



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

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, Chappell, Doroh, Peat, and Leary. Commissioner Schincariol arrived at 1:30 p.m. and Commissioner DiStefano 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. **September 8th, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Presentation**
 - A. **Broadband Update - DCS & Comcast**
Chris Scharrer, DCS, along with Brian Sapita and Jeff Snyder, Comcast, presented an update on the broadband development project in the county.
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Appointment to Van Buren County Mental Health Board (VBCMH) - Susan Barnes**
There is a request to appoint Susan Barnes to fill a vacant position on the VBCMH Board of Directors for a term beginning October 14, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Susan Barnes to the VBCMH Board for a term ending March 31, 2028.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Tina Leary, Carried
 - B. **Out-of-State Travel Request - Friend of the Court (FOC)**

Veronica Stillson is requesting approval for FOC staff members to travel out-of-state to attend the 2025 Midwest Border Training Workshop, November 18-19, 2025, in Middlebury, IN.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the out-of-state travel for FOC staff to Middlebury, IN on November 18-19, 2025.

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

C. Out-of-State Travel Request - Community Services Department

Lisa Ransler is requesting approval for out-of-state travel to attend the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference in Tampa, FL on October 25-29, 2025.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the out-of-state travel for Lisa Ransler to Tampa, FL on October 25-29, 2025.

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

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Disposal/Auction of County Property - Sheriff's Office, Drone

The Sheriff's Office is requesting approval to dispose of a drone with a minimum auction amount to be set. The proceeds will be used in the future to reduce the cost of a newer drone.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the disposal of a drone through the auction process.

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

B. Disposal/Auction of County Property - Sheriff's Department Golf Cart

The Sheriff's Office is requesting approval to dispose of an aging golf cart that was used for fairs and parades and is no longer practical to maintain.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the disposal of a county owned golf cart.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Randall Peat, Carried

C. 2025 - 2026 Snow Removal Bids

B&G Director John Small received and reviewed snow removal bids for the 2025-2026 season and has recommended contracting with Vander Galien Construction, Lawn Boys, Inc and Kusmack, Inc.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, snow removal contracts for the 2025-26 season with Vander Galien Construction, Lawn Boys, Inc and Kusmack, Inc.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. Holiday Lighting

B&G Director John Small is requesting approval to install holiday lighting/decorations in and around County buildings. The Paw Paw DDA has donated some lighting and decorations this year and the B&G staff donate their time to install the decorations.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the installation of holiday lighting and decorations in and around County

buildings.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

9. Finance

A. Budget Adjustments

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented monthly budget amendments.

Motion to approve the budget amendments as presented as required to maintain a balanced budget.

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

B. Foster Swift Invoice 923532

Motion to authorize payment of the Foster Swift Invoice in the amount of \$16,050.00 for NCG litigation subject to the cost sharing agreement.

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

Roll Call Vote: All Yes

C. Access and Visitation (AV) Grant Contract

Veronica Stillson presented the request for formal approval and signature of the AV Grant Contract SCAO 2026-051 in the amount of \$5,250.00.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the AV Grant Contract SCAO 2026-051 in the amount of \$5,250 and authorization for the Board Chair to sign on the Board's behalf.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. Resolution - Revenue Sharing Cuts EXPEDITED

Lisa Ransler presented the expedited request for a Resolution opposing the House of Representative's FY26 budget cuts to county revenue sharing.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, opposition to the House of Representative's FY26 budget cuts to county revenue sharing.

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

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

11. Public Transit

The Open House for the remodeled facility is Wednesday, September 24th from 12-4 p.m.

12. Veterans Services

13. Road Commission Update

14. Public Comment

Melanie Hooker, DVC, advised that no grant money is available until a state budget is approved.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 01:40 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk