



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

November 13, 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

On the above date the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 01:00 PM by Paul Schincariol, Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The roll was called by County Clerk Suzie Roehm with the following commissioners answering to their name and district: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, David DiStefano, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Absent and excused: Commissioners Randall Peat and Kurt Doroh.

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Hear Item 9G after Item 5.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

A. October 21st, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Patterson-Gladney requested correction of Item 4.A. to reflect aunt instead of mother.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting as corrected.

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

5. Public Comment

6. Presentation

7. Administrative Affairs

A. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) - Franklin Appeal

Administrator Faul presented the request to consider an appeal submitted by Ashley Franklin of a FOIA denial for certain court records.

Motion to deny Ms. Franklin's appeal of a FOIA denial for certain court records because the Friend of the Court records are exempt from FOIA under MCL 15.232(h)(iv) and, furthermore, protected from disclosure under MCR 3.218 and MCL 552.512.

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

B. Opioid Steering Committee - Grant Award Recommendations

Lisa Ransler presented the request to approve the 2025-2026 Opioid Settlement Grant Awards to Van Buren County Specialty Courts for \$155,000 and Van Buren County Youth Initiative for \$55,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2025-2026 Opioid Settlement Grant Awards as presented in the amount of \$210,000.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

9. Finance

A. Village of Paw Paw - Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Settlement

Motion to table this item until representatives from the Village of Paw Paw are present.

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

Paw Paw Village Manager Brian Myrkle and Village President Roman Plaszczak appeared later in the meeting and were heard.

The Village of Paw Paw is requesting approval of a Settlement Agreement with the County to receive outstanding PILOT amounts from three affordable housing developments in the Village. The Village discovered it had mishandled certain PILOT amounts and not distributed a portion of payments to other taxing jurisdictions. The Village accepts full responsibility for the oversight and is prepared to pay six years in full to the County, representing years 2018-2023, in the amount of \$57,873.29.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Settlement Agreement with the Village of Paw Paw to receive outstanding PILOT amounts totaling \$57,873.29.

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

B. Travel Expenditures

Commissioner's travel expenditures were reviewed.

Motion to approve payment of travel expenses as submitted.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

C. Claims

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented monthly claims for review.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the payment of claims in the amount of \$15,595,439.02.

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

D. Budget Adjustments

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly budget adjustments for review.

Motion to approve the monthly budget adjustments as required to maintain a balanced budget.

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

E. Monthly Financial Statement

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the Monthly Financial Statement for review.

Motion to accept the Monthly Financial Statement as presented.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

F. ARPA Quarterly Update - September, 2025

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the ARPA Quarterly Update.

G. Purchase of Truck - Drain Office

*This item was heard out of order.

Josh Griffith presented the request to purchase a new 4-wheel drive truck for the Drain Office in the amount of \$38,445 from Tapper Automotive. This item has been approved as part of CIP.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the purchase of a 4-wheel drive truck from Tapper Automotive for the Drain Office in the amount of \$38,445.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

H. Specialty Court FY 2026 Grant Award Contracts

Brianne Smith presented the request for authorization of signature and acceptance of annual grant awards for Specialty Courts from State Court Administrators Office and MDOC-Office of Community Corrections in an amount totaling \$642,367.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the authorization of signature and acceptance of Special Courts annual grant awards in the amount of \$642,367.

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

I. NCG Valuation Expert Invoices

Invoices from expert valuation opinions as part of ongoing litigation with NCG were submitted for review.

Motion to approve payment of the NCG Valuation Expert invoices in the amount of \$85,681.25 as presented.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Position Creation - Community Services Assistant

Lisa Ransler presented the request for the creation of a full-time Community Services Coordinator position, at Range 23 classification, to provide vital support, sustain transparency, responsiveness and service quality to the Community Services Department.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the creation of a full-time Community Services Coordinator position at Range 23 classification.

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

11. Public Transit

A. Public Transit - Director's Report

Laurie Schlipp presented the monthly Public Transit Director's Report.

B. Financial Update

Tami Naber presented the monthly Public Transit Financial Update.

C. Operations Report

Tami Naber presented the monthly Public Transit Operations Report.

12. Veterans Services

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:31 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk