



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

May 13, 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 02:25 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, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol.
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 Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

A. **April 22nd, 2025 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. Public Comment
 - Jeff Roe - Arlington Township concerns
 - Heather Smith - Van/Cass Inter-County Drain
8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Approval of Van Buren County Parks Commission Updated Bylaws
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A30/5-13-2025
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission was officially created in August 2022 under the authority of Public Act 261 of 1965 to guide the development, maintenance, and oversight of county parks; and,

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a proposed set of bylaws intended to provide the formal structure for how the Commission will operate, ensuring clear governance, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws; and, WHEREAS, the proposed bylaws define the Commission's purpose and authority, including overseeing parks and recreation projects, recommending policies, supporting the County Board in decision-making, and fulfilling other duties in support of county parks; and, WHEREAS, the bylaws specify the membership composition in accordance with statutory requirements, including representatives from the Road Commission, Drain Commissioner's office, Planning Commission, and seven members appointed by the County Board, and establish term limits and attendance policies; and, WHEREAS, the bylaws further outline procedures for the election of officers, the setting of meeting schedules, compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and the use of Robert's Rules of Order for conducting business; and, WHEREAS, the bylaws allow for the creation of an Executive Committee and ad hoc committees to support the efficient operation of the Commission and address specialized needs as they arise; and, WHEREAS, the bylaws assign responsibilities such as providing budget recommendations, engaging the community, overseeing park property and related rules, and submitting an annual report to the Board of Commissioners; and, WHEREAS, the bylaws require that any amendments be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Parks and Recreation Commission and subsequently by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the Van Buren County Parks Commission Bylaws as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. **West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court - Operations
Payment

FINANCE RESOLUTION F24/5-13-2025

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board of Commissioners to review and discuss a \$5,000.00 distribution to the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court; and,

WHEREAS, Judge Baillargeon of Allegan County, on behalf of the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court, made a presentation on April 22, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting, requesting the distribution of \$5,000.00 to support operational funding; and,

WHEREAS, the \$5,000.00 distribution will be paid from the Specialty Court Reserve Fund, which was established in 2017 for the purpose of filling funding gaps and supporting grant acquisition for the Van Buren County Specialty Courts; and,

WHEREAS, the original balance of the Specialty Court Reserve Fund was \$250,000.00, and the remaining balance is approximately \$58,000.00; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves a \$5,000.00 distribution to the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court from the Specialty Court Reserve Fund.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. ****MERS Health Care Savings Program - Amendment**

LABOR RESOLUTION L8/5-13-2025

WHEREAS, Van Buren County currently maintains multiple divisions within the MERS Health Care Savings Program (HCSP), designated as Divisions 300620, 300621, 300622, 300623, 300624, and 300625, separated by employee group or union designation; and, WHEREAS, all of these divisions have identical contribution structures, vesting schedules, and eligibility requirements, and maintaining separate divisions provides no administrative or recordkeeping benefits; and,

WHEREAS, consolidating these divisions into a single Division 300626 will streamline HCSP administration, eliminate unnecessary complexity, and align with MERS guidance which allows consolidation where benefit structures are identical; and,

WHEREAS, this amendment is clerical and administrative in nature, with no financial impact to Van Buren County, as contribution levels and employer obligations remain unchanged; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the amendment to the MERS Health Care Savings Program consolidating Divisions 300620, 300621, 300622, 300623, 300624, and 300625 into a single Division 300626.

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

12. Public Transit

A. ****MDOT Master Agreement Amendment**

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T5/5-13-2025

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) issues Master Agreements every four years to transit agencies to make federal and/or state funds available for the costs of eligible projects, including operating expenses, bus purchases, and other capital investments; and,

WHEREAS, Van Buren County is a party to MDOT Master Agreement 2022-0144, which governs the terms and conditions for such funding; and,

WHEREAS, MDOT has issued Amendment 1 to Master Agreement 2022-0144 to extend the term of the Agreement by one year and to clarify and amend certain sections of the original Master Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, approval of Amendment 1 will continue to ensure Van Buren County's eligibility to receive necessary federal and state transit funding for eligible projects; and,

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the amendment and authorize the Board Chair to digitally sign the document on behalf of Van Buren County; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve MDOT Master Agreement 2022-0144 Amendment 1, forward the matter to the May 13, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting for final approval, and authorize the Board Chair to digitally sign the amendment.

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

B. **CPM Construction Contract Amendment - EXPEDITED**

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T6/5-13-2025

WHEREAS, the Transit facility extension project is nearing completion, and it has been identified that an ADA-compliant sidewalk is required at the new north door of the facility; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed sidewalk will connect the new north door to the existing sidewalk on the west side of the building, ensuring accessible pedestrian access in compliance with ADA requirements; and,
WHEREAS, the cost of the sidewalk addition is \$7,264.00 and will be funded from existing Transit funds previously approved by the Board for project contingencies; and,
WHEREAS, CPM Construction has submitted a third contract amendment reflecting the proposed scope of work and associated cost for the sidewalk installation; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the third contract amendment with CPM Construction in the amount of \$7,264.00 for the installation of an ADA-compliant sidewalk at the Transit facility, with funding to be provided from previously approved Transit project funds, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the contract amendment on behalf of the County.

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

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Economic Development
- SW Michigan Behavioral Health
- Gold Star Mothers
- Administrators Meeting
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Community Corrections Advisory Board
- South Haven Police Chief

15. Chairman's Update

- Monthly Update Letter and notifications

16. Board Correspondence

17. Public Comment

18. Closed Session

A. Attorney Client Privileged Discussion - Litigation Regarding NCG v Van Buren County

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to PA267 Sec. 15.268e to consult with attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy for NCG litigation that would have a detrimental effect if held in public.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
Roll Call Vote: All Yes

Board went into closed session at 3:15 p.m.
Board returned to open session at 3:32 p.m.

Motion to approve the recommended strategy as presented by counsel regarding the ongoing New Covert Generating Company tax litigation and to authorize counsel to

proceed with the litigation strategy as presented.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Tina Leary, Carried
Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Randall Peat, Tina
Leary, Paul Schincariol
No: Mike Chappell

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 03:48 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk