



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

January 13, 2026

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 01:02 PM by Kurt Doroh, Chairman of the Board. Present: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Randall Peat, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Move Item 11.A. to be heard after Item 6.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **December 9th, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Presentation**
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Proclamation - Rodney Dragicevich, Economic Development Corporation**
Market One Director Zachary Morris presented the request for a Proclamation of Appreciation for Rodney Dragicevich for his 40+ years of service with the Economic Development Corporation, of which he was a founding member.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, a Proclamation of Appreciation for Rodney Dragicevich for his 40+ years of service with the Economic Development Corporation.
Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
 - B. **Update 911 Plan Appendix #3**
911 Director Tim McGee presented the request to approve the revised Appendix #3 to the county 911 Plan.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the revised Appendix #3 to the county 911 Plan.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

C. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder - Sheriff's Office Grant Application

Lt. Cody Small presented the request to accept a grant from the Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Program in the amount of \$25,000 designed to cover the purchase of medications for inmates with a valid prescription for Methadone or Suboxone.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Program grant in the amount of \$25,000.

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

D. Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority \$500,000 EPA Grant Application

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler presented the request to authorize the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to apply for a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant would enable the VBCBRA to conduct environmental investigations and foster economic development at various brownfield sites in the county.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, authorization for the VBCBRA to apply for a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. EPA and authorize the Board Chair to sign required materials, including a letter of support.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

E. Reappointments - Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) - Kiley, K and Engle, R.

Administrator Faul presented the request to reappoint Kim Kiley and Roger Engle to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Kim Kiley and Roger Engle to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term to expire December 31, 2027.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

F. Appointment - Van Buren Cass Community Health Department, Anne Wendling

Administrator Faul presented the request to appoint Anne Wendling to the Van Buren Cass Community Health Department Board for a three-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Anne Wendling to the Van Buren Cass Community Health Department Board for the three-year term to expire January 1, 2029.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

G. Appointment - Deputy Medical Examiner, Dr. Anna Tart, MD

Administrator Faul presented the request to appoint Dr. Anna Tart, MD as a Deputy Medical Examiner in Van Buren County through WMU Med.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Dr. Anna Tart, MD as a Deputy Medical Examiner for Van Buren County.

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

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. Use of County Property - MOU Battle Creek VA

Administrator Faul presented the request from Karen Wallace to use the employee parking lot for personal and government-owned vehicles while conducting business in the county for the Battle Creek VA. This is a one-year renewal.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the MOU for use of county property with Karen Wallace for Battle Creek VA business in the county.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

9. Finance

A. Finance Department Annual Report

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the Finance Department Annual Report.

B. Travel Expenditures

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly travel expenses of Commissioners for review.

Motion to approve payment of Commissioner's travel expenses as presented.

Motion by Mike Chappell, 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, payment of claims in the amount of \$2,021,305.80.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Randall Peat, 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 Paul Schincariol, 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. Millage Expiration Review - L4029

Administrator Faul advised the Board that an Ambulance, Public Safety and Conservation District renewal millage will need to be placed on the ballot in 2026.

Motion to authorize Administrator Faul to work with legal counsel to develop ballot language for expiring millages and subsequent Board approval prior to May 12, 2026 to place the proposals on the August 4, 2026 ballot.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

G. Court Appointed Special Advocate Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to authorize the FY26 contract with Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center for CASA services in the amount of \$80,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the FY26 contract with Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center for CASA services in the amount of \$80,000.

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

H. Student Advocacy Michigan Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the FY26 contract with Student Advocacy Michigan for educational advocacy services in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the FY26 Student Advocacy Michigan contract in the amount of \$10,000.

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

I. Allegan County Secure Detention Bed Rental Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the FY26 contract with Allegan County Juvenile Center for continued use for youth lodging. This program receives a 50% reimbursement from the child care fund.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the FY26 contract with Allegan County Juvenile Center for youth lodging.

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

J. Petersen Research Consultants Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the contract with Petersen Research Consultants in the amount of \$19,150. A quality assurance specialist is required for practices related to juvenile justice reform.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the contract with Petersen Research Consultants for a Quality Assurance Specialist in the amount of \$19,150.00

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

K. MST Associates Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the contract with MST Associates for support and training for the Multi-systemic Therapy model for our county youth in the amount of \$52,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the contract with MST Associates in the amount of \$52,000.

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

L. VBCCMH Family Advocate Services Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the FY26 contract with Van Buren County Community Mental Health Parent Advocacy Specialist in the amount of \$117,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the FY26 Parent Advocacy Specialist Agreement in the amount of \$117,000.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

M. VBCCMH New Outlook Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the FY26 Collaborative Funding New Outlook contract for wraparound services in the amount of \$126,500.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the FY26 New Outlook contract in the amount of \$126,500.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

N. VBCCMH Multi-Systemic Therapy Contract FY26

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request to approve the FY26 Multi-Systemic Therapy Contract for the MST/MST-PSB program in the amount of \$260,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the FY26 Multi-Systemic Therapy Contract for the MST/MST-PSB program in the amount of \$260,000.

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

O. Out-of-State Travel Request - Circuit Court & Family Division

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the request for out-of-state travel for two administrators to the National Association of Court Management Mid-Year Conference in Albuquerque, NM on March 15-18, 2026.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the out-of-state travel to Albuquerque, NM on March 15-18, 2026 for the National Association of Court Management Conference.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Salary Exception - Family Division Referee EXPEDITED

Family Division Administrator Veronica Stillson presented the expedited request for a salary exception for the Family Division Referee at Range 18 Step D due to the qualifications of the identified candidate and length of vacancy for that position.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the salary exception for the Family Division Referee at Range 18 Step D.

Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

11. Public Transit

A. Public Transit Annual Report

This item was heard out of order.

Public Transit Director Laurie Schlipp presented the Public Transit Annual Report.

12. Veterans Services

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Randall Peat, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:32 AM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk