



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

September 23, 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 01:46 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, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Commissioner DiStefano 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 Mike Chappell, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****September 8th, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
 - Commissioner Doroh - County Museum artifacts
8. **Administrative Affairs**

A. ****Board of Canvassar Appointment - Janssen, J. and Seymour, M.**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A58/9-23-2025
WHEREAS, the terms of two members of the Van Buren County Board of Canvassers are set to expire on October 31, 2025, and new appointments are required in accordance with Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.24c); and,
WHEREAS, Michigan Election Law stipulates that for each expiring term, the County

Committee of each political party must submit to the County Clerk, not later than September 1 of each odd-numbered year, the names of three qualified electors of the county to serve on the Board of County Canvassers; and,
WHEREAS, the following nominations have been duly submitted for consideration:
• Republican Party: Judy Janssen, Tonya Schuitmaker, Sid Shank; and,
• Democratic Party: Michael Seymour, Marie Botchie; and,
WHEREAS, the County Clerk has presented these names to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, as required by law; and,
WHEREAS, pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, the selection of canvassing board members must occur in a manner that allows transparency and public accountability, thereby precluding the use of secret ballots by the Board of Commissioners; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, do hereby nominate Judy Janssen of the Republican Party and Michael Seymour of the Democratic Party, to serve a four-year term on the Van Buren County Board of Canvassers, expiring October 31, 2029.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. ****MSU Extension Memorandum of Agreement Renewal FY 2025 - 2026**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A59/9-23-2025

WHEREAS, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension provides educational and support services to Van Buren County residents in areas such as agriculture, 4-H youth development, horticulture, and veteran outreach; and,
WHEREAS, each year, Van Buren County enters into a Memorandum of Agreement with MSU to define the scope of services and the County's funding contribution toward the delivery of MSU Extension programming within the county; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed Memorandum of Agreement for the 2025–2026 fiscal year includes the following cost structure, as approved in the MSU Extension 2025–26 County General Fund Budget:

- Base Assessment: \$72,062
- 50% Additional 4-H Educator: \$37,251
- 35% Additional Agronomy Educator and 50% Consumer Horticulture/Veterans Liaison: \$103,217

Total Memorandum of Agreement: \$212,800; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, acknowledge receipt and review of the 2025–2026 Memorandum of Agreement between Van Buren County and Michigan State University for Extension services, and hereby forward the agreement to the September 23, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for adoption and authorization of the chairperson's signature.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

C. ****Domestic Violence Coalition Services Agreement Renewal FY 2025 - 2026**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A60/9-23-2025

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Coalition (DVC) provides critical services to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault throughout Van Buren County, including emergency shelter, advocacy, and support services; and,

WHEREAS, Van Buren County has historically maintained an annual agreement with the Domestic Violence Coalition to support the continuation of these vital services for county residents; and,

WHEREAS, the FY 2025–2026 Annual Agreement between Van Buren County and the Domestic Violence Coalition represents a continuation of this long-standing partnership, with \$25,000 allocated in the County budget for services to be rendered under the agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the \$25,000.00 payment is scheduled to be disbursed to the Domestic Violence Coalition on or about November 1, 2025; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, hereby acknowledge receipt and review of the FY 2025–2026 Annual Agreement Renewal with the Domestic Violence Coalition and forward said agreement to the September 23, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting for adoption and authorization of the chairperson's signature.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

D. ****Van Buren Conservation District - Resource Recovery Services Agreement Renewal FY 2025 - 2026**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A61/9-23-2025

WHEREAS, the Van Buren Conservation District provides critical environmental services to Van Buren County residents through its Resource Recovery Program, including solid waste diversion, recycling education, and hazardous waste collection; and,
WHEREAS, Van Buren County has historically entered into an annual agreement with the Van Buren Conservation District to support Resource Recovery efforts countywide; and,
WHEREAS, the FY 2025–2026 Annual Agreement Renewal continues this long-standing partnership and includes a budgeted amount of \$100,000 for services rendered under the agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the \$100,000 payment is scheduled to be disbursed to the Van Buren Conservation District on or about October 1, 2025; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, hereby acknowledge receipt and review of the FY 2025–2026 Resource Recovery Annual Agreement Renewal with the Van Buren Conservation District and forward said agreement to the September 23, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting for adoption and authorization of the Chairperson's signature.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

9. **Buildings and Grounds**

10. **Finance**

A. ****Claims**

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C9/9-23-2025

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$5,645,635.26 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 \$5,645,635.26 for the month of August 2025.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

B. ****Child Care Fund Budget Summary DHS-2091**

FINANCE RESOLUTION F45/9-23-2025

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Child Care Fund provides state reimbursement to counties for approved juvenile justice and child welfare services as outlined in the Annual Plan & Budget; and,

WHEREAS, Van Buren County's Annual Plan & Budget for FY2026 includes in-home care components such as the Juvenile Probation Department and associated evidence-based programs including, but not limited to, Multisystemic Therapy, Parenting with Love and Limits, and New Outlook, which are reimbursed at a 75% rate; and,

WHEREAS, the plan also includes out-of-home care components such as detention and

residential placements, which are reimbursed at a 50% rate; and,
WHEREAS, the FY2026 Annual Plan & Budget has received formal approval from the MDHHS Child Care Fund Monitoring Unit, and submission of the DHS-2091 form is now required to finalize participation and activate the county's reimbursement eligibility for the fiscal year; and,
WHEREAS, revenues received under the Child Care Fund are directly based on actual, eligible expenditures incurred by the county as detailed in the approved Annual Plan & Budget; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the DHS-2091 form associated with the FY2026 Child Care Fund Annual Plan & Budget for submission to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

C. Resolution - Revenue Sharing Cuts EXPEDITED

FINANCE RESOLUTION F46/9-23-2025

WHEREAS, counties are mandated by the State of Michigan to provide essential public services including courts, jails, elections, public health, public safety and human services; and,
WHEREAS, unlike cities, villages and townships, counties do not receive constitutionally guaranteed revenue sharing and instead rely solely on statutory revenue sharing, leaving counties uniquely vulnerable to annual state budget decisions; and,
WHEREAS, the House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposes a \$34.9 million reduction in county statutory revenue sharing, wiping out the long-overdue progress made in FY25 to restore revenue sharing to sustainable levels; and,
WHEREAS, the House plan, if enacted, would leave counties with just over \$256 million in statutory revenue sharing statewide, while constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships (CVTs) is set to reach \$1.1 billion, and when combined with statutory revenue sharing, CVTs would get \$1.4 billion; and,
WHEREAS, the House plan shifts \$40 million into restricted sheriff funding with strings attached, requiring counties to maintain higher law enforcement funding levels, even as flexible revenue sharing is reduced, thereby further straining already-limited general funds; and,
WHEREAS, public safety dollars directed exclusively to sheriffs are not equivalent to revenue sharing, since they cannot be used to support the wide range of mandated services counties must provide; and
WHEREAS, the Senate budget proposal provides just over \$320 million in county statutory revenue sharing, an increase of \$29.1 million over FY25, and includes \$60 million for public safety that can be allocated at the discretion of county boards of commissioners rather than bypassing them; and
WHEREAS, the Senate approach respects county governance, strengthens general fund flexibility, and better equips counties to meet their broad statutory responsibilities.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, strongly urges the Michigan Legislature and governor to reject the House revenue sharing cuts and support the Senate's proposal to increase county revenue sharing and provide flexible funding for public safety needs; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, House Speaker Matt Hall and Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Hamilton Grange Hall 150th Anniversary
- Grant funding
- Columbia Township

15. Chairman's Update

- Letter from Allegan Residents re: VBC Veterans Services
- Holtec update
- Board by-laws re: chairperson

16. Board Correspondence

A. Chippewa County

B. Wexford Resolution

17. Closed Session

A. Closed Session - Discuss Strategy Connected with the Negotiation of Collective Bargaining Agreements

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) for strategy connected with negotiations of collective bargaining agreements.

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

Roll Call Vote: All Yes

Board went into closed session at 2:08 p.m.

Board returned to open session at 3:24 p.m.

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 03:25 PM.

Randall Peat, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk

