



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

May 27, 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 01:55 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board.
2. **Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer**
Invocation 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, David DiStefano, Randall Peat, and Tina Leary. Commissioners Chappell and Schincariol 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 Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****May 13th, 2025 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Re-Appointments - Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Cindi Compton and Kate Hosier**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A31/5-27-2025
WHEREAS, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority plays a critical role in the revitalization and redevelopment of underutilized, contaminated, or blighted properties in Van Buren County; and,
WHEREAS, Ms. Cindi Compton and Ms. Kate Hozier have served as active and

contributing members of the Authority, with Ms. Compton representing Land Development interests and Ms. Hozier serving as Chair and representing City Government; and, WHEREAS, both individuals have expressed a desire to continue their service to the Authority and have requested reappointment for an additional three-year term; and, WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County to maintain continuity and preserve institutional knowledge on the Authority by reappointing dedicated and experienced members; and, WHEREAS, the recommendation has been made to reappoint Ms. Cindi Compton and Ms. Kate Hozier to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three-year term commencing June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2028; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the reappointment of Ms. Cindi Compton and Ms. Kate Hozier to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for the term beginning June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2028.

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

B. ****Appointment - Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Jim Wisely**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A32/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is tasked with facilitating the rehabilitation and redevelopment of environmentally distressed, blighted, or functionally obsolete properties within Van Buren County; and, WHEREAS, the seat on the Authority representing Public Schools has become vacant due to Dr. Patrick Creagan's decision not to seek reappointment at the conclusion of his term; and, WHEREAS, Mr. James Wiseley, Superintendent of Gobles Public Schools, has applied to fill this vacancy and bring educational and community development perspectives to the Authority; and, WHEREAS, Mr. Wiseley's leadership experience and role within the public education sector will contribute valuable insight to the work of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the appointment of Mr. James Wiseley to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for the term beginning June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2028.

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

C. ****Re-Appointment - Jury Board: Judy Janssen**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A33/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, the Jury Board is a three-member panel established pursuant to state law, responsible for maintaining and reviewing the list of qualified jurors for Van Buren County, with members serving staggered six-year terms; and, WHEREAS, appointments to the Jury Board are made by the Board of Commissioners upon recommendation from the Circuit Court Judges of the County; and, WHEREAS, Ms. Judy Janssen has served dutifully as a member of the Jury Board and has expressed her willingness to be reappointed for another term; and, WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Circuit Court Judges have reviewed Ms. Janssen's performance and have recommended her reappointment to the Board of Commissioners; and, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the reappointment of Ms. Judy Janssen to the Jury Board for a six-year term to expire April 30, 2030.

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

9. **Buildings and Grounds**

A. ****Facilities Master Plan - Amendment to Tower Pinkster Contract**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION B7/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, Van Buren County has engaged TowerPinkster to develop a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan for all County-owned buildings to assess current conditions, identify future needs, and support long-term strategic decisions related to infrastructure, space utilization, and service delivery; and,

WHEREAS, the scope of work includes physical facility assessments, County staff interviews, community input, space planning, and the development of budget recommendations to address aging infrastructure and plan for future growth; and,

WHEREAS, during the preliminary assessment phase, TowerPinkster identified that many of the County's existing building records are outdated, incomplete, or missing entirely; and,

WHEREAS, TowerPinkster has recommended that 3D scanning of all County facilities be conducted to obtain highly accurate, room-by-room data on building infrastructure, space layouts, ADA compliance, and architectural features; and,

WHEREAS, the data produced by this 3D scanning will also support ongoing facility maintenance, IT infrastructure planning, equipment tracking, emergency preparedness, and capital planning across departments; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed scanning would be conducted from May 20 through June 12, 2025, followed by 3D model development, staff interviews, and planning phases throughout the summer and fall, with the final Facilities Master Plan anticipated by November 2025; and,

WHEREAS, a \$15,000 budget amendment is requested to support the additional 3D scanning services, increasing the total project cost from \$230,000 to \$245,000 to reflect the expanded scope; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve a \$15,000 budget amendment to the TowerPinkster Facilities Master Plan contract for the purpose of supporting 3D scanning of all County facilities, and acknowledge the updated project schedule as presented.

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

B. ****Request to use County Property - 2025 Van Buren County Youth Fair Parking**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION B8/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Youth Fair is a long-standing community tradition that provides educational, social, and economic benefits to residents throughout the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Youth Fair is scheduled to take place from July 14 through July 19, 2025, with anticipated peak attendance during this period requiring overflow parking accommodations near the Fairgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, the Youth Fair has formally requested the use of County-owned paved parking facilities adjacent to the Fairgrounds, specifically those serving the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Building and the former Health Department Building; and,

WHEREAS, the use of this parking area will be restricted to hours outside of the posted business operations for DHHS and other tenants, ensuring no disruption to County operations or public services; and,

WHEREAS, the proximity, accessibility, and available capacity of the DHHS parking lot provide an ideal solution for accommodating overflow traffic during the Fair, supporting both public safety and event logistics; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the use of the paved County-owned parking lots adjacent to the Fairgrounds—specifically those serving the Department of Health and Human Services Building and former Health Department Building—for overflow parking during the Van Buren County Youth Fair from July 14–19, 2025, outside of posted County business hours.

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

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C5/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$5,672,344.85 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 \$5,672,344.85 for the month of April 2025.

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

B. **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

FINANCE RESOLUTION F25/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a multi-year planning document designed to identify and prioritize capital needs across County departments, with the goal of promoting sound long-term investment in infrastructure, facilities, and equipment; and,
WHEREAS, the CIP Committee is composed of representatives from Buildings and Grounds, Information Technology, Courts, the Sheriff's Department, Elected Officials, and the Finance Director (non-voting), and has worked diligently to compile and assess department-submitted project proposals; and,
WHEREAS, a countywide call for capital project proposals was issued in March 2025, and projects were reviewed by the CIP Committee in April, with consideration given to factors such as safety, functionality, urgency, aesthetics, and operational continuity; and,
WHEREAS, the Committee has compiled a Capital Improvement Plan for the 2025–2030 period, outlining priority projects with tentative schedules and estimated costs, recognizing that timelines may shift based on operational needs, availability of materials, contractor schedules, and other emergent factors; and,
WHEREAS, projects included in the CIP will be initiated based on priority and department readiness, with each department required to follow standard County purchasing procedures, including the solicitation of bids or quotes and Board of Commissioners approval where applicable; and,
WHEREAS, funding for the Capital Improvement Plan will be sourced from the County's Capital Improvement Fund, which received a \$500,000 transfer in April 2025 to support current and future capital projects; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the 2025–2030 Capital Improvement Plan as presented.

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

C. **911 Request for Additional Staffing - 3rd Shift Supervisor

FINANCE RESOLUTION F26/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, Van Buren County 911 Central Dispatch is responsible for receiving and dispatching emergency calls for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services throughout the County; and,
WHEREAS, the reliability, responsiveness, and performance of 911 Central Dispatch depend on maintaining appropriate staffing levels to ensure public safety and service efficiency; and,
WHEREAS, the department has requested the allocation of an additional Shift Supervisor position to meet operational demands and maintain adequate supervisory coverage; and,
WHEREAS, the addition of this position will increase total 911 Central Dispatch staffing from 17 to 18, enhancing scheduling flexibility, oversight, and continuity of leadership across shifts; and,

WHEREAS, this staffing adjustment supports the County's broader goals of maintaining high standards in emergency communications and ensuring safe and efficient service to the community; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approves the allocation of an additional Shift Supervisor position to 911 Central Dispatch, increasing total department staffing.

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

D. ****Purchase of Animal Control Truck - Sheriff Department**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F27/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Animal Control Department is responsible for providing humane, safe, and responsive animal-related services throughout the County; and,
WHEREAS, reliable and properly equipped transportation is essential for the department to carry out field operations, emergency response, and the safe transport of animals; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed vehicle is a 2020 Ford F-150 truck, which meets the operational and safety requirements of the department and will replace an aging unit currently in the fleet; and,
WHEREAS, the total cost of the vehicle is \$42,083.00 and it will be acquired from Tapper Ford through the State of Michigan's cooperative purchasing contract, which ensures competitive and standardized pricing ; and,
WHEREAS, the vehicle being replaced will be repurposed and transferred to the Van Buren County Building & Grounds Department for maintenance use; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the request from the Animal Control Department to purchase a 2020 Ford F-150 truck from Tapper Ford in the amount of \$42,083.00.

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

E. ****Van Buren County Office of Community Corrections - FY 2026 Grant Application**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F28/5-27-2025

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Specialty Courts provide critical pretrial intervention and supervision programs through the Office of Community Corrections (OCC), supporting public safety and judicial efficiency; and,
WHEREAS, these programs offer structured services such as supervision, drug testing, and access to evidence-based interventions like Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting accountability during the pretrial phase; and,
WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Corrections offers annual OCC grant funding to support such programs, and Van Buren County Specialty Courts is seeking approval to submit a funding application for the 2025 grant cycle; and,
WHEREAS, the requested funds will support 85% of the OCC Coordinator position, 20% of the Specialty Court Administrator's salary, and 10% of the Jail Screener/Project Director's compensation, all of whom are vital to daily operations including case management, risk assessment, compliance monitoring, and participant support; and,
WHEREAS, this funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, requiring the County to initially incur eligible expenses, with reimbursement submitted to and approved by the State; and,
WHEREAS, approval is needed to submit the application in advance of the May 30, 2025, deadline to ensure consideration by the Michigan Department of Corrections; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, authorize the Van Buren County Specialty Courts to submit the annual Office of Community Corrections grant application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for continued support of its pretrial services programs.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Short term rentals
- Memorial Day
- South Haven Police Chief
- Documentary on Mobile Riverine Force

15. Chairman's Update

16. Board Correspondence

A. Genesee County

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 02:11 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk