



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

July 8, 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 03:03 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: Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, and Paul Schincariol. Commissioner Patterson-Gladney 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 Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****June 24th, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Bankson Lake Sewer Authority - Bankson Lake Sewer Extension Project**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A41/7-8-2025
WHEREAS, Act 185 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1957, as amended ("Act 185") authorizes a county, acting through its Department of Public Works, upon the request of a local unit of government to acquire, improve, enlarge and extend sewage disposal systems and water supply systems in said local unit of government; and,
WHEREAS, the County of Van Buren ("Van Buren County") has (a) established a Department of Public Works under the terms of Act 185 with authority to acquire, improve,

enlarge, and extend sewage disposal systems and water supply system improvements for local units of government and (b) appointed this Board of Public Works in accordance with Act 185; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Cass ("Cass County") acting by and through its Board of Public Works, Van Buren County, acting by and through its Board of Public Works, the Township of Marcellus, a general law township located in Cass County ("Marcellus Township"), the Township of Porter, a general law township located in Van Buren County ("Porter Township"), the Township of Volinia, a general law township located in Cass County ("Volinia Township"), the Village of Marcellus, a general law village located in Cass County (the "Village"), and the Lakes Area Sewer Authority (the "Authority"), are parties to that certain Cass County Sewage Disposal System (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section) Bond Contract dated as of August 1, 2008 (the "Contract") in accordance with the terms of which Cass County issued bonds pursuant to Act 185 to pay a portion of the costs of acquiring and constructing the Cass County Sewage Disposal System (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section) (the "LASA System"), duly established by Cass County as a county sewage disposal system to serve areas adjacent to Gravel Lake in Porter Township, Fish Lake and Saddlebag Lake located in Marcellus Township, and Finch Lake located partially in Volinia Township and partially in Marcellus Township, and in addition, to serve the Village, which areas were together duly established by Cass County as a county sewage disposal district designated as the Cass County Sewage Disposal District (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section) (the "LASA District"); and,

WHEREAS, Volinia Township, Marcellus Township and Porter Township incorporated the Authority pursuant to Act 233 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1955, as amended, to operate, maintain and administer the LASA System; and,

WHEREAS, Cass County, Van Buren County, the Authority, and Porter Township previously entered into that certain Cass County Sewage Disposal System (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section – Extension No. 1) Bond Contract dated as of October 1, 2012, and that certain First Amendment to Cass County Sewage Disposal System (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section – Extension No. 1) Bond Contract dated as of August 1, 2013, to provide for an extension of the LASA System and the LASA District to serve areas adjacent to Cedar Lake in Porter Township; and,

WHEREAS, Porter Township, in conjunction with the Authority, is proposing to further extend the LASA System and the LASA District to serve areas adjacent to Bankson Lake in Porter Township (the "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, the current pre-design estimate of cost of the Project is \$7,100,000.00; and, WHEREAS, Porter Township, by resolution of its Township Board adopted on February 4th, 2025, requested "the assistance of Cass County with the acquisition, construction and financing of the Project by Cass County, acting through the Cass County Board of Public Works, in accordance with Act 185 and to the extent practicable, the Township requests that the Project be coordinated and handled by Cass County on behalf of the Township"; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority, by resolution of its Commission adopted on February 3rd, 2025, made a similar request for assistance with the Project by Cass County; and,

WHEREAS, Porter Township and the Authority have requested that Cass County apply to the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development ("USDA –Rural Development") for a low-interest loan and grant to fund the cost of the Project; and,

WHEREAS, Alan C. Smaka PE, PLLC, as proposed Project engineer, has recommended that, as a matter of prudent utility planning, Cass County issue the necessary bonds in accordance with Act 185 for the Project, because (1) the proposed Project is an extension of the current Cass County owned LASA System, (2) maintaining ownership of the LASA System and the extensions thereto (including the proposed Project) in a single-entity, e.g. Cass County, will simplify the related contracts and agreements, and (3) consistent with the USDA – Rural Development requirement that the USDA – Rural Development borrower own the sewer infrastructure to be financed, Porter Township and the Authority have requested and anticipate that Cass County will apply for USDA – Rural Development

loan and grant funding for the Project, thereby positioning Cass County to be the USDA – Rural Development borrower for the Project; and
 WHEREAS, Section 8 of Act 185 authorizes a county operating under Act 185 to “acquire any part of a...sewage disposal system...in an adjoining county...upon the consent expressed by...resolution of the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in such adjoining county...in which such part of the system...is to be located...” and, accordingly, the acquisition and ownership of the Project by Cass County, to the extent the Project is located in Porter Township (Van Buren County), together with the issuance of bonds by Cass County for the Project, is subject to the consent and approval by Van Buren County in accordance with Act 185; and,
 WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution on April 10, 2025, to provide the requested assistance pursuant to Act 185, including the issuance of bonds by Cass County for the Project; and,
 WHEREAS, in order to protect public health, safety and welfare, it is appropriate for the County of Van Buren, acting through its Board of Commissioners, to consent to the acquisition, construction and financing by Cass County of that portion of the Project to be located in Van Buren County within Porter Township; and,
 WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Public Works has adopted and filed with the County Clerk a resolution recommending that this Board consent to the acquisition, construction and financing of the Project, including that portion of the Project to be constructed in Porter Township within Van Buren County, by Cass County under the provisions of Section 8 of Act 185; and,
 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of Commissioners of the County of Van Buren, by a majority vote of its members-elect, hereby consents to Cass County acquiring, constructing, and financing that portion of the Project to be located in Van Buren County within Porter Township.
2. The consent provided in Paragraph 1 shall in no way be construed as obligating or requiring Van Buren County, its Board of Commissioners, or any of its officers, employees or agents from participating in or being liable in any way for the acquisition, construction, establishment, financing, operation or maintenance of the Project, and the full faith and credit of Van Buren County is not pledged for any such purpose.
3. This resolution is adopted solely for the purpose of complying with Section 8 of Act 185 to express Van Buren County’s consent to allow Cass County to acquire, construct, establish, and finance that portion of the Project that will be located in Van Buren County within Porter Township.
4. The County Clerk is authorized and directed to execute and deliver a certified copy (or copies) of this resolution to the Cass County Board of Public Works.
5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **CIP Project: Refurbish/Repair/Maintain Fire Escape VBC Courthouse, Paw Paw

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B12/7-8-2025

WHEREAS, there has been a request for the Board to approve the refurbishment, repair, and maintenance of the fire escape located at the Paw Paw Courthouse to ensure ongoing safety and structural integrity; and,
 WHEREAS, two bids were received for the project, with the lowest responsive bid being submitted by Manning Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$35,820.00, and a second bid submitted by Building Restoration, Inc. at \$74,602.00; and,
 WHEREAS, the necessary funding for the project is included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) under Project #26, designated by line item 444.0-286.00-975.0026; and,

WHEREAS, the fire escape is a critical safety feature of the historic courthouse facility, and its maintenance is essential for compliance with safety codes and to preserve the integrity of the building; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve the refurbishment, repair, and maintenance of the fire escape at the Paw Paw Courthouse, awarding the project to Manning Enterprise, Inc.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

10. Finance

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Market One Business Awards
- Emergency Preparedness Drill
- Decatur School transportation for Youth Initiative

15. Chairman's Update

- Market One History

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

- John Gritter-Village of Lawrence

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 03:35 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk

