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

March 11, 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 and Schincariol.

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Approval of Agenda

   Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
   Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

   A. February 25th, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

   Motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
   Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

Yes:	Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol
No:	None
Abstain:	David DiStefano

5. Public Comment

   - Natalie Dean announced she will be leaving her position and introduced Ryan Smith as the new Circuit Court Administrator.

6. Presentation

   A. 2023 - 2024 Audit Presentation

   The 2023-2024 audit presentation was given by Aaron Stevens, CPA. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified. Becky Grabemeyer provided comparison information from previous audits.

7. Administrative Affairs

   A. Proclamation of Appreciation - Pastor Buck

There is a request for a Proclamation of Appreciation for Pastor E.T. Buck in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the proclamation for Pastor E.T. Buck in celebration of his 100th birthday.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Resolution of Support for Michigan House Bills 4124-4129 - Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Administrator Faul presented the request to adopt a resolution in support of Michigan House Bill 4124-4129 to promote the development of the next generation nuclear technologies, including small modal reactors. The bills focus on educational grants, workforce development and clean energy initiatives with nuclear power.

Motion to approve by Kurt Doroh, Second By Gail Patterson-Gladney, Discussion
Motion withdrawn

This item will be moved to the next Committee of the Whole meeting to allow further opportunity for Commissioners to review the House Bills.

C. Resolution of Support for Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) Application for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Funding

Administrator Faul presented the request for a letter of support for Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) for their Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) application. MEC's successful application for this money will fill the gap created by the Mercury default of RDOF funds.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the letter of support for MEC for their BEAD application.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

D. Medical Examiner Services Agreement Renewal

Administrator Faul presented the request for a 4-year renewal contract with WMed for Medical Examiner services. The fixed costs and autopsy costs are increased 3% from last year.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 4-year renewal contract with WMed for Medical Examiner services in the amount of $90,290 for fixed costs and $2,840 per autopsy.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

E. Reappointments to Van Buren Community Mental Health Authority (VBCMHA) Board - Coles, Tapper, & Toth

Debbie Hess is requesting the reappointment of Thomas Coles, Christopher Tapper and Mike Toth to the Van Buren Community Health Authority Board for a three-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Thomas Coles, Christopher Tapper and Mike Toth to the Van Buren Community Health Authority Board for a term expiring March 31, 2028.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

F. Re-appointments to the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board

Lisa Ransler presented the request for reappointments to the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board with staggered terms of office.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointments to the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board to establish staggered terms.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

G. Adoption of the Southwest Michigan Materials Management Work Program and Authorization to Apply for EGLE Grant Funding

Lisa Ransler presented the request to adopt and authorize the implementation of the SW Michigan Materials Management Work Program, approve the grant application and grant administration.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, SW Michigan Material Management Work Program, application for EGLE grant and grant administration.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

H. Van Buren Conservation District Materials Management Planning Contract

Lisa Ransler presented the request to contract in the amount of $20,000 with the Van Buren County Conservation District for grant administration and implementation of the 2025 EGLE Materials Management Planning Grant. The contract amount will be fully funded by the grant.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the contract with the Van Buren County Conservation District in the amount of $20,000 for grant administration and implementation of of the 2025 EGLE Materials Management Planning Grant.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

I. Appointment to the Materials Management Planning Committee

Lisa Ransler presented the request to appoint Sheila Bergen, HSA Coordinator at Hyrdro Aluminum, to the Materials Management Planning Committee due to a vacancy.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Sheila Bergen to the Materials Management Planning Committee to fill a vacancy.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

J. Letter of Support for Van Buren Conservation District’s Proposal to the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program

Lisa Ransler and Kalli Marshall presented the request for a Letter of Support for the Van Buren County Conservation District's application to the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, a Letter of Support for the Conservation District's application to the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

K. Artificial Intelligence - Usage Policy

DID Director Jerry Happel presented the request for approval of the Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy. The Policy builds on the existing IT Policies and adds additional language where necessary to govern the adoption and use of AI in the County.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Artificial Intelligency Usage Policy.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

L. Artificial Intelligence - Intergovernmental Agreement St. Joseph County

DID Director Jerry Happel presented the request to approve the development of a shared Digital Information Department between Van Buren and St. Joseph Counties. The creation of a Digital Communications Coordinator who would be responsible for the creation and maintenance of an in-house county website would be funded by the non-renewal of the website service from CivicPlus in addition to a minimum contribution of $30,000 from St. Joseph County during the first year of the program.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the development of a shared Digital Information Department between Van Buren and St. Joseph Counties with a minimum first year contribution of $30,000 from St. Joseph County.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Request to Use County Property - Warner Vineyards

Warner Vineyards is requesting the use of the three paved, non-Sheriff, county parking lots in downtown Paw Paw for overflow parking during their summer concert series. The use would be 6-11 pm, Fridays & Saturdays, during May-September, 2025.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of three county parking lots for the summer concert series from 6-11 pm on Fridays & Saturdays during May-September, 2025.
Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

B. Request to Use County Property - Paw Paw Days 2025

The Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce is requesting the use of Van Buren County Property for Paw Paw Days on July 25-26, 2025. The annual request includes access to the County Park with electric and water services and the Administration Building parking lot.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of County Property for Paw Paw Days on July 25-26, 2025.
Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

9. Finance

A. Per Diems

Commissioner per diems were reviewed.

Motion to approve payment of per diems as submitted.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

B. Claims

Becky Grabemeyer presented monthly 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 $5,389,678.04.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

C. Budget Adjustments

Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly budget adjustments for review.

Motion to approve the monthly budget adjustments required to maintain funds budgeted

and revenues as presented.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

D. Monthly Financial Statement

Becky Grabemeyer presented the Monthly Financial Statement for review.

Motion to accept the Monthly Financial Statement as presented.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

E. BSA Cloud Software Request

Treasurer Nesbitt presented the request to upgrade BS&A.Net to the Clould version. BS&A is utilized by the county for general ledger, payroll, accounts payable and tax administration. There will be a sunset date for the .Net software and the upgrades and enhancements in the Cloud version are outpacing the capabilities of the current on-premise version. This would alleviate the annual subscription to Citrix that is used by local treasurers. The annual subscription fee would be $150,300. The Treasury has offered to pay the down payment of $39,640 from the tax forfeiture fund.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, upgrading BS&A.Net software to the Cloud.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

F. 911 Annual Report - 2024

Tim McGee presented the 2024 Annual Report for 911.

G. Resolution for Continuation of Collection 911 Local Surcharge: 2025 - 2026

Tim McGee presented the annual review and request for resolution to collect the 911 Local Surcharge. The resolution continues the collection of the surcharge from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the continued collection of the 911 local surcharge from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

H. Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Application Approval EXPEDITED

Administrator Faul presented the expedited request for approval for the submission of an application for Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) in the amount of $3 million for the purpose of constructing a new 911 Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center. CDS is an annual program where local units of government can apply for funds to implement high-impact public projects.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the submission of an application for Congressional Directed Spending in the amount of $3 million for the purpose of constructing a new 911 Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

11. Public Transit

A. Director's Report

Laurie Schlipp presented the Public Transit Monthly Director's Report.

B. Financial Report

Laurie Schlipp presented the Public Transit Monthly Financial Report.

C. Operations Report

Laurie Schlipp presented the Public Transit Monthly Operations Report.

12. Veterans Services

13. Public Comment

- Kai Gritter introduced herself as the new MSU Extension District Director

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:26 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk