



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

August 26, 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

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, Doroh, DiStefano, Peat, Leary and Schincariol. Commissioner Chappell absent and excused.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **August 12th, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
 - Dan Hutchins - Van Buren District Library update on Mobile Hot Spots and Media by Mail
 - Sandy Merchant - County Museum update
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **Broadband Update: MEC**
Chris Sharrer, DCS, and Jennifer Gilliam, MEC, gave an update on Broadband projects.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **County Full Faith & Credit - McConnell & Olcott Intercounty Drain**
Drain Commissioner Joe Parman presented the request to approve pledging Full Faith and Credit to the McConnell & Olcott Intercounty Drain Drainage District Note. The cost will be assessed over a 10-year period.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, pledging Full Faith and Credit to the McConnell & Olcott Intercounty Drain

Drainage District Note.

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

B. Opiod Settlement Agreement - Purdue

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler presented the request to authorize Van Buren County's participation in the Purdue Opioid Settlement, accept the amended Michigan State Subdivision Agreement, and designate Administrator Faul as the County's Authorized Representative for all opioid settlements. This settlement is in addition to all previously offered settlements that the county has participated in under the National Opioid Settlement framework.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Van Buren County's participation in the Purdue Opioid Settlement, acceptance of the amended Michigan State Subdivision Agreement, and designation of Administrator Faul as the County's Authorized Representative for all opioid settlements. Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. Rural Readiness Grant Application

DID Director Jerry Happel presented the request to approve the Rural Readiness Grant application in the amount of \$50,000. The Rural Readiness project will evolve the partnership with St. Joseph County into the Digital Innovation Collaborative Exchange (DICE): a formal, multi-jurisdictional initiative designed to deliver scalable, ethically governed digital services to rural communities across Southwest Michigan. There is a \$10,000 match requirement, split by the counties, which can be in-kind contributions.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Rural Readiness Grant application in the amount of \$50,000 with a \$10,000 match.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Disposal of Property - 2009 Ford Fusion

Building and Grounds Director John Small presented the request for authorization to dispose of a 2009 Ford Fusion for scrap. There are no current plans to replace the vehicle.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the disposal of a 2009 Ford Fusion for scrap.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

9. Finance

A. FY 2025/2026 Final Budget

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the request to approve the final budget for all Funds, Policies and Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2025/2026 as presented. Discussion.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, adoption of the Budget for all Funds, Policies and Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2025/2026.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

B. OTM Cyber – Cybersecurity Services Agreement

IT Director CJ Johnson presented the request for a three-year service agreement with OTM Cyber with an annual cost of \$58,060. 911 Dispatch would pay a portion of the costs. Key services included in the agreement are: 24/7/365 managed detection and response, continuous security monitoring, regular threat activity reporting, incident response "first aid" support, development and refinement of incident response plans, as well as other additional proactive and reactive cybersecurity services.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the three-year service agreement with OTM Cyber in the annual amount of \$58,060.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

C. **VMWare Annual Renewal**

IT Director CJ Johnson presented the request for the annual renewal of the VMWare software subscription that runs all the virtual servers, in the amount of \$48,568.56 and waive the multiple quote requirement.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the renewal of the VMWare software subscription in the amount of \$48,568.56.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

10. **Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts**

11. **Public Transit**

12. **Veterans Services**

13. **Road Commission Update**

A. **Monthly Update**

Bret Witkowski presented the monthly Road Commission update.

14. **Public Comment**

- Emily Hickmott, Conservation District - Materials Management

15. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:22 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk