer is responsible for reimbursing all taxing authorities for delinquent real property taxes as of March 1, 2025, through the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF); and,
WHEREAS, the current balance of the DTRF is insufficient to cover anticipated delinquent taxes owed to taxing authorities, requiring additional funding; and,
WHEREAS, to ensure adequate cash flow, the County must issue General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 2025, and borrow up to \$7.5 million; and,
WHEREAS, the total collection of 2024 delinquent real property taxes will be pledged to repay the note, with outstanding Delinquent Tax Anticipation Notes (DTANs) from previous years maturing in 2025 and 2026; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, authorizes the County Treasurer to borrow up to \$7.5 million for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to ensure timely reimbursement to taxing authorities.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

C. ****Used Vehicle Purchase Authorization for VBCSO ODP/EM**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F9/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Office of Domestic Preparedness/Emergency

Management requires a vehicle to support operations related to the Palisades restart process; and,
WHEREAS, the County has an existing contract with Holtec, which includes funding for the purchase of a vehicle and additional temporary staffing to assist with emergency preparedness efforts; and,
WHEREAS, the purchase of a used 2022 Ford Explorer for \$33,995 from Betten Ford in Grand Rapids aligns with the terms of the Holtec contract and enhances the department's emergency response capabilities; and,
WHEREAS, funding for this purchase is available through the Holtec contract, ensuring no financial impact on the County's general fund; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the purchase of a used 2022 Ford Explorer for the Office of Domestic Preparedness/Emergency Management, as outlined in the Holtec contract.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

D. ****VBC Jail Inmate Phone Proposal**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F10/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office currently contracts with Securus for inmate phone services and has received proposals from both Securus and Combined Public Communications (CPC) for continued service; and,
WHEREAS, effective September 2025, Securus will eliminate all commissions and charge the County \$1,944 annually for phone services, while CPC will maintain commissions; and,
WHEREAS, Securus proposes phone rates of 21 to 9 cents per minute with no commissions, video visitation rates of 40 to 14 cents per minute with no commissions, and tablet-related commissions remaining at 20%, while also upgrading tablet inventory and charging units at no cost; and,
WHEREAS, CPC proposes a prepaid calling rate of 20 cents per minute with an 85% commission, remote video visitation at 20 cents per minute with a 20% commission, and emails at 50 cents per email with a 20% commission; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the selection of Combined Public Communications (CPC) as the new inmate phone service provider.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

11. **Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts**

A. **PTO Policy Update - EXPEDITED**

LABOR RESOLUTION L5/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) takes effect on February 21, 2025, requiring policy updates to ensure compliance; and,
WHEREAS, Van Buren County's current PTO structure meets ESTA's accrual requirements, but updates are needed for proper tracking and administration; and,
WHEREAS, these changes apply only to non-union employees, as union employees remain subject to collective bargaining agreements; and,
WHEREAS, adopting the updated PTO policy (VBC.05.0002) and eliminating policy (VBC.05.0003) ensures compliance with ESTA and maintains clarity in administration; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the adoption of PTO policy (VBC.05.0002) and the elimination of policy (VBC.05.0003).

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

B. **Building Closures Policy Update - EXPEDITED**

LABOR RESOLUTION L6/2-25-2025

WHEREAS, the County's Building Closures Policy provides compensation to employees when County offices close due to severe weather or emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, concerns have arisen regarding employees voluntarily working outside scheduled hours during closures and expecting additional compensation, contrary to the policy's intent; and,

WHEREAS, the updated policy clarifies that employees who voluntarily work during closures or delays will not receive additional compensation beyond their scheduled hours while ensuring that 24/7 departments, such as the Sheriff's Office, remain exempt; and,

WHEREAS, the policy designates Administration, including the County Administrator, Finance Director, and HR Director, as responsible for policy interpretation and review; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the updated Building Closures Policy to ensure consistency, fairness, and transparency in handling closures and delays.

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

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Luc's Light Fundraiser
- Antwerp Township
- AI Meeting
- MAC
- Human Services
- State Level Board Meeting
- SMWBA

15. Chairman's Update

- AI Program

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

A. Closed Session: Turner Settlement

This item was heard out of order.

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with legal counsel regarding settlement strategy on pending litigation.

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

Roll Call Vote: All Yes

Board went into closed session at 2:19 pm

Board returned to open session at 2:29 pm

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement as recommended by legal counsel.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

18. Public Comment

- Jeff Roe

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 02:50 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Beth Saidla, Chief Deputy Clerk